

DALIBOR M. ELEZOVIĆ¹

METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES OF THE RESEARCH OF HISTORICAL SOURCES OF THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD²

ABSTRACT: The paper discusses the issue of methodological challenges in researching the history of the early modern period, in the field of the historical epoch conception and considerations of different contemporary research positions in the verification of historical sources. In the historical science (which is also a characteristic of other sciences), one method is based on several principles and has a number of types, a number of techniques and processes that contribute to scientific cognition. Researchers of the early modern period of European historiography emphasize that research within this historical discipline is more comprehensive today and take a completely different direction compared to the usual themes of political and dynastic history. It is the epoch marked in history by the confessionalization of the European society, secularized civic politics and the emergence of authoritarian nation states, population growth, the birth of the global economy, and, according to some authors, the “Europeanisation” of the world. The principles of the early modern period research methods are based on the findings of a verified scientific theory and methodology and scientific research experience. Methodological interpretations would not be possible without the inclusion of contemporary scientific research experience. Early modern period sources can contain very heterogeneous material, therefore, mastering different sources and using strict criteria in terms of the interpretation of sources is a key element of the methodology of the historical science.

KEYWORDS: scientific cognition process, research, historical science, historical sources, methodology, early modern period.

¹ dalibor.elezovic@pr.ac.rs

² The study is part of the project of Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia, “Kosovo and Metohija between national identity and European integration”, no. III 47023.

The method of every science (including historical science) is determined by the object of study of the science, its properties, structure and relations, as well as the level of development of the science and its method. The object of study of historical science is complex and includes historical phenomena, processes, structure, system, connections and relations in various spheres and times of human history. This also applies to the early modern period, by which we mean the period in history marked by the confessionalization of the European society, secularized civic politics and the emergence of authoritarian nation states. The term early modern period, which defines the epoch and the narrow scientific specialty, appeared in European historiography in the second half of the 20th century.³ One of the leading early modern period researchers, Winfried Schulze, simply defined the early modern period as “[...] three centuries between the Reformation and the French Revolution.”⁴ Jean Delumeau was even more cautious, believing that it was not easy to generalize the issue of this epoch and that it was easy to come to the conclusion that it was difficult to define the modern period within a period of three or four centuries.⁵ German historian, Paul Münch, marked this epoch as “the time of incubation of the Modernist Period.”⁶ Writing about the development of the study of the early modern period in European historiography in the 20th century, Schulze points out that today it is more comprehensive and takes a completely different direction from the usual themes of political and dynastic history, which imposed the problematics of research.⁷ He defines seven areas, which he identifies as the characteristics of this period of transition

³ See elaborate discussions: Luise Schorn-Schütte, *Geschichte Europas in der Frühen Neuzeit, Frühe Neuzeit*, Ed. A. Völker-Rasor (München: Oldenburg Verlag, 2006); Jean Delumeau, *Une histoire du monde aux temps modernes* (Paris: Bibliothèque historique Larousse, 2013.); Karl Vocelka, *Geschichte der Neuzeit: 1500–1918* (Wien, Köln, Weimar: Böhlau, 2010.); Winfried Schulze, *Deutsche Geschichte im 16. Jahrhundert 1500–1618* (Frankfurt: Suhrkamp, 1987.); Winfried Schulze, „Einladung in die Frühe Neuzeit“, in *Frühe Neuzeit*, Ed. A. Völker-Rasor (München: Oldenburg Verlag, 2006); Драгољуб Живојиновић, *Успон Европе 1450–1789* (Београд: Службени лист, 2003.); Winfried Schulze, „Von den großen Anfängen des neuen Welttheaters. Entwicklungen, neuere Ansätze und Aufgaben der Frühneuzeitforschung“, *Geschichte in Wissenschaft und Unterricht*, 44, (1993): 3–18; Reinhard Wendt, *Vom Kolonialismus zur globalisierung: Europa und die Welt seit 1500* (Paderborn, München, Wien, Zürich: Ferdinand Schöningh, 2007); *История на модерния свят*, А. Пантев, Х. Глушков, Р. Мишев (В. Търново: Абагар, 2010); Сергей Бориснёв, „Современные проблемы теории и методологии исторического исследования“, *Армия и общество*, 3 (2010): 81–87; Татьяна Зайцева, „Развитие гендерных исследований в свете истории раннего Нового времени“, *Вестн. Том. гос. ун-та*. 343 (2011): 94–98. Людмила Рядова, „Константиновна О методологических проблемах изучения новейшей истории и истории современности“, *НИР*, 1 (2011): 8–18; Gerd Schwerhoff, *Frühe Neuzeit – Zum Profil einer Epoche*, <http://rcswww.urz.tu.dresden.de/~frnz/9.3.2003> (accessed, 20.5.2016); Tim Dovley, *Der Atlas zur Reformation in Europa* (Neukirchen-Vluyn: Neukirchener Verlagsgesellschaft mbH, 2016.), 20–21.

⁴ Winfried Schulze, *Von den großen Anfängen des neuen Welttheaters. Entwicklungen, neuere Ansätze und Aufgaben der Frühneuzeitforschung*, 6

⁵ Jean Delumeau, *Une histoire du monde aux temps modernes*, 7.

⁶ Luise Schorn-Schütte, *Geschichte Europas in der Frühen Neuzeit*, 12.

⁷ Winfried Schulze, *Einladung in die Frühe Neuzeit*, 10.

between the Middle Ages and the Industrial Age.: 1. Demographic growth: Not only did the early modern period manage to compensate for the loss of population of the demographic decline in the late Medieval Period, but also new borders of newly discovered food resources were set. At the end of the period, the first success in the fight against diseases and high mortality rates was achieved, which opened the door to the population growth in the industrial age. 2. Production and the market were dictated by the modern bourgeoisie: it forced the transition from the old agricultural production to market-oriented subsistence agriculture. It encouraged the movement towards industrial production. It strengthened the division of labor between towns and villages and between different regions, and even parts of the world. Also, social differentiation was increased. 3. The development of the modern state: The key features of this period were the central administration, bureaucracy, monopoly, the constitution of the legal system, continuous taxation. Absolutism was only one aspect of a much wider and essentially contradictory process.⁸ 4. Confessionalization: The early modern period brings the abandonment of the idea of the unity of Christianity. The influence of the Reformation with its confessional orientations led to the formation of confessional culture, the differentiation of sects. The problem of religious differences underwent expansion. After initial attempts at unification or forced unification of the believers, the formation of new confessional communities occurred. Confessionalization also carried a seed of secularization. 5. Political and social conflicts: conflicts, especially among different social categories of the population. These conflicts were also a starting point for changes in the state system. 6. During the Renaissance, the foundations of the modern scientific portrait of the world were laid, which gained its own infrastructure in the institutionalization of the school and university education system. With the development of natural sciences and philosophical discourses on legal issues, the foundations of basic individual rights were built. A conflict between individualism and previous restrictions on freedom of thought was developed. 7. Globalization: This term became part of considerations regarding the concept of the early modern period. Nearly two decades before, while discussing the characteristics of the early modern period, Schulze concluded “that this is an era that is at the world level, and in which the dominance of the European state system is developed.” Europe also began to develop on the experiences of others. Schulze complemented the seventh characteristic of the early modern period with the concept of globalization, because it was a time when man met the world.⁹ Reinhardt Wendt had a similar viewpoint, considering the year 1500 to be the beginning of this process, since inter-continental and global connections gained a new dimension in the ear-

⁸ Winfried Schulze, *Von den großen Anfängen des neuen Welttheaters. Entwicklungen, neuere Ansätze und Aufgaben der Frühneuezeitforschung*, 3–7.

⁹ Winfried Schulze, *Von den großen Anfängen des neuen Welttheaters. Entwicklungen, neuere Ansätze und Aufgaben der Frühneuezeitforschung*, 7–12.

ly modern period, and Europe had the central role in all this.¹⁰ Interpreting the characteristics of the early modern period, Luise Schorn-Schütte writes that, in all representations of this epoch, the basic principles are defined, highlighting specific European development paths of this period. These are the attributes that marked internal differentiation of this period and determined the reasons for defining the beginning and end of the period. These main characteristics were: exceptional dynamics of population growth; an increase in importance of trade and its domination; agriculture was modified, causing a connection to sustainable social changes. There was also the differentiation of forms of government known as “the emergence of the modern state,” including specific forms of political conflicts, especially between princes and peasants; the end of the unity of Western Christianity and the emergence of denominations; changes in the world view and understanding of science; the spread of European influence beyond its borders, i.e. European expansion.¹¹ The rules of research methods of the early modern period were determined in the context of these features of the epoch, but also on the findings of verified scientific theory and methodology and scientific research experience. Methodological research would not be possible without the inclusion of modern scientific research experience. As in all sciences, it is known that one method is based on several principles and that there are several types, several techniques, instruments and procedures that contribute to scientific cognition. All this is closely connected with the specificities of the historical epoch that we are researching and the particularities of the historical sources that we are collecting, processing and interpreting. The goal of our work refers to consideration of methodological questions in research of the early modern period in the domain of the historical epoch and consideration of various contemporary research positions in the verification of historical sources.

In the same way that historical science faces methodological problems, its narrow specializations struggle with seeking the best possible methods to solve scientific problems. The terms “science of history,” “historical science” refer us to the multiple complexity of the research object of the science of history and the complexity of this science, which is composed of a multitude of scientific disciplines and sub-disciplines that study various segments of history as a social reality and as the object of study of the science.¹²

¹⁰ Reinhard Wendt, *Vom Kolonialismus zur Globalisierung: Europa und die Welt seit 1500* (Paderborn, München, Wien, Zürich: Schöningh. 2007.), 11.

¹¹ Luise Schorn-Schütte, *Geschichte Europas in der Frühen Neuzeit*, 18–19.

¹² Stefan Jordan, *Einführung in das Geschichtsstudium* (Stuttgart: Reclam, 2005.); Mirjana Gross, „Dekonstrukcija historije ili svijet bez prošlosti“, *Historijski zbornik*, 62, br. 1 (2009): 165–195; Mirjana Gross, *Suvremena historiografija: korijeni, postignuća, traganja* (Zagreb: Novi liber, Zavod za hrvatsku povijest Filozofskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, 2001.); Mirjana Gross, *Historijska znanost* (Zagreb: SNL, 1980.); Zdravko M. Deletić, *Metodologija istraživanja istorije* (Podgorica: Crnogorska akademija nauka i umjetnosti, 2017); Vojin Milić, *Sociološki metod* (Beograd: Zavod za udžbenike i nastavna sredstva, 1996.); Stefan Jordan, *Theorien und Methoden der Geschichtswissenschaft* (Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh. 2009.); Miodrag Gordić, Dževad Termiz, Dragan

Methodological problems certainly start from historical sources, which should be found, read and interpreted, in fact, from the material that is the cornerstone of any historical reconstruction. Writing about the principles that govern the direction of original research, John Tosh reduces them to two. The first implies that the historian takes a single source or a group of sources from his area of interest – for example, documents of a particular court or part of diplomatic material – draws everything of value and leaves to the source content to determine the nature of the research.¹³ The second approach is contrary to this principle, focused on a particular problem, where there is a historical question explicitly formulated, usually driven by existing scientific thought. Attention is not paid to other questions, instead, the researcher is entirely directed towards a point that enables a conclusion and each method has its dangers. The first one, turned to sources, is convenient for access to a newly discovered source, can reveal the inextricable perplexity of data. The approach that is directed towards a specific problem sounds like a reasonable approach and probably coincides with what people mean by research, and it is often difficult to tell in advance what sources are *indeed* significant.¹⁴

Today, “methodological pluralism,” which has been developing in a majority of national historiographies in the last few decades, is visible. Various themes coexist in the context of this progress, such as “history of everyday life,” “social history,” “cultural history,” “history of consciousness,” “new historicism,” “linguistic turn in history,” “history of mentality” and others. During the last decades, it has been expected from historians, at the expense of the hermeneutic approach to the study of different epochs, to make attempts at “plunging” in the object of research in the context of time and place of the process, studying the mentality, structures of thinking, stereotypes of awareness, public speeches, everyday customs of the people of an epoch. These are methodological principles that are increasingly used in contemporary historical research of western and Russian historians.¹⁵

At the very beginning of the research of a problem, a basic question is raised: how to find sources? As a rule, the first clue to search for the sources comes from the professional literature that we use to write on the topic. A review of certain sources stated in appendixes and footnotes can be

Tančić, *Metodološki osnovi istraživanja bezbednosti odbrane i terorizma* (Beograd: D. Tančić; Leposavić: Institut za srpsku kulturu Priština, 2015.); Џон Тош, У трагању за историјом. циљеви, методи и нови правци у проучавању савремене историје (Београд: Слио, 2008); Людмила Рябова, О методологических проблемах изучения новейшей истории и истории современности; Džeremi Blek, Donald M. Mekrejld, *Izučavanje istorije* (Beograd: Clio, 2007), Олеся Пустовалова, *Методология исторического познания*, 5.

¹³ Џон Тош, У трагању за историјом. циљеви, методи и нови правци у проучавању савремене историје, 117.

¹⁴ Џон Тош, У трагању за историјом. циљеви, методи и нови правци у проучавању савремене историје, 118.

¹⁵ Людмила Рябова, О методологических проблемах изучения новейшей истории и истории современности, 8–9.

of great benefit. When it comes to printed sources, they can be quite easily accessed through a library. Sometimes it can be found that they contain many details that have not been themed yet, so based on those, further research can already start.¹⁶ Historical lexicons¹⁷ and atlases, particularly those specializing in certain narrow specializations,¹⁸ are great assistance. Further assistance in the search for sources are bibliographies and the science of sources. It must be noted that no list of books or the science of sources can be considered comprehensive, since new editions of sources are being published.¹⁹

Well-known expert in modern history, Fuchs, asks a basic question of what exactly is meant by the source and what sources have to be distinguished. He writes that historical sources might be called direct evidence, i.e. remains of the past. This definition is problematic in any case, since many events were not transferred by “direct” evidence, but by indications of the earlier time. The attribute “direct” cannot be taken literally here, but it has a task to point out the difference according to the modern professional historical literature. This traditional distinction is marked by “a list of sources and references” that is, as a rule, added as an attachment to a historical paper. Fuchs states a definition of sources by historian Kirn: “Sources are all texts, objects or facts, with the help of which one can come to know about the past.” The effort to focus more intensely on this type of objects, apart from the focus on texts, and also to focus on the historical view of paintings as sources of a particular time, is increasingly noticeable within historical science.²⁰ In contrast, there is a third group of facts that are less important and they, for example, can provide conclusions about the cultural influence on the development of states and regions, based on the spread of a language at the present time. Such “facts” often show only limited knowledge and as such do not provide almost any explanation. In historians’ practice, they are included only in passing, so that they would rhetorically contribute to the importance of some processes. It is certain that this image of the so-called remains and sources of tradition, which cannot be attributed to the full coverage of any types of sources, should not be seen as the last result of the wisdom of science, but it should be subjected to a particular critical consideration.²¹ The background of this differentiation goes back to the understanding of sources in the 19th century, with which this distinction cannot easily accord nowadays. In contrast, the remains are to be considered as “unintended sources” that mediate his-

¹⁶ Ralf-Peter Fuchs, „Technik: Die Arbeit mit den Quellen“, *Frühe Neuzeit*, A. Völker-Rasor (München: Oldenbourg Verlag, 2006), 258.

¹⁷ We will state the following valuable historical lexicons: *Dictionnaire historique de la Suisse*; *Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie*; *Neue Deutsche Biographie*, *Lexikon des Mittelalters*, *Енциклопедија српске историографије*.

¹⁸ Pierre Vidal-Naquet, *Le grande livre de l'histoire du monde: atlas historique* (Paris: France Loisirs, 1986.); Tim Dovsky, *Der Atlas zur Reformation in Europa*.

¹⁹ Ralf-Peter Fuchs, *Technik: Die Arbeit mit den Quellen*, 258.

²⁰ Ralf-Peter Fuchs, *Technik: Die Arbeit mit den Quellen*, 255.

²¹ Ralf-Peter Fuchs, *Technik: Die Arbeit mit den Quellen*, 256.

torical knowledge and, therefore, represent an important basis for the research of the past. When “remains” are touched to verify the obtained perception based on the painting, a confrontation with problems occurs very soon. Even one look at the types of documents, which certainly do not represent important sources only for the Middle Ages, but also for the early modern period, leads to confusion. There are explanations in a large number of sale contracts and debt documents that were clearly intended for future generations. Pointing to “difficult times of war,” when goods were pledged, can be understood in the following way: that it was the intention to let know the heirs that it was not easy to manage family possessions. Behind such statements, which were made in interaction with judges and notaries and included in documents of this kind, there were certainly motives to influence the perception of the “history” of later generations.²² Although work on sources is included in work that takes time, it is also included in extremely interesting segments of scientific and historical work. Lately, there has been an increased interest in mentalities and perception models in historical research, so this field is raised to a higher level. These are, according to Vocolka, primarily anthropological approaches that observe differences in people from the early modern period, as well as the attempt to research phenomena such as birth, childhood, sexuality, illness and death, more closely and accurately presenting the work with the direct evidence of the past. Not only did problems of everyday life and the living space further expand the spectrum of processed sources, but they also moved forward this research. Thus, long neglected documents in the archives came into the focus of researchers. While, in the 19th century, numerous documents of judicial practice were considered as historically irrelevant, and even partially destroyed, today court documents and records are the central basis for the study of living conditions and understanding the value of people, especially of ordinary subjects of the early modern state.²³

On the other hand, when it comes to the definition of the period, it cannot be limited strictly to the source material used; it is interwoven with the epoch before and the epoch after. In the modern period, documents still play the role of the main sources of the Middle Ages; on the other hand, there are records that are typical of the early modern period. The only type of sources of the history of the modern period that is not available to us is the research of personal testimonies of the time, i.e. oral history. Still, the situation regarding sources at the beginning of the modern period was different than in the Middle Ages. Sources were created through printed material, gaining increasing importance. Printed books were used very often, but frequently they were not considered as a special kind of sources of our knowledge about the past. Many topics, especially about the history of science, would be unthinkable without these sources. Normative sources, such as codices and legal provisions or later proto-

²² Ralf-Peter Fuchs, *Technik: Die Arbeit mit den Quellen*, 256–257.

²³ Karl Vocolka, *Geschichte der Neuzeit: 1500–1918*, 54.

cols of parliaments and the like, were also more accessible in the contemporary print.²⁴ In the late 16th and 17th centuries, the aristocracy and large merchant families still had their correspondents in various countries who regularly provided them with information. Especially since the 15th century, the Southern German autonomous city municipalities and some other cities like Venice – were placed for the overturn of information policies. A large and well-known collection of handwritten news was prepared by the Fugger family, and a small part was processed and published. Leaflets were often made in print, out of such handwritten letters, becoming accessible to the public audience by further dissemination. When working with typographic communication media of the early modern period, we find a multitude of names; all the printed material that did not belong to the book type was often referred to by the term leaflets or brochures, pages printed only on one side were often referred to as single-side print or leaflet. These types of printed material played an important social role, especially in the early modern period: pamphlets regarding the reform, the so-called Turkish leaflet, sensational news and stories about miracles, etc., and later during the Revolution of 1848.²⁵

If we return to concrete examples of the first printed sources in the modern period and the problem of their importance and classification, we will see all the complexities of working with sources. The printed material whose volume was larger than one page was called the *flyer*, and the difficulty in categorizing these sources in respect to the *book* type, since flyers may consist of a hundred pages, but certainly have to be distinguished from books when it comes to their purpose and to whom they were sent. Interesting graphics can be found in the media through time in the form of one-side printed flyers and extensive flyers for propaganda purposes, in order to study the mentality from the historical point of view. A majority of one-side printed flyers were illustrated with etchings and wood carving; sheets were divided into two parts, the upper part showing a picture of an event, while there was an appropriate text below. Also some flyers – mainly not all of them – were illustrated almost exclusively on the front page with only one placed graphic. The one-side printed flyer, on the basis of its briefness, had multiple advantages compared to the extensive flyer. Its text was clear and easy to remember, and the production required very little time and much less cost.²⁶ Public advertisements and calendars, portraits, postcards of towns, maps, and small size images from the domain of religion were of a similar form, but with different content and messages. The usual distribution of leaflets or flyers was performed through street vendors or “traveling salesmen,” which meant that a large part, if not a majority, was sold directly to the recipients.²⁷

²⁴ Ralf-Peter Fuchs, *Technik: Die Arbeit mit den Quellen*, 257–258.

²⁵ Karl Vocelka, *Geschichte der Neuzeit: 1500–1918*, 55.

²⁶ Karl Vocelka, *Geschichte der Neuzeit: 1500–1918*, 55–56.

²⁷ Ralf-Peter Fuchs, *Technik: Die Arbeit mit den Quellen*, 258.

In addition to these sources, it should be mentioned for the German speaking area that periodicals with news were published for the first time in early 17th century. *Relation aller Fürnemmen gedenckwürdigen und Historien* was considered to be the first newspaper published in the modern sense, in 1605 in Strasbourg, published once a week. The first newspaper published in the territory of today's Germany was *Avisa Relation oder Zeitung* in 1609 in Wolfenbüttel; since then, there were more or less short-lived periodicals in the German speaking area; the first true newspaper, *Eincommende Zeitung*, was published in Leipzig in 1650. In the mid-17th century, daily newspapers in many European countries were established. The Swedish newspaper *Post- och Inrikes Tidningar* is considered to be the oldest still published newspaper; it has been published since 1645. Newspapers were published in the Netherlands, France, Poland, London, Denmark and Spain in the 17th century. The first women's newspaper in the world, *The Ladies' Mercury*, was established in 1693, and the first German women's newspaper was published in Leipzig in 1725.²⁸ Serb Zechariah Orfelin published the first newspaper for the Serbs, *Славено-сербскій магазинъ*, in Venice in 1768.²⁹

Particularly in the second half of the 18th century – precisely for the reasons of the emergence of civil society, an increase in literacy due to the obligation to attend school and a reading revolution, the number of newspapers increased sharply. In addition to the technological prerequisites, social development has to be considered as the basis for the expansion of journalism, which was often hampered due to censorship; public opinion was formed, including a majority of the population. In the 19th century, mass printing was developed, which was made possible through technological innovations, but also because of the increasing interest of citizens in politics; in the late 19th century, there were around 3,500 newspapers in Germany.³⁰ In addition, today researchers believe that the importance of image sources for the history should not be underestimated; the graphic techniques of the early modern period: woodcut, engraving and intaglio printing enabled the dissemination of images and image contents, as well as lower prices of the same. A significant progress has been achieved in the area of the inclusion of illustrated sources into historical material in recent decades. Not only are paintings and other works of art important sources for the history of art, but also for history in general, whereby their “content” is relevant for historians. Paintings, for example, are extraordinary sources of everyday life, showing objects, gestures, behaviors of people, about which other sources are silent. Precisely in the early modern period, paintings that contain versatile, almost coded narratives, were often the only sources for the views and opinions of their creators. The iconography of pictorial themes of castles and churches show how much information such sources contain.³¹

²⁸ Karl Vocelka, *Geschichte der Neuzeit: 1500-1918*, 56–57.

²⁹ <http://digital.bms.rs/ebiblioteka/publications/view/2809> [accessed, 24.10.2017].

³⁰ Karl Vocelka, *Geschichte der Neuzeit: 1500-1918*, 57.

³¹ Karl Vocelka, *Geschichte der Neuzeit: 1500-1918*, 58.

Paintings from museum depots – both originals and paintings created by special reproduction techniques – often “artistically less valuable” – whose scope was quite different, are interesting for historical science. Carving, engraving and intaglio printing were the techniques of the 19th century by which the pictorial content was popularized. It happened, as already mentioned, in conjunction with flyers or as illustrations in books, but also as an independent type. There are many portraits, depictions of events, topographical postcards, and also paintings with religious content. Printing from a stone or lithography is a simple technique that does not require much knowledge of chemistry, and is easy to perform in comparison to the effort required to perform engraving and etchings, and, in addition, it enables almost unlimited reproduction.³²

The researchers are fond of the opinion that the most important sources are of a written nature and that a majority of historical publications is built on the basis of traditional handwritten sources from archives and libraries. These archives that, depending on the country or region, can be of a very different density, with their administrative acts and business documents, are a key material for historical research. They provide primary information on foreign policies of states, meaning that they cover the key area of political history. Reports of ambassadors and various diplomatic correspondence are particularly relevant. Many of these sources exist as modern publications or they are now being edited.³³ Contemporary experts at the issue of sources believe that historical science is not limited, like other sciences, to a certain object. Depending on the historical material we use, in the context of a period of time, it is difficult to separate the sources and references.³⁴ Public records are traditionally favorite sources for most researchers; they have not been approached in the same way as reports (which are testimonies about certain events), but as parts of a process (administrative, judicial or political events). To understand the meaning of public records, the historian has to, if possible, study them in original sets and as a whole, reducing the risk of misinterpretation of the matter outside its context.³⁵

There is rich material as a source of the history of the government and the constitution, the history of law, and many other segments of history. Especially in the field of economic and social history, it is a fundamental fact that, in the modern period, there were more and more serial sources (for example, registers on taxes, records of commercial revenues, and also statistical calculations since the 18th century), which enables the work on a cross-section and development studies. Records of property, property registers and cadasters are rich material to work on social matters and eco-

³² Karl Vocelka, *Geschichte der Neuzeit: 1500–1918*, 58.

³³ Karl Vocelka, *Geschichte der Neuzeit: 1500–1918*, 61.

³⁴ Stefan Jordan, *Einführung in das Geschichtsstudium*, 49.

³⁵ Џон Тош, У трагању за историјом. циљеви, методи и нови правци у проучавању савремене историје, 131.

conomic and historical matters.³⁶ In demographic terms, there were records of births, marriages and deaths, from which family members can be reconstructed, as important as the statistical surveys carried out since the 18th century. In the 19th century, the population was counted in almost all European countries, mostly in the ten-year cycle. Church census records are also an important historical source for genealogical and family research.³⁷ A similar situation was at the European south-east, where there were *defters* as registers of cadastral lists of the Ottoman Empire, which were the basis for taxation in the state and contain important information about the population of certain areas (the number of households, ethnic origin), property, income, occupation and the like. The most active office of the central administration of the *defterhane* performed this activity.³⁸ What applies to serial sources also applies to similar ones, major publications of sources – for example, in the field of the modern times *Acta borussica*,³⁹ which led to Series A (“government of organizations and the general state administration”) and Series B (“The individual businesses offer of the administration”).⁴⁰ We will give several examples of well-known series of published sources.⁴¹ When it comes to published sources related to the history of Russia and its relations with European powers from the 17th to the 20th century, the collection *Собрание Трактатов и Конвенций* is significant.⁴²

In addition to these sources of administrative authorities, who comprise a major part of the archival material, there are also *ego-documents* of the modern period that are gaining more and more importance. This concept, which was used for the first time by Dutch scientist Jacques Presser in the

³⁶ Karl Vocelka, *Geschichte der Neuzeit: 1500–1918*, 61.

³⁷ Karl Vocelka, *Geschichte der Neuzeit: 1500–1918*, 61.

³⁸ *Defters* are first-rate sources for the history of certain areas of the Ottoman Empire to which they refer. A significant number of them has been published and translated from the Ottoman language, and is available to researchers.: Mehmet Ipşirli, „Osmansko državno uređenje“, *Historija osmanske države i civilizacije*, ur. Ekmeleddin İhsanoglu, (Sarajevo: Orientalni institut, 2004), 211.

³⁹ Today a publication of this valuable source can be found on: <http://preussenprotokolle.bbaw.de/editionsbaende-im-Internet> [accessed on 15 May 2017]

⁴⁰ Stefan Jordan, *Einführung in das Geschichtsstudium*, 55.

⁴¹ A series of records in Latin, French and German by the Lutheran reformers of the 16th century that consists of a hundred and one volumes, containing a reprint of the collected works of Zwingli, Calvin, Melancthon. The first volume of these sources is Melancthon's book *Opera*, published in Halle: *Corpus reformatorum*, Volumen 1. Halis Saxonum: C.A. Schwetschke, 1834. In contrast to this collection, in defense of the Roman Catholic Church in the Reformation time, the series *Corpus Catholicorum* was created, which now has an online edition.: <http://www.corpus-catholicorum.de/> [accessed on 2 June 2017]; the collection *Monumenta Historica Societatis Iesu* is of great value, as well, containing 157 volumes of material related to the history of the Jesuit order.

⁴² It is a multi-volume collection of documents in 15 volumes that was published between 1874–1909. «Собрание» includes documents of mutual relations of Russia with Austria, Prussia, England and France. All the documents are provided in the original language and translated into Russian. The first volume refers to documents on relations between Russia and Austria in the 17th and 18th centuries.: Мартенс Фридрих, *Собрание Трактатов и Конвенций, заключенных Россией с иностранными державами: Том I. Трактаты с Австрией 1648-1762* (С. Петербург: Типография Министерства Путьей Сообщения, 1874.)

mid-20th century, was reactualized by Schulze at the end of this century.⁴³ Letters, diaries and autobiographies are the main types of texts whose topic is the individual, writes Stefan Ehrenpreis. Although there are medieval texts that could be included in this category, the ego-document, as a general social phenomenon, is associated with the modern period. In the Middle Ages, exceptions and outsiders were those who left behind such a testimony of their lives, and in the modern period, the number of upper class people, whom we can research as individuals, increased. It is still a fact that the ego-document was left by people of the lower social class, mostly only in the event of a conflict with the law. Court acts and inquisitions are materials that, in some cases, allow for the reconstruction of such biographies.⁴⁴ It is a prevailing opinion that, in the research of the early modern period, it has turned out to be a good approach not to separate autobiographies and diaries as basically different types of sources, but to study them together as social and historical matters in the context of merging these sources under the term self-testimony. Finally, the classification of sources into “remains” and “tradition” is increasingly losing its meaning. As an alternative rule, here, the definition should be: each individual source implies special considerations of its authenticity.⁴⁵ In contrast, biographies always find a place in the research of historians, especially those who research the early modern period. Today “the death of biographical genres” is discussed in the work of historiography. A researcher of this issue, Zujkov, quotes Jacques Le Goff, who, in the introduction to his work on the biography of Louis X, states that there is a large number of published biographies in the European historiography, and that this genre is in vogue. He emphasizes the importance of this issue in historical science, but also the seriousness of the biography writing approach.⁴⁶

Other forms of individual sources include travel books, which are a phenomenal source of traveled areas, as well as of implicit cultural differences. The historical research of the epistolary discourse is a fascinating topic by itself as a supplement that contributes to our knowledge of the linguistic levels of European languages in the past, which opens a window to practice in writing letters and reading about the past times and socio-cultural reality in which they were etched. This provides a valuable tool in the reconstruction of communication methods, both in public and private spheres. The importance of correspondence and communication

⁴³ Winfried Schulze, *Ego-Dokumente: Annäherung an den Menschen in der Geschichte?* Winfried Schulze (Hrsg.): „Ego-Dokumente“, *Annäherung an den Menschen in der Geschichte* (Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1996), 11–30.

⁴⁴ Stefan Ehrenpreis, „Quellen: Bandbreite heute untersucht“, *Frühe Neuzeit*, A. Völker-Rasor (München: Oldenbourg Verlag, 2006), 336.

⁴⁵ Karl Vocelka, *Geschichte der Neuzeit: 1500–1918*, 62; Dalibor Elezović, „News on the battle of Petrovaradin and the Siege of Belgrade in the autobiographical writings of Jean-Frédéric Diesbach“, *Zbornik radova Filozofskog fakulteta u Prištini*, 46, 3 (2016): 53–63.

⁴⁶ Данил А. Жуйков, „Основные методологические проблемы биографического исследования в современной историографии“, *Вестник Челябинского государственного университета*, 25 (279). История. Вып. 52. (2012): 133–134.

and cultural exchange as a source of socio-historical study of modern Europe is not sufficiently emphasized. Leading historians researched the correspondence of scientists, spies, traders, politicians, artists, nobles, artisans, and even ordinary peasants. The exchange of letters between people belonging to different communities had a major influence on the spread of ideas and emotions, linking the individual with the society in which he worked.⁴⁷ Travel books are a valuable source when it comes to the area of Southeastern Europe in the modern period and provide excellent data on various aspects of society and man.⁴⁸ The existence of a wide epistolary communication network, in fact, is a peculiarity of the early modern period in Europe. An extensive network and large amounts of correspondence soon became a feature of the period, ranging from small circles of family members or well-known humanists, to scientific and artistic, political and professional circles. Gabriella Camiciotti cites the example of the Italian Jesuit, Matteo Ricci, who wrote letters from India and China between 1580 and 1609. His letters from China are particularly rich in observations about the Chinese language and customs, which contributed to the knowledge of this country in Europe. A characteristic of the early modern period was that such correspondence began to be used in everyday life by members of almost all social strata.⁴⁹ In this context, we would like to point out the famous collection "The French Traveler,"⁵⁰ edited by Joseph de La Porte (1718-1779), a Jesuit, literary critic, poet and playwright of the 18th century. This multivolume collection contains an extremely valuable compilation of letters, with important information about many countries of the world.⁵¹

In addition, there are many *artes-literature* manuscripts in the archives, but primarily in manuscript collections of libraries; they discuss "professional topics," through which an insight into different spheres of life is obtained. Examples are books of mining, fireworks, medicine, notes of physicians, astronomers, etc. A special role in history is attributed to, of course, notes of history writers, ranging from a simple chronicle to a historical event from the Renaissance presented in detail. Vocelka writes that everything can basically be a source of history, therefore, inevitably every description of modern period sources has to remain quite incomplete.

⁴⁷ Gabriella Del Lungo Camiciotti, „Letters and Letter Writing in Early Modern Culture: An Introduction“, *Journal of Early Modern Studies*, n. 3 (2014): 17–23.

⁴⁸ Robert Dankoff, *An Ottoman Mentality: The World of Evliya Celebi (Ottoman Empire and Its Heritage)* (Leiden: Brill Academic Pub, 2006.), 8–10, Marija Kocić, Nikola Samardžić, *Pisma iz Carigrada. Dispacci di Constantinololi (1688-1698)* (Beograd: Novi balkanološki institut, Heraedu, 2016.), 60.

⁴⁹ Gabriella Del Lungo Camiciotti, *Letters and Letter Writing in Early Modern Culture: An Introduction*, 24.

⁵⁰ The twenty third volume of this collection refers to a letter describing the Balkan area.: Joseph de la Porte, *Le voyageur françois, ou la connoissance de l'ancien et de nouveau monde, Mise au jour par M. l'Abbé de la Porte, Quatrieme Edition, Revue, corrigée et augmentée. Tome second* (Paris: Chez L. Cellot, 1772.)

⁵¹ Dalibor Elezovic, „The Description of Turcey in One Swiss Chronicle from the End of the Eighteenth Century“, *Adam Akademy Journal of Social Sciences*, 2, 1 (2012): 92.

In the same way that paintings can be used as source material, literary texts can inform us of a specific time, gaining an original character in this way.⁵²

A search for sources in the archives, where we find official manuscripts, documents, personal legacies, old maps and the like is a challenge in the research and a pleasure for a majority of researchers. The rule stating that the right choice depends on our topic also applies to work in the archives. However, after getting well acquainted with the material in the archive, it can always happen that we change our minds regarding our matters and we can reformulate them. When it comes to sources of the early modern period, there is material in the archives that is in accordance with the organization of the archive service, and administrative and historical limits. The archives of some towns, if those towns had the town status in the early modern period, include written documents of the town administration and the judiciary.⁵³ In private archives, such as archives of the nobility, there is material relating to the family, but in addition, if an aristocratic family possessed land or the right of the judiciary, there are also documents that can testify about the economy and the legal everyday life of their subjects, peasants in the early modern period. Sources from that period can be found in church archives or university archives.⁵⁴

Regarding the question of whether the archival material is, as a rule, a primary source; sources that are the closest to the time period studied or come from it are usually considered to be primary sources, and sources that arose later are considered to be secondary. This difference, however, can sometimes be quite unclear. Whether a source will be primary or secondary for a researcher of history also depends on the type of access and the nature of the analysis and research done by the historian.⁵⁵ When it comes to the approval of the archival institution for the use of the material, rules are different, and access to private archives, depending on the circumstances, can be denied. By contrast, a visit to state or town archives, as a rule, takes place without problems. Although the main purpose of these institutions does not consist in serving users, there is usually an officer who can be of great help in the selection of sources. It is certainly advisable to know one's own research strategy and draw up a list of concrete questions before the visit. In this respect, publications of the archive that you want to visit can be helpful. Big state archives have particularly been issuing reviews and publications on certain contents in recent years. Many state archives, to which imperial acts of the Supreme Court were allocated in the 19th century, enabled documentation of some processes to be found through means of information, based on which a list of important sources for the given topic could be drawn up.⁵⁶

⁵² Karl Vocelka, *Geschichte der Neuzeit: 1500–1918*, 62.

⁵³ Ralf-Peter Fuchs, *Technik: Die Arbeit mit den Quellen*, 259.

⁵⁴ Ralf-Peter Fuchs, *Technik: Die Arbeit mit den Quellen*, 259.

⁵⁵ Džeremi Blek, Donald M. Mekrejld, *Izučavanje istorije*, 112.

⁵⁶ Ralf-Peter Fuchs, *Technik: Die Arbeit mit den Quellen*, 259.

Sometimes material that would shed light on a historical issue has not been preserved in archives, which complicates the work of historians. An example of this is the private archive of great general Eugene of Savoy that vanished without a trace, for which some researchers blame his successor, the daughter of his older brother, who did not care for the uncle's legacy. Others conclude that the archive has been deliberately destroyed so that unfavorable details that could cast a shadow on the great warrior would not be released.⁵⁷ Researchers know that archivists occasionally strive to make source material accessible by following the principle of pertinence, for example access under classifications such as "reformation" or "thirty years' war." However, recording and determination of sources by provenance has become common.⁵⁸

Today, researchers of history are faced with another challenge, to which they have to respond, and that is the digitization of archival material. This process, in addition to all the advantages (protection of original archival material, research accessibility, reduction of research costs) has to meet the most stringent requirements of historical methodology. There is also the question of the possibility of preserving the authenticity of archival documents in the nature of the digital industry. Researchers cannot rely solely on the research of digital archival documents, especially because of a small percentage of archives that have performed the digitization.⁵⁹ Contemporary historical research also imply the use of databases containing sources, which, to a large extent, originate from the early modern period. The digital conversion of traditional printed books is nothing but a transfer from the classical reading room into a digital space. These are mainly products of commercial publishers, which means that the access to this material is not always free. Readers can use in a digital form the material for which libraries have purchased a license. Today there are major publishers who are interconnected and provide access to their information systems. In this way, works i.e. rare editions dating from the early modern period can be read today in the collections of Google Books, Hathi Trust, Europeana, Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek, Galica, Rero, Digital Public Library of America oder das Internet Archive.⁶⁰ As Tosh writes, there is no doubt that historical research cannot be reduced to finding one reliable source in order to take from it everything it can provide. The researcher should collect as many pieces of evidence as possible from a large number of sources, and it is the best option to collect evidence from all sources related to the research topic. In this way, it will be easier to spot any inaccuracies and distortions of some sources and substantiate

⁵⁷ Бранко Бешлин, Евгеније Савојски и његово доба (Нови Сад: Матица српска, 2016.), 11–12.

⁵⁸ Ralf-Peter Fuchs, *Technik: Die Arbeit mit den Quellen*, 262.

⁵⁹ Dalibor M. Elezović, „Historians in the Age of Digitalisation of Archival documents,“ *International conference on development of historical and political sciences in Eurasia*, Ed. K. Orzechowska (Vienna: Advanced Studies and Higher Education, 2014), 8–10.

⁶⁰ Wilfried Enderle, *Fakten und Informationen im digitalen Raum - Von Lexika, historischen Sachwörterbüchern und biografischen Nachschlagewerken zu historischen Informationssystemen*.

conclusions. Mastering a variety of sources is, therefore, a key element of historical science methodology, and the nature of research depends on what historical sources the historian will focus more, what he will select as more important and what he will overlook as less important. By selecting and classifying historical sources in this way, the historian may want to process more than the direct topic of the author of the writings, i.e. unveil some hidden clues in the document.⁶¹

Interpretation and understanding of historical sources is a true intellectual challenge for researchers of history, because their interpretation relates to the past times, to unique events and long-term changes in structure, and they need to be understood and explained. This involves thinking about epochs throughout history and the reasons for the determination of their borders. The methodological precision use of resources is not an easy scientific task, since the historian has to possess extraordinary abilities (in other historically oriented disciplines: linguistics, theology, philosophy, law, sociology, etc.).⁶² Immediately at the beginning of processing resources, in determining the authenticity, the historian asks a series of questions, to which the document should “answer” in a positive way. Sometimes it is necessary to ask for a philologist’s help in order to verify the language and letters, and also a palaeographer’s help if the document is written by hand. Official documents, such as grants, charters, imperial decrees, etc. were written in a special, well-established style, with the language formulas, content and purpose of the institution that issued them.⁶³ The methodological implications of recent debates by historians are also numerous, and historians can now see far beyond official documents, which were the basis of most scientific works in the 19th century. The nature of historical research requires an understanding of numerous problems associated with the concepts and approaches, and history cannot be simple.⁶⁴ Writing history has a task to bring close the arbitrary and insecure nature of interpretation and the need to constantly analyze it in the light of the original material used as evidence in its favor. For this reason, it is very important not to confuse what happened with the way in which we learned about it.⁶⁵ In this context, we would like to mention a remark by Z. Deletic, who writes that “sources have not been utilized for the rest of the time; they need to be re-read, not only for verification, but also in order to seek new answers.”⁶⁶ In order for us to read sources of the history of the early modern period, we have at our disposal a large number

⁶¹ Џон Тош, У трагању за историјом. циљеви, методи и нови правци у проучавању савремене историје, 140.

⁶² Luise Schorn-Schütte, *Geschichte Europas in der Frühen Neuzeit*, 11.

⁶³ Џон Тош, У трагању за историјом. циљеви, методи и нови правци у проучавању савремене историје, 123.

⁶⁴ Džeremi Blek, Donald Mekrejld, *Izučavanje istorije*; Олеся Пустовалова, *Методологија историческог познанија*, 35–37.

⁶⁵ Ричард Џ. Еванс, *У одбрану историје* (Београд: Српска књижевна задруга, 2007), 125.

⁶⁶ Zdravko M. Deletić, *Metodologija istorijskih istraživanja*, 82.

of paleogeographic manuals that can be of great help. Thus, for example, paleographers have compiled tables, on which texts with the typical letters of the early modern period were printed. Old alphabets from this period, as well as dictionaries of abbreviations are of great importance for this task.⁶⁷ We would like to single out as important abbreviation dictionaries in Latin and French texts of the early modern period.⁶⁸

Today historians such as Tosh emphasize the importance of the indirect application of historical evidence, which is the so-called path from the source backwards, the regression method, where the historian carefully works backwards, in stages, starting from what he knows, elucidating partial and unrelated data from the previous periods. If this method, although difficult, is applied reasonably and attention is paid to changes, then it reveals much. Accordingly, the historian should search for sources in fairly remote and incredible places. Here his ingenuity and talent, skills and shrewdness come to the fore, and historical sources are examined best by minds who have been trained for detective, cautious distrust.⁶⁹ Therefore, we are returning to the document analysis and the importance of the application of methods in the research of specific historical problems.⁷⁰ Jürgen Kocka writes that social and economic historians specifically research causes and effects, and often resort to other complementary, theory-oriented methods: statistics, cartography, typology, and cooperate with other social sciences. In many areas of historical science, especially in the history of civilization, nowadays a serious shift of interest has been observed, from the causes of the phenomenon to their meaning and from explanation to understanding. Particularly in social history, and not only in it, the question of cause and effect is still being raised, although it is often difficult to answer to this question.⁷¹ When the historian explains why he is interested in the topic and why it should be interesting to others, he determines what the main problems of the topic are and forms hypotheses, and possible answers to the questions. In the end, he accumulates the references and sources critically, in order to create a solid foundation for

⁶⁷ Ralf-Peter Fuch, *Technik: Die Arbeit mit den Quellen*, 265–266.

⁶⁸ Adriano Cappelli, *Lexicon abbreviatarum Dizionario di abbreviature latine ed italiane: usate nelle carte e codici specialmente del medio-evo riprodotte con oltre 14000 incisi* (Milano: Ulrico Hoepli, 2011.); Nikolas Buat, Evelin Van den Neste, *Dictionnaire de paléographie Française: Découvrir et comprendre les textes anciens (XV-XVIII siècle)* (Paris: Les Belles lettres, 2011.)

⁶⁹ Џон Тош, У трагању за историјом. циљеви, методи и нови правци у проучавању савремене историје, 140.

⁷⁰ In this context, we emphasize that some authors such as R. Lukic, classify the document analysis as a form of observation, while S. Milosavljevic considers it to be a specific variation of research, since knowledge is gained on the basis of statements (especially in written documents), which is typical of research. As we indeed discover in this method some similarities to the test method and the method of observation and even the experiment one, it has appropriately been treated as sui generis.: Termiz, Dragan Tančić, *Metodološki osnovi istraživanja bezbednosti odbrane i terorizma*, 97–114.

⁷¹ Compare to: Jürgen Kocka, *Sozialgeschichte in Deutschland seit 1945 Aufstieg – Krise – Perspektiven, Gesprächskreis Geschichte (Bd. 47)* (Bonn: Friedrich-EbertStiftung, Historisches Forschungszentrum, 2002), 17–18, 35, and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cMEP2aDcKw> [accessed on 28 July 2017].

research, the reconstruction of the chronological and thematic context of events, processes and developments. Only then, according to Jordan, does the historian's real work begin. Modern historiography has been working on these challenges for more than two centuries, on the philosophical process of cognition called interpretation. It reveals an object in comparison with another; there are similarities, but also differences that reveal themselves, and time is the most important difference criterion for the historian.⁷² Therefore, debates raised by historians and philosophers of methodology and theory are of great importance for research in the field of modern history. Without their solutions and reduction to a common denominator, it is impossible to obtain adequate knowledge, which is not only intended to solve the burning issues in the perception of the historical past.⁷³ One of the key tasks of historians is the fact that the focus should be on the widest range of diverse texts, i.e. sources that make it possible for us to perceive the object of research from different angles. Researcher Mukhin gives an example of a problem in interpreting one source, emphasizing the necessity of comparing different sources in relation to one scientific question.⁷⁴ There is also the problem of "facts and fiction," which has increasingly been discussed in historical science, described by Fuchs, in the context of working with sources, as a constant strained relationship. Through a critical approach to sources, which often implies a very narrow approach, some data can be more attributed to one than the other level. Here anyone who interprets sources will set different focuses of interest, according to their questions raised. Ultimately, the intensity of studying some texts depends on these challenges in research. Thus, the acerbic analysis of certain paragraphs has long been meaningless, although it is sometimes possible to learn very much about a question regarding the history of the early modern period from only a few sentences conveyed.⁷⁵

Today the research of the early modern period is spread to different social spectrums and enters into the depth of the structures of this epoch through a contemporary approach to interpretation of historical sources. The whole aspect of the research of social issues, economic issues and cultural foundations has drifted away from once traditional views on political history. The concept of the early modern period as a historical epoch is nowadays viewed in the context of the characteristics and specificities of this period and is subject to current problematization and interpretation. Today researchers of the early modern period have access to

⁷² Stefan Jordan, *Einführung in das Geschichtsstudium*, 116.

⁷³ Людмила Рябова, О методологических проблемах изучения новейшей истории и истории современности, 16.

⁷⁴ In this context, Mukhin considers a question that is still the subject of debate in the science of history and refers to the extent in which Ivan the Terrible was relentless during his reign. One part of historians dispute his cruelty ("Ivan-philés"), while others present evidence from sources and prove his cruelty.: Олег Н. Мухин, „Власть/миф/ историография: еще раз о необходимости сравнения в историческом исследовании,“ Вестник ТГПУ (*TSPU Bulletin*), 155, 2 (2015), 85.

⁷⁵ Ralf-Peter Fuchs, *Technik: Die Arbeit mit den Quellen*, 270.

the same kind of historical sources, but they see the valorization of sources in a more comprehensive way, given the importance to all the information that can reconstruct the task that has been set before the researcher. This was crucially influenced by an increase in topics that the researchers study in the context of the historical specialty. Earlier fragmentarily represented topics of the history of mentalities, gender relations and cultural aspects are being more represented. Sources dating from the early modern period can contain very heterogeneous material, from minutes of meetings of institutions, government councils and the like – to private records or court applications. Therefore, a key element of the methodology of historical science is mastering different sources and using strict criteria regarding their interpretation. All these challenges require new tendencies in the methodology of history research and the development of the application of methods that can properly meet the challenges of a broad movement towards the research of historical sources.

References

- Бешлин, Бранко. Евгеније Савојски и његово доба. Нови Сад: Матица српска, 2016.
- Blek, Džeremi, Mekrejld M, Donald. *Izučavanje istorije*. Beograd: Clio, 2007.
- Bloch, Marc. *Apologija historije ili zanat povjesničara*. Zagreb: Srednja Europa, 2008.
- Бориснёв, В. Сергей. Современные проблемы теории и методологии исторического исследования, *Армия и общество*, 3 (2010): 81–87.
- Brodel, Fernan. *Mediteran i mediteranski svet u doba Filipa II, Tom II*. Beograd, Geopoetika, 2001.
- Buat, Nikolas. Van den Neste, Evelin. *Dictionnaire de paléographie Française: Découvrir et comprendre les textes anciens (XV-XVIII siècle)*. Paris: Les Belles lettres, 2011.
- Camiciotti Del Lungo, Gabriella. Letters and Letter Writing in Early Modern Culture: An Introduction, *Journal of Early Modern Studies*, n. 3 (2014): 17–35.
- Cappelli, Adriano. *Lexicon abbreviatarum Dizionario di abbreviature latine ed italiane: usate nelle carte e codici specialmente del medio-evo riprodotte con oltre 14000 incisi*. Milano: Ulrico Hoepli, 2011.
- Dankoff, Robert. *An Ottoman Mentality: The World of Evliya Celebi (Ottoman Empire and Its Heritage)*. Leiden: Brill Academic Pub, 2006.
- Delečić, M. Zdravko. *Metodologija istraživanja istorije*. Podgorica: Crnogorska akademija nauka i umjetnosti, 2017.
- Delumeau, Jean. *Une histoire du monde aux temps modernes*. Paris: Bibliothèque historique Larousse, 2013.
- Dovley, Tim. *Der Atlas zur Reformation in Europa*. Neukirchen-Vluyn: Neukirchener Verlagsgesellschaft mbH, 2016.
- Ehrenpreis, Stefan. Quellen: Bandbreite heute untersucht, Frühe Neuzeit, A. *Völker-Rasor*, 331-341. München: Oldenbourg Verlag, 2006.
- Elezovic, Dalibor. Description of Russia in the Chronicle of the Swiss Anonym, late 18th century, *Voprosy istorii*, 3 (2013): 164.

- Elezović M. Dalibor. Historians in the Age of Digitalisation of Archival documents, *International conference on development of historical and political sciences in Eurasia*, Ed. K. Orzechowska, 8–10. Vienna: East West, 2014.
- Elezović, Dalibor. News on the battle of Petrovaradin and the Siege of Belgrade in the autobiographical writings of Jean-Frédéric Diesbach, *Zbornik radova Filozofskog fakulteta u Prištini*, 46, 3 (2016): 53–63.
- Elezovic, Dalibor. The Description of Turcey in One Swiss Chronicle from the End of the Eighteenth Century, *Adam Academy Journal of Social Sciences*, 2, 1 (2012): 91–96.
- Enderle, Wilfried. Fakten und Informationen im digitalen Raum – Von Lexika, historischen Sachwörterbüchern und biografischen Nachschlagewerken zu historischen Informationssystemen, in: *Clio Guide – Ein Handbuch zu digitalen Ressourcen für die Geschichtswissenschaften*, Hrsg. von Laura Busse, Wilfried Enderle, Rüdiger Hohls, Gregor Horstkemper, Thomas Meyer, Jens Prellwitz, Annette Schuhmann, Berlin 2016 (=Historisches Forum, Bd. 19), <http://www.clio-online.de/guides/arbeitsformen-und-techniken/fakten-undinformationen/2016>
- Fuchs, Ralf-Peter. Technik: Die Arbeit mit den Quellen, Frühe Neuzeit, A. Völker Rasor, 255–272. München: Oldenbourg Verlag, 2006.
- Gordić, Miodrag. Termiz, Dževad. Tančić, Dragan. *Metodološki osnovi istraživanja bezbednosti odbrane i terorizma*. Beograd: D. Tančić; Leposavić: Institut za srpsku kulturu Priština, 2015.
- Gross, Mirjana. Dekonstrukcija historije ili svijet bez prošlosti, *Historijski zbornik*, 62, br. 1 (2009): 165–195.
- Gross, Mirjana. *Historijska znanost*. Zagreb: SNL, 1980.
- Gross, Mirjana. *Suvremena historiografija: korijeni, postignuća, traganja*. Zagreb: Novi liber, Zavod za hrvatsku povijest Filozofskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, 2001.
- Ipširli, Mehmet. Osmansko državno uređenje, u *Historija osmanske države i civilizacije*, Ed. Ekmeledin Ihsanoglu, Sarajevo: Orijentalni institut, 2004, 161–340.
- Jordan, Stefan. *Theorien und Methoden der Geschichtswissenschaft*. Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh, 2009.
- Jordan, Stefan. *Einführung in das Geschichtsstudium*. Stuttgart: Reclam, 2005.
- Kocić, Marija. Samardžić, Nikola. *Pisma iz Carigrada. Dispacci di Constantinololi (1688-1698)*. Beograd: Novi balkanološki institut, Heraedu, 2016.
- Kocka, Jürgen. Sozialgeschichte in Deutschland seit 1945 Aufstieg – Krise – Perspektiven, Gesprächskreis Geschichte (Bd. 47), 1–37. Bonn: FriedrichEbert-Stiftung, Historisches Forschungszentrum, 2002.
- Мартенс, Фридрих. Собрание Трактагов и Конвенций, заключенных Россией с иностранными державами: Том I. Трактагы с Австрией 1648-1762. С. Петербург: Типография Министерства Путьей Сообщения, 1874.
- Milić, Vojin. *Sociološki metod*. Beograd: Zavod za udžbenike i nastavna sredstva, 1996.
- Мухин, Н. Олег. Власть/миф/историография: еще раз о необходимости сравнения в историческом исследовании, Вестник ТГПУ (*TSPU Bulletin*), 155, 2 (2015): 84–91.

- Пантев, Андреи. Глушков, Христо. Мишев, Радослав. История на модерния свят. В. Търново: Абагар, 2010.
- Пустовалова, Олеся. Методология исторического познания, Интерэкспо Гео-Сибирь, 1 (2014): 35–42.
- Рябова, Людмила. О методологических проблемах изучения новейшей истории и истории современности, Новейшая история России, 1 (2011): 8–16.
- Сал, Вероник. Историчари. Београд: Clio, 2008.
- Schulze, Winfried. *Deutsche Geschichte im 16. Jahrhundert 1500-1618*. Frankfurt: Suhrkamp, 1987.
- Wendt, Reinhard. *Vom Kolonialismus zur Globalisierung: Europa und die Welt seit 1500*. Paderborn, München, Wien, Zürich: Schöningh. 2007.
- Schulze Winfried. Ego-Dokumente: Annäherung an den Menschen in der Geschichte? Winfried Schulze (Hrsg.): „Ego-Dokumente“. Annäherung an den Menschen in der Geschichte, 11-30. Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1996.
- Schulze, Winfried. Von den großen Anfängen des neuen Welttheaters. Entwicklungen, neuere Ansätze und Aufgaben der Frühneuezeitforschung, *Geschichte in Wissenschaft und Unterricht*, 44, (1993): 3–18.
- Schwerhoff, Gerd, Frühe Neuzeit – Zum Profil einer Epoche, <http://rc-swww.urz.tu.dresden.de/~frnz/9.3.2003> (accessed, 20.5.2016).
- Тош, Џон. У трагању за историјом. циљеви, методи и нови правци у проучавању савремене историје. Београд: Clio, 2008.
- Vidal-Naquet, Pierre. *Le grande livre de l'histoire du monde: atlas historique*. Paris: France Loisirs, 1986.
- Живојиновић, Драгољуб. Успон Европе 1450–1789. Београд: Службени лист, 2003.
- Жуйков А. Данил, Основные методологические проблемы биографического исследования в современной историографии, Вестник Челябинского государственного университета, 279, 25. История. Вып. 52, (2012): 133–136.
- Зайцева И. Татьяна, Развитие гендерных исследований в свете истории раннего Нового времени, Вестник Томского гос. ун-та, 343 (2011): 94–97. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cMEP2aDcKw> – WSI Herbstforum 2016: Keynote – Jürgen Kocka (WZB) [accessed, 25.08.2017].
- <http://www.corpus-catholicorum.de/> [accessed, 2.06.2017.]. <http://preussenprotokolle.bbaw.de/editionsbaende-im-Internet> [accessed, 15.05.2017.] <http://digital.bms.rs/ebiblioteka/publications/view/2809>