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## Archival Records of the New Independent Greek State (mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century). Where History, Paper Technology and Preservation Meet

### Abstract

Archival records are undoubtedly an invaluable source of information and constitute indisputable testimony of the era they belong to.

This paper presents the initial results of an ongoing study of the archives of the period of governance of Ioannis Kapodistrias, the first governor of the new independent Greek State (1828–1832), found in the collections of the General State Archives of Greece (GSA-Greece). These particular archives present significant interest not only for their historical importance but also due to the diversity of paper material they contain.

Research on the paper content in the Kapodistrian archives provides information on aspects of use and technological developments within the historic context of the newly established Greek State. Developments and changes in paper manufacturing in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century are also reflected in the results from this study; the slow shift from handmade to machine-made papers. A correlation is established between the paper supports and their use for the production of specific types of documents, which will explain the supply of various qualities of paper. The historical circumstances in the newly established state of Greece, the economic and financial situation, social and political conditions and the state of affairs of trade and import, as well as the paper developments of the era are taken into consideration.

The paper quality was evaluated on the basis of physical characteristics and present condition. There was an attempt to associate paper quality with intended purpose of use, taking into consideration the historical circumstances in the newly established state of Greece, economic and financial situation, social and political conditions, the trade

and import state of affairs, as well as the paper developments of the era.