APPRAISAL & THE DANISH ARCHIVES ACT

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The Danish Archives Act

The State Archives are administered by The Danish Ministry of Culture. The State Archives are managed by The National Archivist who is appointed by The Minister of Culture.

All public archives in Denmark subscribe to The Danish Archives Act. The act was originally publicised in 1992. The law in effect is:


The authority of the Minister of Culture, with regard to archival activities of public administration, is defined by the act. The act also offers guidelines for the appraisal of records.

The Danish Archives Act applies to public administrative authorities, the court system and The Danish National Church. The Minister of Culture determines whether the act shall apply, in whole or in part, to companies, institutions and associations not usually considered part of the public administration. The act also applies to public archives with regard to private records.

Public archives in Denmark consist of The State Archives as well as local and regional archives. The main objective of The State Archives is to collect and store historical records and makes them available to the public.

The State Archives consists of the Danish National Archives and four provincial archives. Head of The National Archives is The National Archivist, who at the same time is the senior manager of The State Archives.

The Danish National Archives is the record-holding body for the central authorities such as ministries, agencies and national organizations.

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The Danish Archives Act does not obligate private businesses and organisations neither to keep nor to submit archival material. The collections at The National Business Archives are the result of voluntary transfer based on agreements between the archive and the record creator, primarily concerning accessibility.

According to The Danish Archives Act, part 11, it is possible for public archives to collect, receive and preserve private records originating from individuals, associations and organizations. The State Archives can provide consultancy services to other cultural or research institutions that collect and preserve private records.

Anyone who owns private records of essential importance to research or culture in general must, before such records are removed from the company, give The State Archives access to copy the records. If The Danish State inherits records, they must be transferred to The State Archives.

Reference: www.sa.dk