

An issue which gains more and more attention of the societies in the whole world is the issue of quantity and scope of data collection on the topic of particular units by the companies offering internet services like Facebook or Google. However, the phenomenon of data collection regarding population is not entirely new. The first datasets on people appeared as early as in the modern age. It is the Roman Catholic Church which started to gather data in the first place. It kept parish registers of baptisms, marriages, confirmations, and population censuses. However, the phenomenon of data collection intensified in the Polish lands only in the 19th century when the invading states began to keep public registers which were at the same time legal evidence. A particularly organized form of public registration took place in the territories of the Kingdom of Prussia, where the state separated from the church.

The registers introduced in the territories of the Prussian Partition were then taken over by the Polish State revived after the First World War. This way, they were then implemented in the administrative structures of the Polish People's Republic, and finally they became the part of the present reality. Nowadays, public registers constitute a huge group of data collections. Although the registers of public registers have not been kept since 2010, the list from that year counted up to 2418 pages, simultaneously including many more entries. It shows how huge the scale of the information gathered by the state is, and at the same time how little the knowledge on keeping and the origin of the registers themselves is.

The aim of the project is to recreate the system of the public registers kept in the territories of the Kingdom of Prussia as well as studying and describing particular elements of it and correlations present between the elements. The system will be also examined in terms of its efficiency and methods of operation as a subsystem of the system of a higher rank which is the state. The obtained results will be then referred to the model of development of public registers in the 20th and 21st centuries. Based on this it will be stated in what way and to what extent the Prussian registers became the foundation and model for the public register system operating at present.

In order to complete the proposed research, an archival research will be carried in Polish and foreign archives. The obtained results will contribute to more efficient task completion by the archives which collect and store public registers as well as to more efficient sharing of the fond thanks to indicating the context and correlations between the registers. In addition, there will be an increase in the scope of the knowledge about the history of the Hohenzollern state political system, the influence of the state administration on the social processes taking place in the 19th century as well as the tools used for that purpose.