

Regulations for Consulting the Bank of Italy's Historical Archives

Historical records may be consulted by the public during the hours established by the Bank, on bank premises and in the presence of bank staff.

Admission for consulting and reproducing documentation gives scholars the right to summarize and/or cite the documents for reasons of study, surveys, research and documentation of historical figures, facts and circumstances. This authorization is strictly personal and does not exonerate the researcher from checking, and if necessary regularizing, any copyright belonging to others in relation to the records.

Scholars agree not to use reproductions for any purpose other than that declared and not to distribute copies to the public. Furthermore, in accordance with the regulations laid down in the Code of Conduct for the protection of personal data for historical purposes (Provision no. 8/P of the Italian Data Protection Authority published in the Italian Gazzetta Ufficiale no. 80 of 5 April 2001), scholars shall accept responsibility for any damage caused to persons or agencies for the unlawful citation of first names and family names and for the dissemination of any information contained in the documents consulted.

As regards consultability, the internal regulations reflect the provisions of the Italian Code for national cultural and landscape heritage (Legislative Decree 42 of 22 January 2004) and subsequent amendments (Legislative Decree 156 of 24 March 2006).

Documents relating to businesses that have not been in operation for more than forty years kept in the Bank's Historical Archives (in the Head

Office Archives and in the Historical Sections of the Bank's branches) may be freely consulted, with some exceptions (see below). The collection of photographs of historical interest may also be consulted upon request.

Records of a confidential nature regarding Italian foreign policy or home affairs can be consulted after 50 years have elapsed.

A time limit of 70 years has been established for data relating to a person's state of health, sex life, or family relationships.

Plans and documents relating to the security arrangements of Bank of Italy premises for internal use are not usually available for consultation.

Consultation of non-confidential documents (acquired and inventoried but not yet held in the Historical Archives) which are more recent than the 40 year date limit, may be authorized by the Head of Department, with the prior agreement of the Managing Director for Economic Research.

Scholars who would like to consult non-confidential documents before the time limit of 40 years has elapsed can send a written request to the Head of Department together with a description of the planned research.

For records kept at Bank of Italy branches, the request must be sent to the Director of the branch concerned, who will forward it to the Head of Department.

Besides the subject of the research and the time period in question, scholars should indicate the documents they wish to consult or the proceedings the documents refer to, or give some information to help identify the pertinent records.

Authorization to consult records not respecting the usual conditions cannot be granted for documents containing personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, religious, philosophic or other convictions, political views, membership of political parties, unions or associations, religious, philosophical, political or union organizations or data revealing the existence of criminal convictions.

Documents that are still held in the current archives may not in any case be consulted.

Consultation of confidential documents before the legal time limit has expired must be authorized by the Minister of the Interior on the basis of the opinion of the competent Archives' Superintendent and following consultation with the Commission for questions regarding the consultability of confidential archival documents.

Scholars who wish to consult documentation of a confidential nature before the legal time limit has expired must present an outline of their research showing the purpose of their work and explaining how the data will be made public.

The Head of Department will forward the request to the Archives' Superintendent for further action.

Any requests to consult records outside the limits set for consulting plans and documents relating to Bank premises will be subject to the opinion of the Bank's security services.