

## **Abstract**

This degree work sets itself the objective to extend well-known information about the Institute of Contemporary History, bringing precise description of the first ten years of its existence. The main purpose of this work is to elaborate further on the Institute's activities from the perspective of the so-called non-scholarly component of its staff. In the first theoretical part of this work, the theme of the structure and activities of the Institute is put into the context of time, with special attention to previous perspectives and problems of historiography as a scientific discipline; in this scope a general description of historiography as such is examined. Subsequent chapters characterize the methods of examination in the field of contemporary History in the U.S.A, France, Germany, Austria, Great Britain and Poland. It also gives a rough outline of changes in topical and geographical analysis as manifested in the attempt of specialisation in the above mentioned countries. In regards to the management of the Institute, the next chapter deals with the institutional structure of The Academy of Science of the Czech Republic. The methodological part of this work is focused on the clasification of the concept of a reaserch project including relevant expectations and objectives; it describes previously used methods, putting further emphasis on the qualitative method of oral-History. The interpretational part of this work deals in detail with the origins of the Institute, formation of its unique library, and its purpose during ninety years of the last century. Furthermore, with regard to the professional and human relations within the Institute itself as well as the composition of its personnel by the prism of its former neglected gender perspective.

**Key words:** The Academy of Science of the Czech Republic – The Institute of Contemporary History - library – oral history – gender perspective.