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The Institute was founded in 1922 by an act of Parliament of the Czechoslovak Republic and its establishment was facilitated by a personal donation from President T.G. Masaryk. In 1953 it became a part of the Czechoslovak Academy

of Sciences. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution as of 1 January 2007.

The Institute carries out research on history, religions, philosophies, literatures and languages of Asian and African countries. Its library houses over 210,000 volumes, some of which are in various Oriental languages.

The Institute publishes *Archiv orientální. Quarterly Journal of African and Asian Studies* (Oriental Archives; a quarterly journal with contributions in English, German or French, founded in 1929) and *Nový Orient* (New Orient; a Czech language quarterly, founded in 1945).

More detailed information about the organisational structure of the Institute and its research and specialised units can be found at the following URL:
<http://www.orient.cas.cz>