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The Institute was founded in 1947 by the Czech Academy of Sciences

and Arts and incorporated into the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in 1953. It was expanded to include the Institute for the Study of the Czech Theatre (1956-1993) and the branch in Brno (1961).

In 1970, it was transformed into the Institute of Czech and World Literature of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In 1993, its current name was adopted in consequence of the renewal of the original concept of Czech studies. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution as of 1 January 2007.

The scientific work of the Institute is centred on the theory and history of Czech literature from ancient times to the present. Emphasis is placed on the lexicography of literary sciences and dictionary work, literary historical study of Czech literature and literary theoretical analysis, based principally on material from the 20th century. Simultaneously, the Institute acts as an information and consulting centre for literary scientists.

The Institute publishes the periodical *Česká literatura* (Czech Literature), founded in 1953.

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.ucl.cas.cz](http://www.ucl.cas.cz)