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The Institute was founded in 1919 as the State Institute of Archaeology under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Schools and National Education of the Czechoslovak Republic. It was incorporated into the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in 1953. In 1993, the Sections in Most, Plzeň and Dolní Břežany were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic as archeological heritage centres. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution on January 1st, 2007.

The Institute deals with the primary archeological research covering the time span from prehistory to the Early Modern Period. It is also involved in the preservation and documentation of the endangered archeological sites in Bohemia and the coordination of archeological field research within this territory. It operates a specialised library, archives of archeological field reports, photoarchives and geodetical archives, and a database of archeological sites and finds in Bohemia. It publishes both the main Czech archeological journals as well as conference proceedings and other books.

The Institute is the largest publisher of archeological literature in the Czech Republic. It publishes two periodicals (with papers, or summaries, in the main European languages): *Památky archeologické* ("Archeological Historical Sites Monuments") founded in 1854, and *Archeologické rozhledy* ("Archeological Survey Review") founded in 1949.

Besides, the following series are published:

- Supplements of *Památky archeologické*
- *Výzkumy v Čechách* (Excavations in Bohemia)
- *Castellologica Bohemica*
- *Ruralia*
- *Castrum Pragense*

as well as individual monographs.

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.arup.cas.cz>