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The Institute was founded on 25 January 1922 by a decree of the Parliament of the Czechoslovak Republic on the initiative of and with a financial contribution

from President T. G. Masaryk. During World War II it was shut down, after the War it was re-established and in the years 1953-1964 it became a part of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. It was closed again, but in 1992 a joint unit was established consisting of this Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR) and the Faculty of Philosophy, Charles University. In 1995, the Institute was affiliated with the Archives of the ASCR. Since 1 January 1998 it has functioned as an independent institute of the ASCR once again. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution as of 1 January 2007.

The Institute conducts scientific research in the fields of Palaeoslovenic studies and byzantinology, lexicology and lexicography of contemporary Slavonic languages, history and theory of Slavonic studies, history of Slavonic literatures and publication activities associated therewith.

The Institute publishes the following journals: *Slavia. Časopis pro slovanskou filologii*, *Byzantinoslavica. Revue internationale des études byzantines* and *Germanoslavica. Zeitschrift für germano-slawische Studien*.

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.slu.cas.cz>