

THE SPORTS ARCHIVES PROJECT IN THE CHARANTA ARCHIVES

Project objectives

With the proximity of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris 2024, the Archives of the Charanta start from a very simple observation: its collections preserve few documents about sport. Le Projet des Archives du Sport ('Sport Archives Project') (PARS) aims, among others, to collect archives, in paper, digital or oral format, of the structures and people in favour of sport in the Charanta. This project lasts two years (2023-2024) and has the participation of a transversal team of seven agents.

This collection is done to preserve and give value to the history and memory of sport in the Charanta. The project scope is deliberately very broad because it includes all sport disciplines, all levels of practice, the entire territory of the Charanta and all those involved in the world of sport.

Active and selective collection of sports clubs

The collaboration of the Departmental Archives with the Sports Service of the Departmental Council and the Comité départemental olympique et sportif ('Olympic and Sports Departmental Committee') (CDOS) enables active collection from sports clubs. Files have already been collected from many sports disciplines: rugby, football, athletics, gymnastics, rowing, handball, table tennis, and many more sports.¹

Among the documents that have been collected, from 1875 to the present day, there are photographs, videos, press clippings, minutes of general meetings, athletes' results, competition organization folders, correspondence...

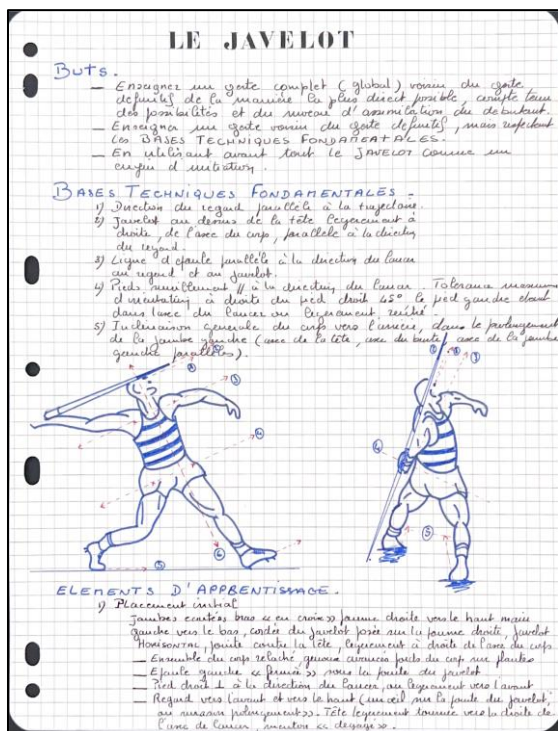


This collection of physical files has been completed with the collection of oral testimonies from well-known names the world of sport (athletes or retired athletes, leaders, coaches, volunteers, referees...). The recording of this living memory makes it possible to enrich the collection on paper or alleviate the disappearance of documents.

¹ The sports clubs where files have been collected (physical or oral): Avant Garde Villefagnanaise, Sporting Club d'Angoulême Rugby, Sporting Club d'Angoulême Athlétisme, Etoile sportive blanzacaise, Angoulême Charente Football Club, Ancienne et Espérance Angoulême, Aviron Club Angoulême, Cognac Yacht Rowing Club, Entente Territoire Charente Handball, Table Tennis de the Grand Fond, Union Sportive Cognac, Association Sportive Jeunesse Soyaux.

The PARS is part of a pragmatic collection policy that proposes different modalities for the entry of funds adapted to the circumstances. So, given the absence of documents, the Departmental Archives collect testimonies. Likewise, when clubs or individuals do not want to entrust their documents, the Archives propose digitizing them and returning the originals to their owners. The specifications of this project lead to experimenting with new working methods within the Departmental Archives, mainly in terms of collection, classification and digitization.

The highlight: the Grand Collection operation among the general public



On the occasion of the passing of the Olympic flame to the department on May 24, 2024, the Charanta Archives are organizing a week of great collection for the general public inside the Archives premises in Angouleme, from May 27 to June 2. Individuals are invited to entrust their personal documents and memories. The day of May 30 will be decentralized for the towns and sub-prefectures of the Charanta territory, in Cognac and Confolens.

The management of an event of this magnitude requires the involvement of agents, the closing of the reading room and the creation of a transversal organization (digitization chain, communication

campaign, cultural activities). Activities have been planned throughout this week: visits to the building, exhibition of documents, writing workshops for potential athletes, creation of recycled sports objects.

Communication and evaluation around the project

Since July 2023, PARS has qualified as a «Cultural Olympiad» for Paris 2024. Part of the project team had the opportunity to contribute to the ArchiSport sociology research program, which the Service interministeriel des Archives de France (SIAF) ('Interministerial Service of the Archives of France') launched. Once the project has finished, on the new Charanta Archives internet portal, it will also be possible to consult online a guide with the sport collections, together with the collected and digitized collections. In the meantime, image galleries of sports topics will be uploaded. The possibility of holding a sports photography workshop for parents and children has also been studied.