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Archival science in the face of the global challenges linked to sustainability, value and territory

Today's society is undergoing profound structural changes. The transformations associated with globalization, the interrelation of economies and production systems and accelerated environmental and technological changes are irreversibly modifying economic, social and cultural patterns. To this should be added the territorial imbalances caused by geographical factors, the unequal distribution of resources, historical evolution and the characteristics of the current economic model.

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Following the signing of the 2015 international agreement by 193 countries, a consensus was reached in order to ensure prosperity and overcome social and ecological fractures resulting, among other issues, from eco-dependence. The 2030 Agenda addresses the profound relationship between economic, social and environmental issues, as well as between the local, national and global realities, taking into account the need for public administrations to promote integrated and interrelated actions, leading to the obligation to transform models in order to protect people and their environment.

The adaptation of our profession to this situation is based on our awareness of the changes and needs occurring in the environment in which we carry out our work. This issue of *Tábula* addresses the available opportunities for archival science in a context of technological transformation, taking into account the importance of efficient and sustainable management of resources and the challenges posed by territorial diversity. Thus, the contents have been developed around three thematic axes: Sustainability, value and territory.

In the first section, sustainability, Fátima Rodríguez Coya addresses record-keeping from a responsible and efficient perspective with a double dimension: sustainability refers not only to the long-term preservation of records, but also to the need to minimize the environmental impact and optimize the use of resources. She explores the environmental challenges faced by organizations in the field of recordkeeping in the digital era and highlights how the use of non-renewable resources, the overexploitation of strategic minerals and the massive generation of waste are affecting sustainability. In her analysis, she proposes approaches such as digital minimalism and the reengineering of record processes, which not only improve efficiency, but also reduce environmental impact. Thus, now sustainability is not a challenge but an opportunity.

María Ángeles Santos Pérez shows the principles of sustainable architecture applied to archive buildings. The author analyzes how the design of archive facilities should optimize the use of natural resources, minimizing their environmental impact, without sacrificing the essential functions of collecting, preserving and disseminating records. Santos exposes the problems arising from bad architectural decisions with the example of the National Library of France and defends the need to incorporate passive architecture measures to reduce energy consumption in archival buildings. She discusses how the correct implementation of sustainable strategies achieves a balance between functional efficiency and environmental responsibility.

Similarly, Berta García del Real Marco and Noelia Vicente Castro stress the importance of reviewing and making preventive preservation standards more flexible, proposing an approach adapted to environmental conditions, taking into account the context of climate emergency. They suggest architectural interventions and technological improvements, as well as the use of renewable energies and

sustainable management policies. The examples of the General Archive of Simancas and other Spanish national archives illustrate good practices in order to achieve greater sustainability in preserving records.

In between sustainability and value, the experience of the Bilbao Diocesan Archive and the Railway Historical Archive of the Spanish Railways Foundation, address the challenges and strategies for adopting an integrated information management system, within the framework of a digital transformation and the modernization of records management and dissemination.

The second section focuses on the value of the archives, taking into account the challenges and opportunities and introducing us to a crucial issue: artificial intelligence and data governance.

Mark Bell, Jenny Bunn, and Balint Csollei explore the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the appraisal and selection of electronic documents at The National Archives in the United Kingdom. The growing number of electronic documents makes it difficult to apply traditional methods of selection, prompting experimentation with machine learning systems and advanced algorithms. They share their expertise in the use of e-discovery tools and AI integration in order to analyze large volumes of data. They also discuss the challenges related to data governance and the need to harmonize the human and the technological dimensions.

In the same vein, Virginia Bazán Gil discusses the integration of AI in the Archive of the Spanish radio and television public service (RTVE) in order to optimize the description, preservation and accessibility of their audiovisual fonds. Based on tests carried out since 2017, automatic metadata generation was implemented, improving the cataloging, retrieval and analysis of content as well as audio transcription, facial recognition, and OCR and image description. She shares the experience of the use of technologies in archival description but always under the supervision of technicians to ensure quality.

It is necessary to situate our “*workobject*” from the legal point of view. Antonio Roma Valdés analyzes the criminal protection of the documentary and bibliographic heritage, highlighting their vulnerability to theft, damage and illegal exports. The author stresses the importance of the collaboration of archives in criminal proceedings, acting as experts and custodians of the seized goods and providing lines of action regarding the investigations of these crimes, with an emphasis on the source of the goods and their value. The need to establish and maintain preventive measures, as well as the knowledge of international legislation, provide us with an unavoidable guide for the establishment of action protocols for the protection of documentary heritage.

In a broader context, Jordi Serra discusses the concept of *data governance* and its relationship with recordkeeping and archival science. Through a review of international models and standards, he highlights the correspondence between recordkeeping and data governance, including crucial elements such as life cycle,

access control, quality and veracity of information. In his methodological proposal, the author suggests applying principles that allow data to be managed in an efficient and contextualized manner.

Francisco José Valentín Ruiz, Macarena Urbina Martínez, María García González and M^a José Baños Moreno analyze the key role of archives in the preservation of institutional memory and the protection of rights. They address the need to adapt to the digital age and the challenges of cybersecurity, proposing a sustainable management of records that leverages shared technological resources. They also highlight the importance of digital preservation, transparency and reuse of information, positioning archives as memory and rights guardians.

In view of the great transcendence that currently arises in relation to the territory, one of the thematic axes needed to be focused on archives as agents of social and territorial cohesion.

José Luis Domínguez Álvarez analyzes public policies aimed at the depopulation and decline of rural areas in Spain, with the aim of revitalizing these territories through investments in infrastructure, essential services and digital connectivity. He stresses the need for affirmative regulatory action to protect rural heritage, guarantee the provision of services and promote e-government, in order to ensure long-term social and territorial cohesion and facilitate access to public services.

Alejandro Delgado-Gómez examines how inter-administrative cooperation between the Provincial Council of Albacete in Spain and the municipalities has improved the management of municipal archives, highlighting that thanks to this collaboration between authorities, the archival infrastructure has been renewed and the digitization protocol has been standardized, especially in rural areas affected by depopulation, guaranteeing records preservation and facilitating their access in the long run.

Continuing with the territorial scope in Spain, Mercedes Cordero Martínez and Eva Gómez Sánchez deal with the challenges of the territorial archives of Castilla y León, highlighting their role in the conservation of the documentary heritage and the management of the documentation generated by the regional government. Through the cases of the territorial archives of León and Ávila, they illustrate the difficulties related to human resources, infrastructure and the implementation of electronic archiving. They emphasize the importance of digitization and systems such as SIEGA to improve archival management and facilitate access to documentation, highlighting the need for more training and resources to optimize these processes.

Ana María Peña Varó shares the experience of the organization of the archive of the Spanish union Comisiones Obreras in Castilla y León, highlighting the challenges associated with the extensive territorial scope of the region and the confederal organization of the union. She shares and analyzes the processes of

documentary recovery, conservation and digitization of historical documentation, as well as the use of tools that allow public access to the records of funds essential for the study of trade unions and the labor movement.

Paula Sanchez-Carrera, Brais Santomil, David Barreiro Martinez and Cristina Sánchez-Carretero present a community approach in which they explore how an archive can be an agent of social cohesion. The ViteArquiva project, developed in the neighborhood of Vite, in Santiago de Compostela in Spain, is an example of how archives can encourage public participation in the preservation of local memory.

Taken together, these studies show that archival science is at a critical crossroads, facing technological, environmental and social challenges. However, with the adoption of more sustainable approaches, the integration of advanced technologies and the active participation of local communities, archives can continue to play their essential role as custodians of collective memory.

In the Varia section (which collects the papers that do not correspond to the subject matter of the issue) is the work of Iván Andrés Fernández on the study of maritime traffic in Cadiz using the sea protests held in the Provincial Historical Archives of Cadiz, which reflects the problems of the merchant shipping. We also include the notes that Pedro López wrote when he was awarded the Acal Prize of Honor in which he reviews his relationship with the archives of Castilla y León.

Finally, in the section Bibliographia, Fernanda Ribeiro of the Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto in Portugal reviews the second issue of the excellent magazine *Arade* published by the Municipal Archive of Lagoa (Portugal)

This introduction has been made by the authors with the use of two intelligences. In order to test the use of technologies cited in the articles of various authors, we have made this introduction using several ChatGPT 4o robots. The experience has been interesting, with successive tests and changes of Prompt in order to synthesize the main ideas of the authors. Finally it was necessary to use the other intelligence, the natural human one, to give the contents cohesion and a soul.