

# Network of specialists in the archival field and the impact on Knowledge Organization: the case of Brazil

*Rede de pesquisadores do campo arquivístico e a repercussão para a Organização do Conhecimento: o caso do Brasil*

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## **Abstract**

This article tries to more fully understand the archival field, which has been consolidating its position in Brazil for the past 40 years, since it aims to understand the important role that Archival Studies play in shaping the representational configuration of memory and heritage as vectors of identity. Its specific aim is to identify the Hispanic-Brazilian network of researchers in this field of knowledge. This discipline has been established through interdisciplinary relationships arising from the network of academic actors who try to understand the archival phenomenon. The methodological approach adopted here in order to identify this network of academic actors was to conduct an extensive survey on the most comprehensive database on scientific researchers in the field of Science and Technology in Brazil: the LATTES, CNPq database. The analyses point to the conception of a wide network of scholars in the archival field, encompassing people working in clerical positions, custodial institutions of archival collections, associations of archive professionals, educational institutions, archival knowledge producers, users of archives and organizations served by archival functions, all working in different universes of representation, that need to establish balanced parameters for an effective Knowledge Organization.

**Keywords:** Archival Field, Archival Knowledge, Archival Studies, Hispanic-Brazilian Network of Academic Actors, Archive professionals.

## **Resumo**

*Este artigo busca compreender mais amplamente o campo arquivístico, que vem se firmando no Brasil há aproximadamente 40 anos, ao reconhecer o importante papel que exerce na configuração representacional da memória e do patrimônio como vetores de identidade. Objetiva especificamente identificar a rede hispânico-brasileira de pesquisadores dessa área. A disciplina arquivística vem se constituindo através de*

*relações interdisciplinares indicada pela rede de atores acadêmicos que buscam compreender o fenômeno arquivístico. O caminho metodológico aqui adotado para identificar essa rede de atores acadêmicos foi realizar um amplo levantamento na maior base de dados científica sobre pesquisadores da área de Ciência e Tecnologia no país, a plataforma LATTES, do CNPq. As análises apontam para a concepção de uma rede de acadêmicos ampla no campo arquivístico que se inscreve na distribuição de posições relacionadas entre trabalhadores dos arquivos, instituições custodadoras de acervos arquivísticos, associações de profissionais da área, instituições de ensino de arquivologia, produtores de conhecimento arquivístico, usuários de arquivos e organizações servidas pelas funções arquivísticas, imersos em universos de representação distintos que precisam estabelecer parâmetros harmônicos para uma Organização do Conhecimento eficaz.*

**Palavras-chaves:** *Campo Arquivístico, Conhecimento arquivístico, Arquivologia, Rede Hispânico-Brasileira de Atores Acadêmicos, Arquivista*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The difficulty of establishing the ideal representation of an area of knowledge can come from a wide range of indicators. This work will focus, based on the understanding of what may be one of these indicators, on the consolidation of a field of knowledge in order to understand some of the aspects that can contribute to this difficulty, in particular the formation of the archival field in Brazil.

Currently, there is a movement of scientific institutionalization of Archival Studies in Brazil, in which we can see a clear perspective on the creation of a disciplinary field in archival studies, since we recognize a proper relationship between those who produce and those who consume that kind of knowledge. However, the visibility of the production of this knowledge is limited due to the various forms of representation that are attributed to it, because of the complex network of academic researchers working in this field in Brazil.

Despite the fact that this research focuses on understanding the institutionalization of Archival Studies in Brazil, it tries to establish the interconnections that Brazilian professionals involved in this field have with foreigners, especially with Spain, due to its tradition of institutionalizing the Archival Studies field.

This work falls within the greater scope of the reflection on the relationship between fields of knowledge and the impact on the Knowledge Organization, which resulted in papers presented by Orrico in previous editions of the ISKO Congress Spanish Chapter. (Orrico; González de Gómez; Brito, 2003; González de Gómez, Orrico; Gracioso, 2007; Álvares Jr.; Orrico, 2009). This line of research, particularly present in Álvares Junior and Orrico (2009), tries to show, in the Brazilian experience, the impact caused by the intersections of fields of knowledge and the plurality of themes for Knowledge Organization.

This work will focus, within the network of researchers in the archival field, on evidence of the fragility of the scientific mechanisms of institutionalization of this field in Brazil, specifically the reflection in its representation as an area of knowledge, and also possible repercussions for knowledge organization. It will also show articulation with international research, especially with Spanish researchers, drawing attention to some still not fully occupied spaces, may be due to the way of representing knowledge. This work will initially present a historical survey of both the landmarks in the area and of the actors who are active today in the archival field, as well as their academic production. This first approach will demonstrate the plurality of areas for educating people in Archival Studies, even though the field has been established for over 40 years.

Archival knowledge is fundamentally interdisciplinary, but, over and beyond interfaces and areas in which different disciplines operate to better understand the archival phenomenon, one notices the formation of a conceptual core, historically referred to by works in this area of knowledge. Practices around the technical processing of archives constitute an intellectual framework - or the epistemology of this discipline - even if different types of knowledge are put together around problem situations in the organization of science.

According to Jardim (2010) there are three possible perspectives on the field under discussion: the view of Archival Studies as an autonomous field, although an auxiliary science to History; the view of Archival Studies as a discipline which constitutes a subfield of

Information Science (a Brazilian interpretation, without any major international endorsement); and the view of Archival Studies as a scientific discipline in permanent construction, through interdisciplinary relationships with History, Administration, Information Science and Library Science.

These different representations of Archival Studies as an independent knowledge area reflect problems for the Knowledge Organization as a fundamental aspect of scientific activity in different specific fields in which socio-political subjects interact and produce scientific knowledge. The discussion on the production of scientific knowledge, object of study of Sociology of Science, which emerged in the 1960s, is also considered part of Information Science, from the perspective of Knowledge Organization.

According to Gonzalez de Gomez (2007, p. 8), the production of scientific knowledge is a specific condition of informational regulation. The question of the validity of information is routed to an overflow that touches the subject of testimony in which we obtain knowledge through someone else, beyond our own experience. In this text, the author agrees with the position that knowledge production in the contemporary world takes place.

[...] in long and heterogeneous networks, where there is not necessarily a central and unifying core of the conceptual and normative formulation, but rather where theories, models, methodologies and criteria of validity are generated in various parts of the network in a distributed way.

The author also advocates the “[...] distributed epistemic authority, to refer to the conditions and possibilities for joint social and epistemic articulation of different cultures” (Gonzalez de Gomez, 2007, p. 9). This is an idealized perspective for understanding the scientific institutions of today. It interests us here to understand the institutionalization of the scientific field itself.

According to Bourdieu (2004), scientific production must be understood beyond its textual content or its social context. Between the two extremes, in an intermediary universe, he presents the idea of field.

One must avoid the alternative to “pure science”, totally free from any social need, and also avoid the “slave science”, subject to all political and economical demands. The scientific field is a social world and, as such, it makes certain demands, appeals etc... which are, however, relatively independent from the pressures of the global social world that surrounds it (Bourdieu, 2004, p. 20).

This notion of scientific field indicates struggles and the power relations that exist both in the establishment of the field itself and in their representation made by those who are part of it. The organization of a field of knowledge at a given time is then defined by the structure of the distribution of the scientific capital between the different actors engaged in this field. In this sense, understanding the institutionalization of a field of knowledge helps to demarcate its epistemological limits, and consequently its universe of representations.

Such a structure would result from a type of logic of competition in the “scientific world” which would go beyond the scope of reasons and discussions. In practice, the dynamics of censorship are mixed with scientific reasons, representing power struggles. The scientific field is home to two kinds of capital: institutional power and personal prestige.

There is no scientific ‘choice’ – of the field of research, of the methods used, of the place of publication; or even a choice between immediate publication of partly checked results and a late publication of fully controlled results - that is not an investment political strategy geared towards maximizing the very scientific profit, that is, obtaining recognition by their competitors-peers (Bourdieu, 1983, p. 126 e 127).

In the operation of this conflict of disputes and as the scientific field becomes autonomous, the game of recognition is established not only of scientific authority under competition mechanisms

The definition of what is at stake in the fight is part of the fight [...] both in the scientific field and in the field of class relations there are no instances that legitimate instances of legitimacy; claims to legitimacy derive their legitimacy from the relative strength of the groups whose interests they express: as the very definition of the judging criteria and of the principles of hierarchy are at stake in the fight, no one is a good judge because there is no judge who is not at the same time a judge and an interested party (Bourdieu, 1983, p. 130).

but mainly in the establishment of one's peers and of that scientific authority that goes under the logic of capital, which can be accumulated or transmitted.

The structure of the scientific field is defined at each moment, by the state of power relationships between the protagonists in dispute, agents or institutions, i.e. by the structure of the distribution of the specific capital, which is the result of previous struggles that is objectified in the institutions and in the dispositions and that dictates the strategies and the objective chances of different actors or institutions (Bourdieu, 1983, p. 133).

The order established in a scientific field ensures the functioning of the reproduction of what has value in that space, besides their producers and consumers. In a situation like this, to master the concepts and terms related to the field, as well as to define them and to highlight them, inherent task of the knowledge organization is fundamental for the consolidation of a field of knowledge. The formation of “succession” and “subversion” strategies, against the backdrop of innovations, can be classified as authorized or not and it is believed that the cycle of exchanges of recognition ensure regular transmission of scientific authority among those who hold power and those who want to achieve it.

The Brazilian model for research funding has its main sponsor in the State due to the actions of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq:

*Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico*) and the Coordination of Improvement for Higher Education Personnel (CAPES: *Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior*). According to these government agencies, Archival Studies is classified as a subfield of Information Science, even though the network of archival researchers does not acknowledge this subordination in the area of educating researchers.

CNPq is an agency of the Ministry of Science and Technology, created in 1951, to fund research in Brazil, through financing researchers, the provision of research grants, and supporting research projects. It has several Advisory Committees to evaluate research proposals and training of human resources. In an evaluation system like this, meeting one's peers who participate in evaluation committees is crucial for a field of knowledge to have its epistemological limits recognized and settled, which results in incentives to research. This support stems from the forms of representation that are gradually built - and sedimented - over time; however, the existence of disagreement in evaluative committees affects the very representation of the field. Something along these lines was reported by Jardim (2010).

CAPES, under the Ministry of Education, also created in 1951, controls the operation of *stricto sensu* postgraduate studies (master's degrees and doctorates) in the country. The Areas of Knowledge Table in Brazil, elaborated by CNPq, is also recognized as such by CAPES, and this table works as guideline to the scientific institutionalization of the areas of knowledge, and their respective representation. It is this representation that considers Archival Studies as a sub-area of Information Science, but this is not confirmed by the researchers network in this field. It is worth noting that the absence to date of a *stricto sensu* course of postgraduate studies in Archival Studies, in a way, spreads production throughout several areas of knowledge and their respective representations.

## 2. INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE FIELD OF ARCHIVE STUDIES IN BRAZIL

The trajectory of archival practices and knowledge in Brazil is not recent. In the nineteenth century, the creation of the National Archives, in 1838, was an important landmark for these practices. However, despite the existence of several archival institutions, university education for professional training of archivists was only established in the late 1970s and there still is no *stricto sensu* postgraduate studies.

For Maia (2006) the history of Archival Studies in the country begins with the transfer of the Portuguese royal court to Rio de Janeiro in 1808, triggering the need for organization and storage of official documents to be preserved. The creation of the Imperial Public Archives would have required the development of techniques for preservation of the vast collection of documents so far produced as well as for those to be produced in future.

In contrast, Silva's (2010) reasoning is somewhat different because it shows the emergence of the area with the Independent Course of Personnel Preparation for Service Organizations, of the Administrative Department of Civil Servants - DASP in 1943, and of the Course of Archival Studies and Document Management, Getulio



Vargas Foundation – FGV, in 1947, as special courses for education in Archival Studies. Therefore, it highlights the role of these institutions in building criteria for the organization of documents in various archives throughout the country, including the adoption of the American model which focuses on document management.

Crespo (2000) is clear-cut, arguing that, in fact, the emergence of a structured archival thought in Brazil is mingled with the historian José Honório Rodrigues (1913-1987) who, as director of the National Archives, rallied to elevate Archival Studies beyond the mere role of filing documents with no technical control. His administration was distinguished by reports written by foreign experts on the situation of Brazilian archives, identifying their problems and guiding actions for the development of the discipline. Noteworthy is the contribution of the American archivist Theodore Roosevelt Schellenberg (1903-1970), who produced a text on the problems of the Brazilian government archives, demonstrating the importance of public archives as a place of national memory.

In 1960 the National Archives established regular teaching of Archival Studies, the Permanent Archival Studies Course - CPA with two years' duration. The project was meant to be a Brazilian School of Archival Studies, as part of the internal reorganization programme of the institution, also trying to deal with the managing goals of archives. Fonseca (2004), Marques (2007), Santos (2008) and Silva (2009) stress the importance of the establishment of the associative movement for the institutionalization of the archival field in Brazil. The student who graduated from CPA in 1965, José Pedro Esposel, also a bachelor in Law, Geography and History, Head of the Rio de Janeiro Central Bank archive, became the central leader in creating the Association of Brazilian Archivists – AAB, on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1971. It is worth stressing, in the Brazilian case, the interdisciplinary education of a scholar who has become a model for the archival field in the country. As we are dealing with representation of areas of knowledge, the university education that is starting to be structured is an important factor to be considered in the process of formation of representations of the field, as it would be a good chance to consolidate, seamlessly, a common knowledge base.

The movement announced a campaign for the improvement and the development of archives, until then taken as a deposit of piled up documents. There was a work group which met and decided to create the Association of Brazilian Archivists to value the work of Archival Studies. It is important to stress that the emergence of this Archival Association in Brazil (AAB) is contemporary to the Canadian Association of Archivists of Quebec, and to the Portuguese, Portuguese Association of Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists.

Prior to the AAB, the Association for Historical Research and Archival Studies- APHA - was founded, on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1970, in the conference room of the National Archives, with the aim of disseminating information and publishing research studies, assisting the formation of qualified personnel to work in the archives. This association favored History at the expense of Archival Studies, in view of the fact that the proposal by one of the directors of APHA was to disseminate an “archival technology” enough to handle current archives, although still fragile for custody files as a place of excellence in historiography.

In this view, the work of historians and archivists could be differentiated insofar as archivists would concentrate on documents' packaging, on their classification, while

historians would focus on their interpretations and in the search for relevant data to establish the historical fact. The work of the archivist would be a preparation for the heuristic task - and we can infer a “bigger” task – of the historian. This is an example of what using different representational universes means.

According to Marques (2007), the professional associations played a significant role as places of articulation of the demands of the professional world and of reflections on archival issues, representing a sign of interest and mobilization in the professional front around class integration, in which the possibility of teaching Archival Studies at the university was devised.

The creation of the AAB, followed by the launching of its periodic instrument of dissemination - the journal *Archives & Administration* - and by the organization of its biannual forum - the Brazilian Congress of Archival Studies - are elements that show the characteristics of a coordinated plan of action. The purpose was to honor archival work, statutorily delineated in three dimensions: training for working in the archives, professional legalization of archival work and national regulation of the archives. These are tasks that demand, even if still not clearly stated then, the definition of the guiding concepts in the field and their respective terms and indexers.

It is noteworthy that the universe of professionals involved in archival activities was large, considering that the first Brazilian Congress of Archival Studies, in 1972, was attended by 1,300 participants. The community welcomed the approval of the Archival Studies undergraduate course, and its minimum syllabus, by the then Federal Council of Education. Nowadays, the congress has 16 editions and the journal *Archives & Administration* has established itself as the first Brazilian periodical specializing in the area. Both the designation *arquivista* (=archivist) present in the name of the association and *arquivologia* (=archival studies), which appears in the name of the congress, and *administração* (=administration) which appears in the title of the journal suggest actions chosen in this context of an organized civil society.

At the end of 1973, AAB celebrated the agreement between the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and the National Archives, to validate the Permanent Archival Studies Course as a university level qualification, giving university status to the professional course being taught on a regular basis for more than 10 years. The training model advocated by the associative movement integrated Archival Studies in the teaching and research environment of the university, landmark of the institutionalization of the area.

In the overall set of actions undertaken by the associative movement, through its dissemination mechanism, in 1978, the legal institutionalization of the profession of archivist was celebrated, restricted to students who graduated in Archival Studies, which shows an initial delimitation of the professional field to those who had university education. We understand that as a delimitation of the representational universe of Archival Studies, since the conceptual field was being shaped into a single professional training programme.



### 3. PROFESSIONALIZATION OF ARCHIVAL WORK

The archival profession is enabled by Law 6546 of July 4, 1978, and regulated by Decree 82,590 of November 6<sup>th</sup>, of that same year. The scope of archival work involves planning, organizing and monitoring archival services in document and information procedures within archival collections for purposes of preservation, guided by cultural and management concerns.

The professionalization process reveals a competence that is built around the concerns with the quality of a certain work on behalf of society, and of its regulation by the State. The image of this professional is formed by a collective component that becomes observable in the proper channels of dissemination of the profession. Accordingly, the configuration of the archival field in Brazil would relate, therefore, with the change from the condition of an occupation to that of a profession, regulated by federal law and supported by archival university courses.

Milestones of institutionalization in the period are noteworthy, as shown in the following table:

TABLE 1: INSTITUTIONALIZATION MILESTONES IN ARCHIVAL STUDIES IN BRAZIL

Year	Historical Milestones
1971	Creation of the Brazilian Association of Archivists
1972	Authorization by the Federal National Council for the course of Archival Studies
1973	University mandate given by UFRJ to the National Archives course
1977	Integration of the National Archives course by what now is UNIRIO (Rio de Janeiro University)
1978	Regulation of the archivist's profession in Brazil.

Also according to Fonseca (2004), one witnesses, in the 1990s, a constitution of the archival field based on the production of knowledge in archival studies at the university, based in the increasing number of archivists graduated by this specific undergraduate course and based on the implementation of legal and national mechanisms of archive coordination - provided by the Archives Law.

The legalization of the organization and function of institutions and of public archival services in various government spheres, by Law No. 8159 of 1991, provides for the national policy for public and private archives, centered on document management, giving the National Archives privileged authority. The National Archives Council, set forth by the law, comprises the different powers and spheres of government and was linked to the National Archives.

Over the past five years a crisis arose in the management of various professional associations in Brazil, stemming from the need to promote integrated actions in the archival field. The first initiative, in 2006, was the National Executive Commission of the Archival Studies Regional Associations - ENAR, with a rotating chairmanship among the affiliated entities, which only included Rio de Janeiro, Bahia, Espirito Santo, Brasília and Paraná.

On the other hand, AAB created in 2007 the Forum of Professional Archival Associations to congregate organizations that work with archives, without affecting their respective autonomies. Initial membership was granted to São Paulo, Goiás, Bahia and Rio Grande do Sul. The integration of professionals, according to this forum, would mean that first it was necessary to get to know the profile of professionals working in the area, because, although there are specific undergraduate courses in the area since the 1970s, professionals from various educational backgrounds are still working in the area. This plurality of training programmes contributes to a representational intersection between Archival Studies and several other areas of knowledge.

Recently the National Union of Archivists and Archive Technicians – SINARQUIVO was founded, more precisely in 2008, aiming to defend the interests and rights of the class and to monitor the illegal practice of the archival profession (Silva, 2010).

Finally, the notion of archival field comprises the discursive practices and the distribution of related positions among archives personnel, custodial institutions of archival collections, associations of archive professionals, institutions that teach archival studies, archival knowledge producers, archive users and organizations served by archival functions. The notion of archival field, therefore, involves producing and reproducing both concern with the archives themselves and competence in archival work, thus enabling different representations of archival studies as a knowledge area.

From a more concrete point of view, there are jobs related to the organization and the provision of archival collections. These opportunities have been claimed (and achieved within the Public Sector) by a category of professionals who have a university degree and a regulated profession. These professionals have also got a growing academic and institutional legitimacy (scientific events, journals, research at master's and doctoral levels) aimed at understanding the archival phenomenon. Regarding the profession, it seems to us that the field of Archival Studies is consolidating itself and providing jobs, thus managing to build its own field of representation more evenly.

Considered this way, the institutionalization of the archival area in Brazil, from 1991 onwards, seems to be an achievement - and also the depletion of the agenda - of the associativism established through the Association of Brazilian Archivists, in 1971, with the declared purpose of establishing a national model for the institutionalization of archival studies (at university level), of the archivist (profession of someone who attended an undergraduate course) and of the archives (archival legislation).

However, examining today's conflicting trends, we can acknowledge historians and experienced social scientists who not archivists, before the law, but who have knowledge and who are responsible for the theoretical literature in addition to teaching in courses in Archival Studies (Lopez, 2008). This is made possible, we think, by the lack of *stricto sensu* educational courses in the area. In contrast, it strengthens plurality in the universe of representation of the area, since precisely these professionals who come from other academic areas speculate theoretically on Archival Studies.

Some archivists criticize the interference of historians in the work of organizing archives, for they believe that historians elect subjects as principles of classification and description of documents, ignoring the context of production and accumulation of

records (Heymann, 2009); this reinforces our assumption that different epistemological origins interfere in the construction of the representational universe of the area, causing problems of knowledge organization. This dispute is one more point to be further studied in later articles, in light of these reflections pointed out for the knowledge organization in the area.

#### 4. SPAIN'S INFLUENCE ON BRAZILIAN ARCHIVISTS

In this proclamation of the field, it is natural to try and learn from more established sources. Regarding Archival Studies, the relations of influence of the archival tradition in Spain over Brazil can be seen through the bibliographical review in 2004 by the National Council Archives. In 204 publications identified as fundamental to the technical processing of archival collections among Brazilian Archivists, the highest number of reference works has Spain as their country of origin, representing 16% of the total that is distributed throughout 19 other countries with lower percentages (Conselho Nacional de Arquivos, 2004).

There is also the census of the Brazilian public and private archives organised as a result of the Scientific Cooperation Agreement signed between the Spanish Ministry of Culture and the Brazilian National Archives, since 2002, for entering data into the "Censo-Guía de Archivos de España e Iberoamérica" [= 'Census-Archive-Guide of Spain and Iberoamerica'], a project of the General Directorate of Books, Archives and Libraries of the Spanish Ministry of Culture. The database is available at: [http://aer.mcu.es/sgae/index\\_censo\\_guia.jsp](http://aer.mcu.es/sgae/index_censo_guia.jsp)

The census aims to be an instrument of control for preserving and disseminating the documentary heritage of Ibero-American countries. The project creates a census of the Spanish archives and of Latin America. The disclosure of such data on existing documentation resources in archival institutions, both in Spain and in Brazil helps to guide the researcher and the general public in search of primary sources. The impact of this technical cooperation is also the standardization of archival description practices of archival collections, consolidating international patterns within the archival community, which would consolidate the representational universe of the area.

The extent of the technical influence of Spanish archivists over the Brazilian ones has been reinforced in the area of technical courses for Latin American professionals in the cultural sector with financial assistance provided annually by the General Directorate of Cooperation and Cultural Communication of the Spanish Ministry of Culture. The scholarships for participation in the courses are offered to people working in public agencies related to heritage, memory, archives, libraries and museums. The duration of the scholarships varies from one to eleven weeks from October to December. In the general subdirectory of state archives there are courses offered which cover the techniques of conservation, restoration and digitalization. There are programmes of study about users and reference service in the archives as well as methodologies for technical processing of specific types of archives such as judicial and private collections.

Recently, the most effective cooperation between Spanish and Brazilian experts for archival knowledge production has been achieved in the area of postgraduate work, at Spanish universities, in particular, Universidad de Salamanca and Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. Mappings carried out indicate that Brazilian university professors from Archival Studies courses in Brazil are accepted in PhD programmes and in postdoctoral studies in Spain.

This was the path taken by Archival Studies professors, as shown below: Carlos Perez Blaya (2004) and Daniel Flores (2006) studied for a doctorate degree in Library Sciences at the Universidad de Salamanca, under the supervision of Professor. Dr. Manuela Moro Cabero; José Augusto Chaves Guimarães (2009) and Jose Maria Jardim (2009) were engaged in post-doctoral activities and Katia Isabelli de Bethany Melo de Souza (2010) studied for her doctorate; these last three professors under the supervision of Professor. Dr. María Paz Martín Pozuelo Campillo, at the Documentation Department of the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

From this scenario one can infer indicators that suggest the institutionalised identification of the areas of Archival Studies, Library Sciences and Documentation within Information Science in Brazil operating in the choice of knowledge area in which Brazilian researchers in the archival field seek to continue their studies in this area in Spain, even though Spanish specialists, through their organizations, do not to claim Archival Studies to be integrated to Documentation or to Library Sciences. However, the aspect that demonstrates the complexity of the representation of Archival Studies as a knowledge area in Brazil is the diversity of areas from which these investigators in Archival Studies have gained their undergraduate degrees, master's, doctoral and postdoctoral degrees: Archival Studies, Library Sciences, Information Science, Documentation, Production Engineering, Law, History and Social Memory.

The relationship between Brazilian and Spanish researchers has been reinforcing the existence of arrangements involving different areas of knowledge in the education of researchers, either under the interpretation that this area of knowledge can maintain interdisciplinary relationships with several other areas, or under the interpretation that their autonomy may become diluted in their very association with another area of knowledge, with reflections on its own representation.

TABLE 2. BRAZILIAN PAPERS IN CONGRESSO ISKO – SPAIN – 2009

Quantity	Authorship
5	Papers with individual authorship
13	Papers with two authors
6	Papers with three authors
3	Papers with four authors
27	Total papers with Brazilian authors

Spain has higher levels of knowledge production in Archival Studies and retrieved data indicate the opportunity for expansion of the Hispanic-Brazilian network of academic

agents of the archival area. Due to the lack of *stricto sensu* post-graduate programmes in Archival Studies, Archival research in Brazil is welcomed in Spanish universities as shown above, but also as part of Information Science; thus, there is some risk of reduction in the institutionalization of Archival Studies as a specific scientific area in Brazil.

The mutual influence between Spanish and Brazilian researchers involving the archival field and the Knowledge Organization could be verified in the very network of authors of the papers presented at the IX Congreso del Capítulo Español de ISKO (= IXth Congress of the Spanish ISKO Chapter), held in Valencia in 2009. Among the 87 oral presentations, 27 were authored by Brazilians, i.e. 31%, including co-authorship with Spaniards.

## 5. MAPPINGS DONE

According to Jardim (2010), Archival Studies in Brazil grow academically within the institutional structures of Information Science or within other areas of knowledge and that makes it invisible to public policies of S&T (Science / Technology). He points out that the area is doomed to a peripheral status as a scientific field, as long as the training of archivists does not benefit from specific *stricto sensu* post-graduate studies in Archival Studies.

In order to determine the network of actors who work in the field of Archival Studies, a survey was conducted in the database created by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development - CNPq – the Lattes Platform. Lattes Curriculum Vitae is the database of résumés and institutions in the areas of Science and Technology and it represents an information system that records the academic life of researchers through the collection of curricular information, whose importance goes beyond the operational activities of funding agencies.

This database has been increasing its extension, being used by major universities, institutes, research centers and state agencies that fund research as a tool for evaluating researchers, professors and students. Thus, it allows search by subject in all curricula, from the titles and the keywords of the scientific production of these actors.

Between the second and the fourth of April two thousand and eight a search was held on the term *arquivologia* (=archivology) and 507 résumés were found where one can identify an association of this area with its scientific production. When the search was conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> December two thousand and ten there was an increase of 89% in the number of résumés recovered.

As in this database the researchers themselves elect their indexers, the representational universe of their respective areas of training has repercussions on the representation of the archival field. Such evidence suggests an expansion of the field in view of the significant development in the Brazilian scene, even if the holder of the résumé may have included himself in the area of Archival Studies after participating in one single event in this area. However, this expansion may still be weak from the strictly archival theoretical point of view.

In what follows, the charts show the regional distribution, the main degree (undergraduate, specialization, master's, doctoral and post-doctoral), the undergraduate area where these actors came from and the activities performed (teaching, specialized technical service).

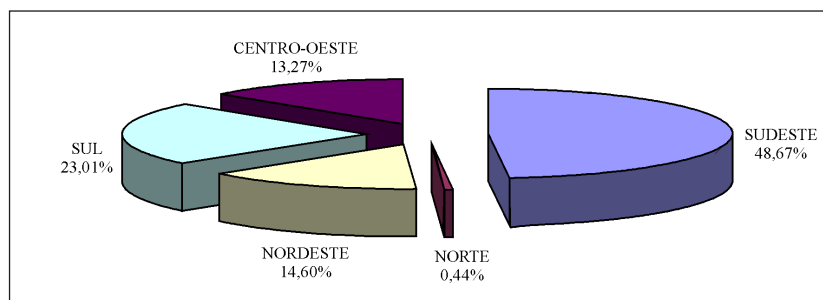


FIGURE 1. ACTORS WHO CLAIM TO WORK IN THE AREA OF ARCHIVAL STUDIES, RETRIEVED FROM THE LATTES PLATFORM BY REGION

The chart (figure 1) shows the presence of actors who claim to work in the area of Archival Studies in the Brazilian regions with the predominance of the Southeast. From this perspective, the presence of actors in the Federal District and in states such as São Paulo, Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul, Bahia and Minas Gerais is significant, in addition to the predominance in Rio de Janeiro.

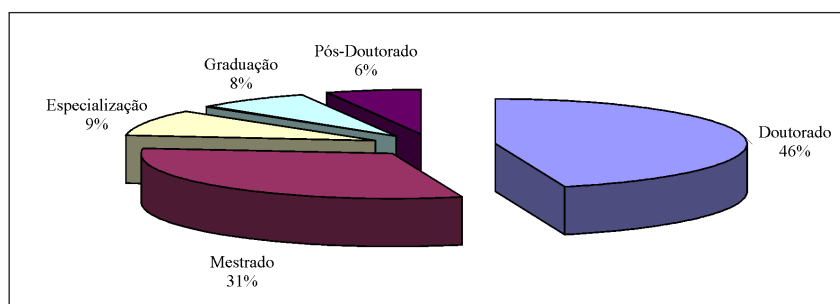


FIGURE 2. MAIN DEGREE OF AUTHORS WHO SAID THEY WORK WITHIN ARCHIVAL STUDIES, RETRIEVED FROM LATTES DATABASE

This chart (figure 2) is of great interest for us to envisage the insertion of the field of Archival Studies within the institutionalization of research in Brazil. Although Lattes Platform presents, amidst its 1,779,778 members, only 20.92% holding a master's or doctoral degree, the actors of Archival Studies have a percentage of 83%, despite the absence of a *stricto sensu* postgraduate programme in Archival Studies. We can conclude that the fragility of the institutionalization of Archival Studies in the country is ambiguous since, on the one hand, those who work in it are concerned with the formal institutional training, because they are masters or doctors; whereas, on the other hand, the fragility becomes even more apparent in that the four highest incidences of these players' undergraduate degrees come from the areas of Library Sciences, History, Administration, besides Archival Studies themselves, even taking into account that a university education has existed for 40 years. An equally important aspect to consider is that the actors involved are largely engaged in teaching, since the incidence of this activity is 65%. This, once again, reinforces our concern about the representational universe and its impact for the knowledge organization.



The other database used was the Bank of Dissertations and Theses from CAPES (Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education), which is part of the Capes Portal and aims to facilitate access to information on theses and dissertations associated with postgraduate programmes in the country. Information is given directly to CAPES by the postgraduate programs. The search engine available allows search by author, title and keywords. We used the terms *arquivologia* and *arquivística* (= Archival Studies) in our searches, conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> December, two thousand and ten. Initially, we identified, with the CAPES Portal search engine and the referred descriptors, 97 papers whose themes included archives produced in different postgraduate programs and areas of knowledge between 1996-2006.

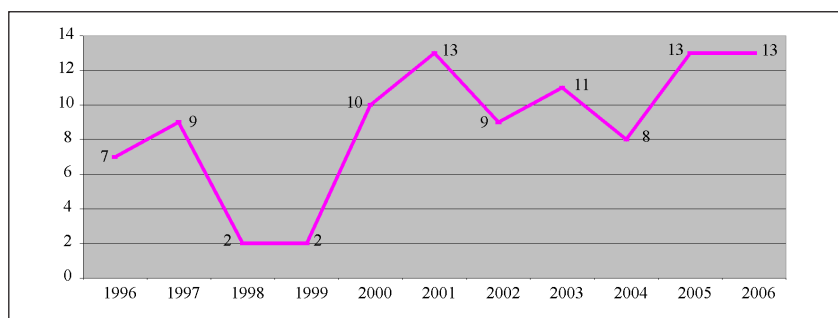


FIGURE 3. THESES AND DISSERTATIONS WITH ARCHIVAL THEMES (1996-2006)

The annual distribution of work indicates that there was thesis or dissertation production, whose theme was related to archives, in every year between 1996 and 2006, with an annual average of 8.8. There is a considerable amount of research conducted in postgraduate programmes, particularly in Information Science, with topics related to Archival Studies. The absence of a Master's and Doctoral programme in Archival Studies in Brazil forced prospective postgraduate students to look for courses in other areas, and Information Science became a natural choice for them, as in Brazil, in terms of representation within areas of knowledge, IS comprises Archival Studies.

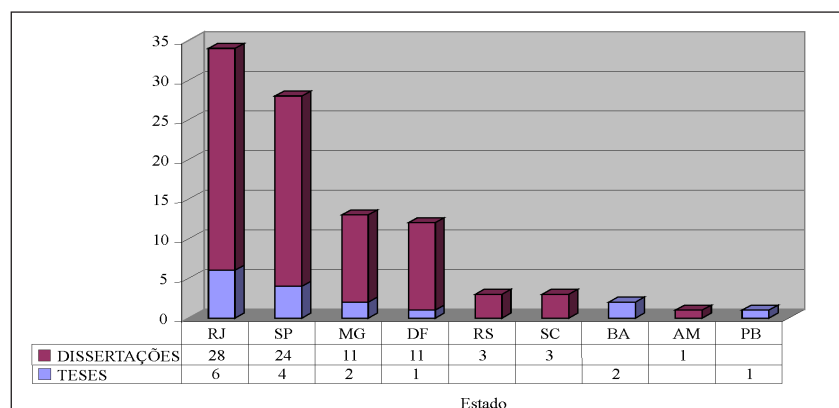


FIGURE 4. THESES AND DISSERTATIONS WITH ARCHIVAL THEMES BY STATE (1996-2006)

The distribution of these academic works throughout the Brazilian states reinforces the concentration of scientific production in southeastern Brazil, which may have repercussions on the representation of the field, given the prevalence of government institutions in this region. Chart 4 highlights the importance of Rio de Janeiro for the archival field. This state has had two courses of Archival Studies since the 1970s, with postgraduate programs in Information Science and in Social Memory, plus important institutions and archival services, in addition to hosting the headquarters of the major archival institution in Brazil, since it was capital of the country until 1960, still sheltering many public federal institutions.

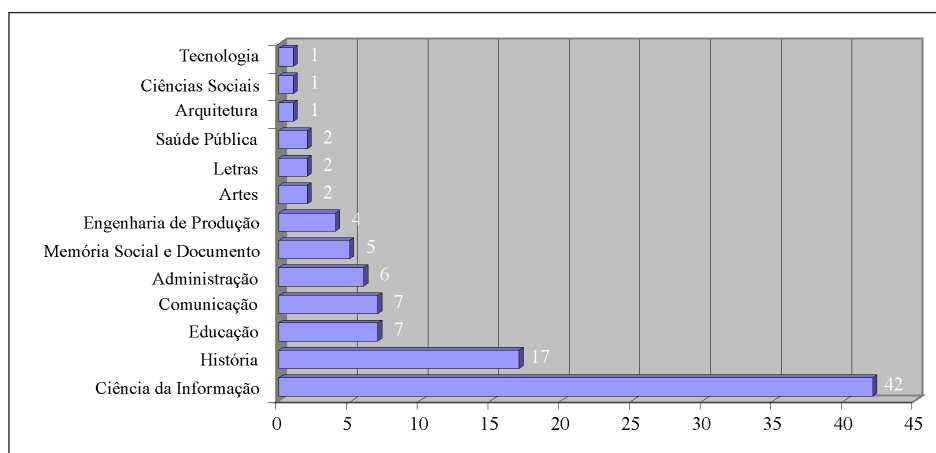


FIGURE 5. THESES AND DISSERTATIONS WITH ARCHIVAL THEME  
DISTRIBUTED BY AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE OF POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

The concentration of archival knowledge production in Information Science postgraduate programmes in 42% shows the prevalence of this institutionalised alternative for research with archival themes. Moreover, there is a spread throughout 12 other areas of knowledge, which indicates the way the theme is studied in different areas. The network of researchers from the archival area, as well as the production of scientific knowledge in it, demonstrates the fragility of the scientific mechanisms of institutionalization in this area in Brazil, especially the reflection in its representation as an area of knowledge, to the extent that its actors have found solutions that involve the integration of archival themes into other areas of knowledge.

The quest for approval of Archival Studies, as a knowledge area, is challenged by numerous disputes of authority in this area. As far as professional opportunities are concerned, the debate is about who the archivist is, what the requirements of the degree are, what the need for legal reserves in the market is. In the context of knowledge production, the question is how researchers legitimize their participation in the area and, also, how is it possible to characterize scientific production in Archival Studies. And here, what concerns us most closely is to find out how these disputes affect the representation of knowledge of the area and of the Archival Studies themselves.

The mapping of knowledge production in Archival Studies in Brazil allowed the recognition of the importance of research at master's and doctoral levels into archival themes that are accepted into programs in different areas of knowledge, throughout different regions of the country.

## 6. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The field of knowledge is constituted both by the themes it addresses and by the researchers that identify, delimit and represent them. From this perspective, knowing a field of knowledge in order to understand how to represent it is to identify the network of specialists who are active in this field, as well as the epistemological intersections they undertake. We tried to understand more fully how the archival field has been establishing itself in Brazil for approximately 40 years, as well as the important role it plays in the representational shaping of memory and of heritage as identity vectors. This discipline has been establishing itself through interdisciplinary relationships indicated by the academic network of actors who seek to understand the archival phenomenon.

The methodological approach adopted here was to identify the network of actors carrying out a survey on the largest academic database of scientific researchers in the field of Science and Technology in the country, CNPq's LATTES Platform. This platform allows the registration of interested scholars and the search for *résumés*, allowing censuses, evaluations and statistical analyses of the scientific production by scholars. Its search engine “by subject” retrieves titles and keywords in registered production in all curricula.

This work was based on the methodology of network analysis to understand the constitution of the group of actors involved in the scientific production on archives, as well as their interaction in this specific scientific community, which was made possible analyzing the information registered in the curricula.

We retrieved the main academic degree, the graduation area where these actors come from. 77% with master's or doctorate main academic degrees, coming from diverse undergraduate courses. These results suggest that the production of archival knowledge in the country is still overwhelmingly produced by researchers with backgrounds in other areas of knowledge, which can cause conflict for the representation of knowledge. The three major incidences of undergraduate degrees come from the areas of Library Sciences, History and Management, areas which are part of Social Sciences and the Humanities. Moreover, Archival Studies' epistemological insertion, as a sub-discipline of Information Science, a Brazilian interpretation, without any major international placement, may explain the still small internationalization of Brazilian research. To the extent that representation is so diverse, there are difficulties of communication between peers.

We consider the archival field as a social space of reproduction relations concerned with archives, and of the role it plays for the area of Knowledge Organization, and of the expanse for archival work, revealing its inclusion in the body of social issues perceived as legitimate, public and state-guaranteed, and thus also the product of social work and of the representation of a group.

Our analyses indicate the design of a wide network of scholars in the archival field which falls within the distribution of related positions between archives employees, custodial institutions of archival collections, associations of professionals of the archival area, educational institutions in the area, archival knowledge producers, archival end users and organizations served by archival functions, immersed in different universes of representation, beyond mechanisms of archival scientific institutionalization by government agencies which promote Science and Technology, but that need to establish harmonic parameters for an effective Knowledge Organization. Furthermore, it is urgent to strengthen academic-epistemological ties with countries which have more tradition in this area, like Spain, in order to establish a representational universe that truly represents Archival Studies in Brazil.

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