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Sustainability from the Perspective of Archival Science: A Domain Analysis

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Abstract

This study aims to conduct a domain analysis of Sustainability from the perspective of Archival Science, seeking to understand how this topic has been addressed in the scientific literature and which dimensions structure this domain of investigation. The methodology is based on Domain Analysis, grounded in terminological studies and in the analysis of scientific structuring. For data collection, the Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts (LISTA) database was used without temporal delimitation, employing the following search terms in the title field: "sustainability" AND "archives"; "sustaining" AND "archives"; "sustainability" AND "records"; and "green" AND "archives". The retrieved works are affiliated with 21 universities across 10 different countries and span all continents, indicating that this debate permeates diverse institutional and geographical contexts. The results show that the scientific production on sustainability in Archival Science is still incipient from a quantitative perspective, which may indicate an ongoing process of maturation and consolidation within the field. Regarding the terminological analysis, three dimensions of categories of terms that characterize the analyzed *corpus* were identified: (1) Environmental Dimension; (2) Technical Dimension; and (3) Social Justice Dimension. It is concluded that Sustainability from the perspective of Archival Science constitutes a transversal principle and an ethical imperative, encompassing environmental, technical, and social dimensions that guide practices of document preservation, access to information, and social justice within archival contexts. The continuation of this investigation may contribute to the development of additional elements necessary for characterizing Archival Sustainability as a domain.

1.0 Introduction

In contemporary debates within the information field, the digital dimension has increasingly occupied a prominent place in research agendas and institutional practices.

This phenomenon is understandable, given that the capacity for producing information in digital environments continues to grow, alongside the challenges related to its management, organization, and preservation. However, there is a particular complexity involved: the human and technological capacity to preserve, over time, the increasing volume of information and records produced in both analog and digital formats.

This complexity is closely related to environmental and social issues, particularly in light of climate change and the need to adopt more responsible and sustainable practices within information and memory institutions. It is therefore important to highlight that sustainability has also become a subject of discussion within information studies. For example, it appears in debates concerning the environmental impact of information infrastructures, the development of *green archives* practices, and the social and environmental responsibilities associated with memory and information.

With regard to Archival Science, the incorporation of sustainability can be understood as part of a broader process of conceptual construction and reorganization within scientific domains. As proposed by Birger Hjørland (2002), domains of knowledge are structured through discursive communities, institutional practices, and specialized vocabularies that express specific ways of understanding particular phenomena. In this context, sustainability may represent an important concept for Archival Science, although it is still in the process of theoretical and terminological consolidation.

Based on this context, this study aims to conduct a domain analysis of Sustainability from the perspective of Archival Science, seeking to understand how this topic has been mobilized in the scientific literature and which dimensions structure this domain of investigation.

It is important to highlight that, within the Brazilian context, the relationship between Knowledge Organization and Archival Science has been investigated for more than a decade, constituting a well-established research agenda.

In this context, studies employing the Domain Analysis approach have contributed to understanding different archival phenomena from the perspective of Knowledge Organization. Without claiming to provide an exhaustive review of the literature, notable contributions include those by Tognoli et al. (2019), Barros and Sousa (2019), and Alencar and Cervantes (2019), among others, which investigate different interfaces between Knowledge Organization and Archival Science. There is also research proposing archival theories themselves as a domain, such as the work of Guimarães and Tognoli (2015), who advocate for the principle of provenance as a Domain Analysis approach, characterizing Archival Knowledge Organization as a domain.

2.0 Sustainability in Information Studies

In Information Science, the theme of sustainability has been systematized from different theoretical and analytical perspectives, involving researchers, institutions, and scientific agendas that seek to understand the role of information in sustainable development

processes. In this context, the concept of Informational Sustainability stands out, understood as an approach that aims to analyze the production, organization, access, use, preservation, and governance of information in a responsible, equitable, and enduring manner (Geraldo 2025).

This perspective is grounded in the understanding that information constitutes a strategic resource for contemporary society, playing a fundamental role in decision-making processes, the formulation of public policies, scientific innovation, and the strengthening of informational citizenship.

2.1 The Importance of Domain Analysis for Emerging Topics in the Context of Knowledge Organization

Our understanding of the concept of domain is grounded in the perspective advanced by Richard P. Smiraglia, who argues that “at its simplest level, domain analysis simply means capturing the knowledge base of a community” (Smiraglia 2015, 5). This view also resonates with the definition proposed by Birger Hjørland, according to whom “a domain is a body of knowledge, defined socially and theoretically as the knowledge of a group of people sharing ontological and epistemological commitments” (Hjørland 2024, 11).

Acknowledging the relevance of the different approaches to Domain Analysis, we consider that the axes proposed by Joseph T. Tennis (2003)—areas of modulation and degree of specialization—provide a useful framework for its operationalization, as they contribute to the delineation and definition of a domain. For the purposes of this study, the analysis is situated within a descriptive perspective. From this standpoint, Sustainability is identified as an emerging field within Archival Science.

2.2 Archival Science and Emerging Scenarios: Sustainability as a Response to Preservation Challenges

Expanding on the modern professional discourse of Archival Science, in recent years it is possible to observe a more explicit concern with major social problems – more frequently in archival projects and research. Gilliland and McKemmish (2018) demonstrate this fact. They argue about the historical development, and the current and future trends in research. They note that in the last three decades, there has been a growth in research, due to technological and educational aspects, and social and intellectual movements, stating that "a more mature awareness of archival research has emerged in academia and practice with an unparalleled diversification of research topics" (Gilliland and McKemmish 2018, 87).

This movement of researchers and students, in carrying out these investigations, contributes to the social horizons within the scope of Archival Science. From a conceptual point of view, the development of these investigations gives rise to many terms that name

this practice, such as critical archival studies, archival multiverse, decolonial archival science, archival pluralism, among others.

Within the scope of these practices, Sustainability can be positioned as a relevant thematic concern. As it becomes increasingly connected to the problems and challenges addressed by Archival Science, it begins to take shape as a potential domain of study, particularly as an emerging scholarly community has started to engage with this topic. In this context, the work of Heidi N. Abbey (2012) has been widely referenced, as it examines sustainability from an archival perspective, addressing both strategies and resources aimed at promoting more sustainable approaches to archival management.

3.0 Methodology

For data collection, the search strategy adopted was based on the Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts database, as presented in the table below:

Table 1 Data Collection Strategies

Database/Journal	Term (search in the title field)
Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts/ and Archival Science	"sustainability" AND "archives" "sustaining" AND "archives" "sustainability" AND "records"
	"green" AND "archives"

Source: Prepared by the authors (2026).

The selection of search terms was based on the observation that, within the sustainability discourse, the concept appears in the literature both as a noun and as a verb, expressed through the terms *sustainability* and *sustaining*. The inclusion of the term *green*, in turn, resulted from identifying its recurrent use in the literature related to the topic.

Regarding the Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts database, it is considered one of the main references covering journals in the field of Archival Science. Concerning the inclusion of a specific search in the journal Archival Science, it was observed that there was a period during which the journal was no longer fully indexed in the database.

For data analysis, two approaches proposed by Birger Hjørland were applied: (10) *Structures and institutions in Scientific Communication*, used to describe authors, journals, years, institutions, countries and languages; and (9) *Terminological studies*,

focusing on identifying terms explicitly used by authors in order to support the construction of a categorization. Two stages were adopted: Stage 1) collection of titles and keywords; and Stage 2) selection of works that employ the punctual terminology - approach used by Alencar et al. (2023).

For this purpose, the following table was used:

Table 2 Strategies for Punctual Terminological Characterization

1. CHARACTERIZATION a) **Type:** Punctual; b) **Function:** Descriptive; c) **Field of specialization:** Archival Science; d) **Type of corpus material:** Journal articles; e) **Language of the corpus:** Written – English; f) **Quantity:** 17 works retrieved for the search of the term; g) **Corpus storage:** Online.
2. PUNCTUAL ASPECT TO BE ANALYZED **a) Term or semantic context:** sustainability in the archival context; **b) Guiding question:** Within the *corpus*, what relationships are established between sustainability and Archival Science? **c) Objective:** To identify, within the corpus of 17 articles from the fields of Information Science and Archival Science, the context of use of the concept of *sustainability* in archival contexts.
STAGES: a) Identify which articles explicitly mention this relationship within their sections; b) Record and classify the identified relationships; c) To present a synthesis of the contexts in which these terms are used and their relationships.

Source: Prepared by the authors based on Alencar et al. (2023), who cite Cabré (2017), Barité (2017), Cervantes (2009), and Dubuc (1999).

4.0 Results and Discussion

4.1 Structures and Institutions in Scientific Communication

With the application of the adopted methodology, 36 works were initially retrieved. After the removal of duplicates, editorials, and conference proceedings, a total of 17 works were obtained, which constitute the *corpus* of analysis. The analyzed *corpus* is composed of 27 authors, namely: AJIBADE, P; ALLISON-BUNNELL, J; ANDERSON, M; BOND, T. J; BRZICA, H; CHEN, J; ÇIÇEK, K; ESCHENFELDER, K. R; EVANS, L. M; FAULKNER, J; FLYNN, A. R; KHAYUNDI, F. E; LIAN, Z; LU, L; MARTELL, A. A; MATUSIAK, K. K; NEWMAN, J; OLIVER, G; OLTMANN, S. M; RAJH, A; RODRÍGUEZ RESÉNDIZ, P. O; ROWOLDT, S; SHANKAR, K; STANCIC, H; TÜNDE, S. T; WAGNER, T. L; سلوى علي ميلاد (arabic - Salwa Ali Milad).

The analyzed works were published in 17 journals: *African Journal of Library, Archives & Information Science*; *Canadian Journal of Information & Library Sciences*; *ESARBICA Journal*; *Collaborative Librarianship*; *Journal of Information & Documentation Studies*;

Revista Interamericana de Bibliotecología; *Archivaria*; *Tudományos és Műszaki Tájékoztatás*; *The Electronic Library*; *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology*; *Journal of Information Technology & Data*; *Records Management Journal*; *South African Journal of Library & Information Science*; *Preservation, Digital Technology & Culture*; *New Review of Information Networking*; *Australasian Public Libraries and Information Services*; and Archival Science.

The publication years are distributed as follows: 1998; 2012; 2015 (2); 2016; 2017; 2018 (2); 2021 (2); 2022; 2024; and 2025 (5). These years indicate a growing concern with the topic in contemporary research.

The analyzed publications are associated with 21 universities distributed across 10 countries and covering different global regions: Africa (3): University of Fort Hare (South Africa), Rhodes University (South Africa), and Cairo University (Egypt); Australia (1): Monash University; Canada (1): University of British Columbia; China (2): Wuhan University and Shanghai University; Croatia (1): University of Zagreb; United States (10): Montana State University—Bozeman, Washington State University, University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign, Indiana University Bloomington, University of Kentucky, University of North Texas, University of Wisconsin–Madison, University of Denver, and University of Colorado Boulder; Hungary (1): Eötvös Loránd University; Ireland (1): University College Dublin; Mexico (1): National Autonomous University of Mexico; and Türkiye (1): Istanbul University. These institutions represent all five continents, with a predominance of publications originating from North America, particularly the United States, followed by similar proportions from Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Regarding the languages of the analyzed works, the distribution is as follows: English (12); Spanish (1); Turkish (1); Hungarian (1); and Arabic (1).

4.2 Terminological Studies

4.2.1 Stage 1: Collection of Titles and Keywords

The analysis of terms in the titles revealed that only one work explicitly uses the specific term *archival sustainability*. In general, there is a predominance of the use of the term *sustainability* as a noun, that is, as a quality or condition that enables something to be sustainable. This relationship applies both to *records* and to *archives*. The use of the term *green*, in turn, appears as both a metaphor and an adjective. It is important to highlight that the classic work by Heidi Moyer Abbey - *The Green Archivist: A Primer for Adopting Affordable, Environmentally Sustainable, and Socially Responsible Archival Management Practices* (2012) - has a direct connection with this aspect.

Table 3 Titles of the *corpus*

1.	The Role of Records Management in Small Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) in South Africa and Its Implications for Business Sustainability

2. Archival Cloud Services: Portability, Continuity, and Sustainability Aspects of Long-term Preservation of Electronically Signed Records
3. Implications of Records Management Policy for the Small and Medium Enterprises Sustainability in Raymond Mhlaba Municipality in South Africa
4. Archives West at Twenty Years: Sustainability through Community
5. İklim Değişikliği ve Arşivlerde Sürdürülebilirlik
6. Preservación digital y cambio climático: experiencias de sustentabilidad medioambiental en archivos sonoros y audiovisuales
7. “It’s Not the Materials Themselves, It’s the Attitude of the Donors”: The Role of Community Accountability in the Sustainability of Queer Archives
8. Szerzeményezés és fenntarthatóság? Néhány példa az ELTE Egyetemi Könyvtár és Levéltár gyakorlatából
9. Archivists’ golden egg: environmental sustainability practices of archives
10. What are we talking about when we talk about sustainability of digital archives, repositories and libraries?
11. الأرشيفات الخضراء وعلاقتها برؤية مصر 2030م (Green archives and their relation to Egypt's Vision 2030)
12. Sometimes, green is the outcome: climate action in records management and archives in Canada
13. Going archivally green: implications of doing it naturally in Southern African archives and libraries
14. Sustaining Community Archives in the Post-Custodial Digital Environment
15. Sustaining Data Archives over Time: Lessons from the Organizational Studies Literature
16. Sustaining Community Archives
17. Sustainability of independent community archives in China: a case study

Source: Prepared by the authors (2026).

Regarding the keywords, 15 of the 17 works present terms representative of the theme, totaling 60 keywords:



Figure 1. Keyword Cloud of the corpus

Source: Prepared by the authors (2026).

In Section 4.2.3, a categorization of the terms will be presented.

4.2.2 Stage 2: Context of Use and Punctual Terminology

For this stage, following the adopted methodology, it was identified that, among the 17 works analyzed, six explicitly use the term *sustainability* from an archival perspective, either in specific sections of the articles, within their contexts of use, or through related terms. This finding makes it possible to verify the presence and use of punctual terminology.

1) **2024.** Travis L. Wagner; Allan A. Martell; Shannon M. Oltmann. *"It's Not the Materials Themselves, It's the Attitude of the Donors": The Role of Community Accountability in the Sustainability of Queer Archives*.

Explicit term in the section: *Sustainability in Archives* (p. 144).

Context of use: "Sustainability here includes those methods for ensuring that collections receive ongoing use, reflect current description paradigms, and foster long-term value to their users. When considering the roles and needs of community archives, sustainability exists as a set of non-hierarchical curation practices that ensure multiple individuals moderate and have access to the digital contents of the archives while simultaneously collaborating to train users on the constraints placed on their work by copyright law and platform-based rules and restrictions."

Other terms appearing in the section: *archival sustainability*; *collections' physical and digital sustainability*; *meaningful sustainability*.

Explicit term in the section: *Community Sustainability as a Precedent to Archival Sustainability* (p. 156). **Context of use:** "While community accountability helped foster the sustainability of an LGBTQIA+ archive, for Hanna, that sustainability existed entirely from and through obtaining community buy-in." (p. 157).

Other terms appearing in the section: *LGBTQIA+ archival sustainability*.

2) **2021.** James Faulkner; Liuxing Lu; Jiangping Chen**.** *"Archivists' Golden Egg: Environmental Sustainability Practices in Archives."*

Explicit term in the section: *2.2 Environmental Sustainability and Archives* (p. 260). **Context of use:** "The archives literature concerned with environmental sustainability tends to focus on topics such as building construction, electricity, digital preservation, or air quality."

Other terms appearing in the section: *environmentally sustainable archives*; *sustainability for archives, libraries, and museums*.

Explicit term in the section: *2.4 Factors for Archival Environmental Sustainability* (p. 266). **Context of use:** "Two documents are of guiding importance for archivists on environmental sustainability: the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard for building construction started by the US Green Building Council (Antonelli, 2008), and a section of the Green Archivist's primer, 'Ten points for archivists to begin an environmental sustainability collection', by Abbey (2012)."

Explicit term in the section: *5.2 A Framework of Archives' Environmental Sustainability* (p. 275). **Context of use:** "there are multiple factors to be considered in constructing an environmentally sustainable archive. Implementation strategies can be focused on addressing different factors in three categories: the resource-related factors, work-related factors and other factors. The resource-related ones include factors under categories, including electricity, facilities, water and pollution. The work-related factors, such as those under collection practices, exhibitions and education and outreach, should also be considered. Other factors, even though not addressed much in the literature, may be implied by the scarcity of environmental sustainability policies of archives, such as finance and organizational related factors. These types of factors need more exploration."

3) **2020.** Lois M. Evans. "Sometimes, green is the outcome: climate action in records management and archives in Canada"

Explicit term in the section: *Adaptation in records management and archives (p. 245) and* Mitigation in records management and archives (p. 246). **Context of use:** The author defines the term "sustainability" in the context of climate change, and in doing so, she incorporates the terms "adaptation" and "mitigation" as they relate to records management and archives. Thus, the connection to the archival dimension in her work is established through the terms "adaptation" and "mitigation."

4) **2025.** Krystyna K. Matusiak and A. R. Flynn. "Sustaining Community Archives in the Post Custodial Digital Environment"

Explicit term in the section: 2.2 Sustainability (pp.168-169). **Context of use:** The study contextualizes the use of the term within the framework of Community Archives. To this end, it cites Newman (2012), stating that: "The first of the three categories addresses the sustainability of a community archive as an organization, examining the five factors of governance, funding, skilled staff, collaboration, and dynamism. The second category deals with the sustainability of the archive as a physical location and the preservation of the materials and includes two factors, preservation and archival practices. The third category touches on an archive's relationship with the community that it serves and includes community engagement as a factor" (pp.168-169). "The challenges to sustaining community archives continue to be discussed in archival research with similar themes around space, sources of funding, and trained staff but have been increasingly explored in the context of digital projects." (p. 169)

Other terms appearing in the section*:* sustainability of community archives*; sustaining community archives in the post custodial digital environment;* sustainability of digital objects.

5) **2012.** Joanna Newman. "Sustaining Community Archives"

Explicit term in the section: "Sustainability" (p.38). **Context of use:** "Another important aspect of the term sustainability in its contemporary sense is that it is generally applied to systems, where a number of components are interdependent and related.9 This is also relevant, in terms of community archives, where a number of entities (archives, organisation and community) and processes are involved, as well as a temporal dimension. In defining sustainability in relation to community archives, therefore the concept of maintaining at a proper level over time, and of responsibility to do so for future generations, are combined."

Other terms appearing in the section*:* sustainability of community archives.

6) **2018.** Zhiying Lian; Gillian Oliver. "Sustainability of independent community archives in China: a case study"

Explicit term in the section: "Sustainability strategies for independent community archives in China" (p. 11). **Context of use:** The study analyzes three dimensions community, society, and government—which are considered sustainability strategies for the community archive under analysis, the *PiCun Culture and Art Museum of Migrant Labor (PCMML)*. **Other terms appearing in the section:** sustainability of a community archive; sustainability of independent community archives;

An interesting aspect to be observed is that, when applying the punctual terminological analysis, the works that explicitly associate sustainability with the term *archives* can be categorized as follows: (1) those belonging to the environmental domain, through the use of terms such as *environmentally sustainable archives* and *adaptation/mitigation in records management and archives*; and (2) those related to what is understood as Critical Archival Studies, particularly when focusing on community archives and employing terms such as *LGBTQIA+ archival sustainability* and *sustainability of community archives*. The following

section presents a proposal for a taxonomy aimed at understanding these terminological relationships.

4.3 Proposing a Taxonomy for Sustainability from the Perspective of Archival Science: Highlighting the Complexity of the Topic

The categorization of the keywords resulted in four categories: archival functions, types of collections, environmental dimension and digital dimension.

Table 4 Categorization of keywords from the *corpus*

Archival Functions	**Types Of Collections**	**Environmental Dimension**	**Digital Dimension**
-acquisition list -adaptation -cataloging collection -development -collection preservation -finding aids -preservation of cultural -heritage - records life cycle -records management policy (2) -records management (2) - archival practices -archival discovery	-archives (4) -archives and special collections, -archives in the cloud -archives management -community archives (2)	-cambio climático -changing role of archives -climate change (2) -cultural consciousness -emergency disaster plan -environmental protection; -environmental sustainability of archives -green archives -migrant workers -mitigation, -natural resources -social science data archives -sustainability (5) -sustainable buildings	-data archives -digital libraries, -digital stewardship; -digitalization -e-archivos; -electronic signatures, -post-custodial -paradigm, -post-custodial practice -preservación digital audiovisual -preservación digital sonora -preservación digital sustentable -repositories

Archival Functions	Types Of Collections	Environmental Dimension	Digital Dimension
		-sustainable development (2)	

The notion of sustainability, when linked to documentary issues, is associated with the capacity to ensure the continuity or permanence of certain systems, resources, or practices over time. In the archival context, however, this idea acquires more complex and specific contours, since the preservation of records and archives involves not only technical aspects but also institutional, environmental, political, economic, social, and memorial dimensions

Thinking about sustainability in Archival Science therefore implies considering all the conditions that enable or hinder the maintenance of archives and the longevity of records. This principle is particularly central to the field of Document Preservation, since, etymologically:

> "[...] the Latin root of preservation is *pra-e-servare*, which refers to the action of protecting someone or something by placing it under shelter from harm. *Pra* is thus an amplifying prefix and means 'for someone or something', moving toward or projecting forward. It expresses precedence, anticipation, precaution, intensity, and predominance. From this, one can infer a sense of movement toward something, an action carried out with intensity for someone or something. Therefore, it has an object directed toward the human dimension, toward transmission and the formation of individuals." (Costa, as cited in Pinheiro and Granato 2012, 31).

The concept of preservation presents a dynamic character and is closely articulated with sustainability, as it relates to a set of actions oriented over time that aim to anticipate possible processes of deterioration which may compromise the material and symbolic status of documents and safeguarding institutions, including archives.

From this perspective, several questions emerge for Archival Science. How can archival studies contribute to the design of archival buildings that reduce environmental impacts? Which materials, equipment, and infrastructures are most suitable for ensuring document preservation in an environmentally responsible manner? How can the sustainability of archives be ensured in digital environments, considering the technological, energy, and maintenance costs involved? How can the continuity and preservation of community-produced collections be ensured, given the institutional and financial constraints that often characterize them? Furthermore, how can educational and training processes be promoted that incorporate sustainability as a guiding principle for archival practices?

Considering the complexity surrounding this topic, the taxonomy proposed below aims to highlight and organize the different interconnected challenges that emerge when discussing Sustainability from the perspective of Archival Science.

Table 5 Initial taxonomy of the theme Sustainability from the Perspective of Archival Science

1. Environmental Dimension (related to policy decisions and institutional practices aimed at environmental preservation). **1.1** climate change **1.2** natural resources **1.3** emergency disaster plan **1.4** green archives **1.5** environmentally sustainable archives
2. Technical Dimension (associated with the operational conditions and financial resources required for the management and preservation of collections) **2.1** preservación digital sustentable **2.2** digitalization **2.3** sustainability of digital objects
3. Social Justice Dimension (involving access, representation and memory of socially marginalized groups) **3.1** sustainability of community archives **3.2** LGBTQIA+ archival sustainability **3.3** cultural consciousness **3.4** meaningful sustainability

Source: Prepared by the authors (2026).

It is important to emphasize that all these dimensions are interconnected and may represent responses to the challenges that involve the domain of Archival Science within the complex environment of digital culture and in different spaces that seek greater plurality.

5.0 Final Considerations

When analyzing a domain, four purposes are worth highlighting at the outset: 1) gaining a synthesized overview amidst the vast amount of information; 2) exploring the semantic richness enabled by the combination of different approaches inherent to this type of analysis; 3) providing visibility into what has been studied within a given field of knowledge; and 4) supporting the construction of Knowledge Organization Systems (Alencar 2022).

As we conclude this study, it is evident that the first three purposes mentioned have been achieved and that the work can also serve as a basis for the construction of a Knowledge Organization System. An important point to emphasize is that, although it is still premature to characterize Archival Sustainability as a consolidated domain, given the limited corpus of studies retrieved from different countries and institutions, the categorization proposed here may be understood as a preliminary conceptual structure of this emerging domain. In this sense, the categories presented contribute to the conceptual organization of Archival

Sustainability and provide elements that may support the future development of Knowledge Organization Systems, such as taxonomies, thesauri and ontologies.

In agreement with Mai (2005, 605), who states that "a domain is an evolving and open concept that will develop as the concept is used and applied in research and practice," the characterization of a domain should be understood as an ongoing process. In this light, the results of this study make evident that, given the complexity of the subject matter, the objective is not merely to define Archival Sustainability conclusively as a domain, but rather to highlight the different dimensions that structure this field of investigation. The environmental, technical and social dimensions identified, for example, make it possible to understand the breadth of the discussions surrounding sustainability in Archival Science and represent an initial effort toward the conceptual organization of this emerging field.

The scientific production on Sustainability in Archival Science remains incipient from a quantitative perspective, which may indicate an ongoing process of maturation and consolidation within the field.

The domain analysis presented in this study highlights the complexity of elements that structure this space of debate, involving individuals, financial resources, technical infrastructures, institutional policies, professional practices, as well as the interconnections that link these domains through documents and information.

Sustainability from the perspective of Archival Science constitutes a transversal principle and an ethical imperative that encompasses environmental, technical, and social dimensions. It is capable of guiding practices, decisions, and policies aimed at the preservation and longevity of records, the dynamics of access to information, and the promotion of social justice within archival contexts.

For future research, considering the conception of domain proposed by Smiraglia (2012, 114), although it is still premature to make definitive claims, the results obtained indicate the potential for ontological, epistemological and sociological interactions emerging from the analysis conducted. In this sense, the continuation of this investigation may contribute to the development of additional elements necessary for characterizing Archival Sustainability as a domain.

AI usage statement: Specific parts of the text were adjusted for cohesion and coherence using the tool ChatGPT. The complete translation from Portuguese to English was prepared based on the output from the same tool; subsequently, the terms were adjusted by the authors.

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