The Importance of Corporate Archives to Economic and Business History: A Case Study
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1 - ABSTRACT: This poster examines the changes of access along the existence of Corporate Archives in History - from the beginning of the 20th century until today. The outcome for Economic History comprehension is directly related to archival programs in corporations; such changes had involved not just the corporate archives but also the corporate's role, the archivist's competences, the historian's thoughts as well as the various fields of History research. The timeline below shows some facts, uses, and situations, which through merge the important relationship between History - General, Economic or Business - and Corporate Archives. Historiography allows one to identify the periods of the "muckraking literature", the Biographies, the Public and Academic Corporate, and the Corporate Culture.

2 - JUSTIFICATION: Holding a proactive attitude to build knowledge from Corporate Archives, can possibly present several arguments in favor of it. The main problems for corporations are legal consequences or bad image caused by critical points of views, as a result of outside researchers having access to archives. At the same time, historians must demonstrate that their methods involve greater questions which are related to technology, economic development, social concerns or the historical capitalism. All of this is part of Science's discussion: in an academic vision, the field of Business History has helped to see society through the "economy's lens" and the study of corporations turned into very important works of historians and other researchers within the Social Science community. Beyond the historical understanding of how this relationship is, Corporate Archives encompass definitions, strategies, and sources for other fields of research, such as marketing or management.

3 - METHODOLOGY: As a case study, Cargill Incorporated is a model to be examined and analyzed in a specific historic context. That is about the concurrent development of the agribusiness with the changes in agrarian structures, during the 20th Century, particularly, in the 1960s and 1970s. In the field of Economic History, the research is supported by a comparative method, used to explain those changes in Brazil and Mexico, countries where Cargill Incorporated was based on - and still is. The key word is agriindustry; from History to Archives, from Archives to Records, these are the first steps taken towards corporations' records types in make sense as historical sources.

4 - RESULTS: The identification and access to the Business History's historical sources are directly related to archival programs in corporations; which have amongst other procedures, appraisal and preservation of its records. “Corporation records as sources of research” such as a hypothetical function in a records schedules, can provide a variety of investigations, historic or not; otherwise, archivists know that respect for the principle of provenance is indispensable; the filling system is made according to the activities that produced the files. All of these procedures require a deep knowledge about the institution. The example below is only a "fictional schedule", limited to the case study's scope to demonstrate partially, some aspects of the relationship between corporation's records and the historical sources.

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**GENERAL / ECONOMIC / BUSINESS HISTORY ; HISTORIOGRAPHY: CORPORATE ARCHIVES**

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**FUNCTION** | **RECORD TYPE** | **DESCRIPTION** | **RETENTION** | **SOURCE OF RESEARCH**
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Publishing | House Magazines | Published sporadically for the benefit of employers | Permanent | Company policies and employee benefits, photographs.
Publishing | Official Bulletin | Published internally to staff and branch system | Permanent | Company policies and employee benefits, photographs.
Operational | Minutes of meetings | Short notes detailing the proceedings of a meeting | Permanent | Includes critical events, problems and their resolutions.
Operational | Annual Reports and Statements | Published as a general overview or main points | Permanent | Summarizes the outlines of the firm's history.
Communication | Executive Correspondence | Personal and unannounced, important operators | Permanent | Includes critical events, problems and their resolutions.
Communication | Memoranda | Personal, in general for internal and eventual communication | Permanent | Includes critical events, problems and their resolutions.
Human Resources | Capabilities Plans / Courses | In general, related with equipments acquisition and business expansion | Permanent | Modernization, mechanization, technological improvement. Photographs.
Human Resources | Campaign for Prevention of Accidents to the Employees’ Health and Environment | Regular or eventual, according to legal obligations | Permanent | Paints the business infrastructure and the affairs / tasks of the firm or social concerns.
Human Resources | Programs for Childhood | Turned towards employees' children or low-income children | Permanent | Paints the business infrastructure and the affairs / tasks of the firm or social concerns.
Assets and Patrimony | Inventories | Regular formal account to registering and control of the former and updated firm's worth | Permanent | Development of Estate, Technological Improvement, modernization.
Assets and Patrimony | Blue Prints, Building Projects | Process of infrastructure expansion | Permanent | Development of Estate, Technological Improvement, modernization.
Financial and Budgetary | Balance Sheets | Regular formal account to registering and control, regularly, the capital movements, in detail | Permanent | Analysis of statistics data and time series, indentifying real economic cycles.
Financial and Budgetary | Profit and Loss Statements | Regular formal account to registering and control, regularly, the capital movements, in detail | Permanent | Analysis of statistics data and time series, indentifying real economic cycles.
Financial and Budgetary | Budgetary Plan, Spending Plan | Regular formal account to project, regularly, the future capital movement, in detail | Permanent | Analysis of statistics data to do linear regressions, verifying economic projections.