

# **The Importance of Corporate Archives to Economic and Business History: A Case Study**

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**Abstract:** This poster examines the changes of interests along the existence of Corporate Archives in history - from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century until today. The outcome for Economic History comprehension is directly related to archival programs in corporations; which have amongst other procedures, appraisal and preservation of its files. Apart from this, changes had involved not just the concept of Corporate Archives but also the corporation's role, the archivist's competences, the historian's thoughts as well as the fields of Economic and Business History. As a result, case studies of corporations turned into very important works of historians and other researchers within the Social Science community, as many others, including retiree employers or chairmen. The field of Business History has helped to see society through the "economy's lens" in an academic vision, but there are the public historians too. The study of Corporate Archives encompasses definitions, strategies and sources for Business History's research. Beyond the historical understanding of how important this relationship is, this proposal also presents arguments in favor of it and principles to create a records' retention schedule in order to allow access to Corporate Archives.

"Corporation files as a source of research," such as a hypothetical function in a records schedule, can provide various types of investigations, historic or not; one of which is illustrated by the case study of Cargill Incorporated within the context of the agroindustry growth – the dominant productive unit in agriculture and processing of farm products.

## **About the author:**

*Caio Graco Valle Coberio* is a PhD student in Economic History at the São Paulo University (USP) / Brazil whose recent professional role is to integrate the Records Management Department of São Paulo State Archives, where he works with the Public Administration doing records retention schedules and playing an auxiliary role on the records appraisal. He is also having a brief participation in the TEAM Brazil of the International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems – InterPARES 3 Project. At the University, he has a Doctoral Scholarship offered by the Brazilian Commission to the Improvement of Postgraduate Studies (CAPES). He is currently developing a research about the changes in the agrarian structures of Brazil and Mexico, between the years of 1960 and 1979 - a case study about Cargill Incorporated, Minneapolis, USA. His research topics are developed by quantitative methodology, analysis of time series graphics and concern the possibilities and the full scope for an Economic and Business History interaction with the concept of Corporate Archives.