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FAMILY ARCHIVES AND
HISTORICAL RESEARCH

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**FAMILY AND PERSONAL ARCHIVES
IN THE PORTO DISTRICT ARCHIVE:
SAFEGUARD AND PROMOTION STRATEGIES**

ABSTRACT: The paper aims at describing the Arquivo Distrital do Porto (Porto district archive) as a service provider, introducing new practices of accessibility to private archives and the projects it has developed and implemented in this area, highlighting the need for an interactive interface with its users. It focuses on the requirements and specifications for accessing and enhancing private archives that are not in its possession and addresses the problem of promoting the acquisition of private archives, particularly family archives, as a process that requires the development of strategies for safeguarding the archival heritage and promoting access to information sources.

Keywords: Porto District Archive; family archives; safeguard; heritage; acquisition of archives

RESUMO: Equaciona o Arquivo Distrital do Porto como entidade prestadora de serviços, introduzindo novas práticas de acessibilidade aos arquivos privados. Apresenta os projectos que concebeu, desenvolveu e implementou na área, evidenciando a necessidade de relação interactiva com os cidadãos. Foca os requisitos e as especificações para o acesso e a valorização de arquivos privados de que não é detentor. Aborda a problemática da promoção da aquisição de arquivos privados, nomeadamente de arquivos de família, como um processo que requer o desenvolvimento de estratégias para a salvaguarda do património arquivístico e acesso às fontes de informação.

Palavras-chave: Arquivo Distrital do Porto; arquivos de família; salvaguarda; património; aquisições de arquivos

The Porto District Archive (ADP) mission is to contribute for the promotion, safeguarding, valuation, and dissemination of the archival heritage, thus guaranteeing the rights of the State, citizens, and the collective memory in its

district. The policies developed and the strategic goals defined promote the implementation of the national archival policy in the Porto district, contributing to the development of the information society and presenting innovative aspects that reflect concerns with improving the accessibility to administrative and cultural contents, increasing the quality of archival files as an information resource. As a service provider that manages information systems, the ADP has sought to introduce an organizational change that aims at enhancing ways to achieve better results, namely in accessing the sources of stored information and its dissemination through the establishment of partnerships, using sources of funding and networking.

The ADP makes acquisitions of archives, invests on the diversification of the documentation funds to be submitted to organization and description, defining policies for technical treatment contemplating not only the most consulted groups of files, but also promoting the dissemination of new collections, thus creating new needs and new users. These policies are reflected on the production of research tools that allow the users to reference what they are looking for and to access the information (DigitArq/CRAV database). The ADP develops conversion projects, implements preservation and conservation plans, promotes cultural and educational extension actions. It also provides technical advice in the design and organization of file systems of public and private organizations that produce documentation and conducts audits of archiving systems.

The ADP is the holder of more than 730 funds/collections, which represent approximately twelve kilometers in length¹:

Central Administration: 1498 to 2013

Instituto de Apoio ao Retorno dos Nacionais (IARN); Governo Civil do Porto (and others)

Administração Central Desconcentrada: 1683 to 1985

Casa da Roda do Porto (and others)

¹ Available at <<http://pesquisa.adporto.arquivos.pt/>> (accessed 11/10/2018).

Local Administration: 1803 to 1919

Associations: 1896 to 2004

Confronto – Cooperativa de Promoção Cultural, S.C.R.L.; Liga Portuguesa de Profilaxia Social

Diocesan: 1130 to 1913

Cabido da Sé do Porto; Mitra da Sé do Porto cathedral (and others)

Eclesiastical: 1801 to 1819

Tribunal da Legacia

Companies: 1735 to 2004

Transportes Coletivos do Porto; Fábrica de Tecidos Aliança; Sociedade Manuel Pinto de Azevedo; banks (and others)

Families: 1602 to 1980

Família Pacheco Pereira (and others)

Personal: 1614 to 2010

Visconde de Alcobça; João Allen; Vítor Ranita (and others)

Judicial: 1637 to 1986

Tribunais Plenários; Tribunais de Comarca; Juízos Ordinários (and others)

Monastic: 1140 to 1919

Convents; colleges; commanderies: Colégio de S. Lourenço da Companhia de Jesus; Convento do Corpus Christi (and others)

Notarial: 1515 to 1996

Cartório Notarial de Amarante – 2.º ofício; 1.º Cartório Notarial do Porto (and others)

Parochial: 1535 to 1911

Paróquia de Varziela; Paróquia de S. Nicolau (and others)

Collections: 1201 to 1994

Collection of fragments of antiphonaries and other liturgical books; Coleção Documentos das Artes Cénicas (and others)

Confraternities: 1629 to 1917

Confraria do Santíssimo Sacramento da Sé – Porto (and others)

In recent years, the ADP has developed and invested in strategies for the safeguarding and promotion of private archives, namely personal and family archives, an area that continues to be lacking and with limited investment, undermining the preservation of an information-rich heritage full of everyday memories. For this reason, the ADP, as a body responsible for the safeguarding and enhancement of archival assets, has sought the recovery of private documentary funds, namely those that are in danger of disappearing, and some of the projects carried out have been a good investment in the design and implementation of policies of proactive patrimonial preservation. One of the strategies for the preservation of these files is therefore the creation of specific projects, of which the Clinic in the Archive and Time of Funds are an example.



ADP, 2018, 1000x834, Clinic in the Archive:
Dissemination of the sessions to be held in the year 2018

The **Clinic in the Archive** project, launched in 2014, aims to raise awareness and help to preserve archival documentation and private memories. Directed to the general public, it is meant as a facilitator channel, friendly and closer to the citizen. It is carried out as a monthly or bi-monthly counseling activity, free of charge. The consultations are held at the ADP premises by prior appointment, in an individualized service lasting between 30 to 60 minutes. In each consultation, the analysis of presented documents or the clarification of specific doubts about archiving or conservation and restoration are carried out by qualified technicians. Users are offered a brochure with technical recommendations and contacts from suppliers of material suitable for the preservation of documents. The participants also have, available for purchase, a basic conservation kit, made up of indispensable materials appropriate for conservation actions. There are also group sessions and thematic sessions to share knowledge and experiences. On an exceptional basis, the ADP team of technicians may move to another institution in the district. The most complex issues to be addressed concern the technical consulting service. The acceptance of this service has been very positive and rewarding, reflected in both the number of participants, the responses to the evaluation survey and the messages of thanks and encouragement sent to the ADP. Echoes in the press have also been very positive. The simplicity and pragmatism of the project proved to be a winning combination.



ADP, 2017, 1000x834, Time of Funds: Family History Session

The project **Time of Funds**, implemented in 2017, is organized in partnership with the ADP Friends Association. It is similar to the “hora do conto” or storytelling hour, so fashionable in public libraries, because it enhances the funds of the archives, promoting access and sharing of information and knowledge of the documentation guarded by ADP. It translates into conversations, at four, with the purpose of stimulating dialogue and the exchange of experiences of users who, in their research, have used documentary sources existing in the Archive. As an example, one of the sessions, “Sources and paths for the knowledge of family history”, focused on the theme of family archives and was attended by two researchers, one of whom shared his experience as the keeper of a family archive.

Another of the strategies that ADP uses is to apply to financing programs. This is a way to leverage technical resources, always focused on the archival treatment of documentary collections.

The access and valuation of private archives of which ADP is not the holder nor custodian provides further support in the treatment and dissemination of archival assets, and is intended to make available the information for online search of archives that are located in the respective entities.

Family and Personal Archives not in the custody of the ADP:

1996 to 1998

Arquivo Pessoal de Eça de Queirós: 1866 to 1902

Família Eça de Queirós (Condes de Resende): 1448 to 1968

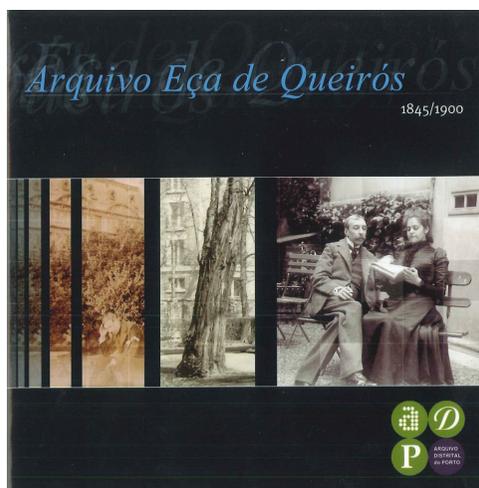
Arquivo Pessoal de António Eça de Queirós: 1890 to 1965

2011

Wenceslau de Lima: 1809 to 1947

In 2001, the ADP promoted the archival processing of the documentary collection of the personal archives of Eça de Queirós and of his son António Eça de Queirós, and the family archive of Eça de Queirós/counts of Resende, under the custody of the Eça de Queirós Foundation headquartered in Tormes.

As a result, a CD-ROM “*Arquivo Eça de Queirós*” with the contents of the archival processing carried out was produced, displaying a perspective of Eça’s experiences seen through its archive, that is, through the documentation produced and received in the course of Eça’s activities, whether professional or personal.



Dematos Designers, 2001, 1000x1000,
CD-Rom cover of the Eça de Queirós Archive

Contrary to the commonly used approaches, it is not Eça’s literary work that is the main focus, the preference instead is to reveal facets of the writer’s life that are normally neglected and valued less. With this product the ADP began to create new forms of presenting archival description works, certainly more integrated in the industry of contents and multimedia. The intention was to create new mechanisms that could be appealing to people, attracting them to the Archive, transforming it into a space of creativity and knowledge. At the end of the project, a documentary was shown aimed at disseminating some documents which are representative of the life of the writer.

For the personal archive of Wenceslau de Lima, the ADP accompanied the technical archival treatment, performed by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto. Through the establishment of a protocol with the owner, the description was made available online through the DigitArq appli-

cation, keeping the documentation in the possession of the family and ensuring that the consultation of documents is made by prior appointment. This is another way to make documentary sources available that could certainly allow access to information of family files held by their owners.

For the ADP, the promotion of private archives acquisition through donations or deposits which, because of their cultural significance and relevance to the understanding of social memory, have earned the right to be preserved definitively, has resulted in the development of active intervention strategies, from the year 2002. An example of such efforts is the diversification of acquisitions, the quick, pragmatic, administrative response that the ADP seeks to offer when contacted by owners; the archival processing of files donated/deposited in a timely manner, with the aim of continuously seeking a reunion with civil society. The organization of occasional donation/deposit events, with the participation, whenever possible and pertinent, of the donors/depositors or their representatives, the publicity in social networks and the interaction with the general public, have created a relation of proximity and trust within society and have increased the number of donors.

However, we believe that much work still needs to be done so that a satisfactory response to the preservation of this heritage can be given in a structured way. The creation of national/regional intervention brigades, the promotion of specific awareness-raising campaigns for the donation/deposit of family and personal archives, and patronage campaigns would certainly contribute to implementing this. In addition, we believe that in order to reach more holders of family archives it is important to encourage applications for national/transversal projects to safeguard these archives and to establish partnerships and protocols with training centers, such as universities, which carry out research work based on these documentary sources. The combination of synergies and networking would certainly bring more results.

Family and personal archives integrated into the ADP from 1934 to 2018²:

1934

Casa do Infantado: 1754 to 1833

José Pedro Soares dos Reis e Vasconcelos: 1804 to 1804

Jerónimo Teixeira Cabral: 1614 to 1614

João de Valadares: 1627 to 1627

Francisco Alão de Moraes Pimentel: 1822 to 1822

Francisco Xavier da Cunha Torel: 1787 to 1787

João Allen: 1827 to 1845

Manuel Ferreira da Silva Lima: 1817 to 1817

1968

Visconde de Alcobaça: 1918 to 1907

Família Pacheco Pereira: 1602 to 1837

1987

António Silva Pimenta: 1874 to 1900

2002

Maria Teresa Guimarães Medina: 1974 to 1975

2004

Joaquim do Carmo Leorne: 1923 to 1940

Manuel Francisco Caruncho de Sá: 1979 to 1980

2005

Casa Agrícola Bento Rodrigues de Sousa: 1934 to 1973

Vitor Manuel Rodrigues Ranita: 1897 to 1997

José Afonso Castro Moreira: 1900 to 2000

² Available at <<http://pesquisa.adporto.arquivos.pt/>> (accessed 11/10/2018).

2009

Fernando Pires: 1893 to 1954

Antão Santos da Cunha: 1945 to 1974

2010

Raul de Castro: 1942 to 1976

2014

José Duarte Reis: 1878 to 1896

Arquivo Pessoal de Mário Brochado Coelho: 1966 to 2010

2015

António Augusto Pinto de Magalhães: 1862 to 1862

Casa do Morgado: 1290 to 1980

2018

Casa de Atães: [nineteenth century]

Mário Bastos Rodrigues: 1951 to 2010