

# The terminological dimension of provenance description in the Multilingual Archival Terminology – ICA

Some translation problems

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**ABSTRACT:** The principle of provenance is occupying a nuclear position in Archival Science during the last two centuries but it assumes different configurations in different geographic areas what brings significant problems to its translation, especially in multilingual instruments. Thus, a problem of terminological nature is revealed, as this principle is suitable to the area in several different ways, evoking different concepts, often unfolding or reconfiguring. Therefore, we analyze the “archival principles” presented in International Council on Archives (ICA) Multilingual Archival Terminology in English, French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, in order to identify their terminological configuration as well as their equivalents. The results show that provenance is a complex principle, which includes other sub-principles (such as respect for the original order), an aspect that varies depending on the cultural environment of each of the languages involved.

**Keywords:** Archival Knowledge Organization, Archival terminology, Provenance.

## I. Introduction

Archival Science issues, notably over the past two decades, have been subject of increasing reflection in the Information Science field, especially in Canada, Portugal and Brazil. As a result, procedures, instruments and products of archival document organization have found shelter in scientific discussions in the field of knowledge organization, especially if we consider that the set of archival records reveals an institutional knowledge, organically produced that, once available, will lend itself to the construction of new knowledge<sup>1</sup>.

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1. N.B. TOGNOLI, J.A.C. GUIMARÃES, *Organização do conhecimento arquivístico: perspectivas e renovação a partir das abordagens científicas canadenses*, in «Ciência da Informação», vol. XVI, n.1, 2011, pp. 21–44; N.B. TOGNOLI, J.A.C. GUIMARÃES, J.T. TENNIS, *Diplomatics as a methodological perspective for archival knowledge organization*, in “Transition Cultures, Transition KO: Evolving Exploration, Critical Reflection, and Practical Work NASKO”, vol. 1, 2013, pp. 216–227.