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The Global Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda
The Case of the Iberarchivos Program

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Article abstract

The Iberarchivos program, which is a financial fund for the implementation of archival projects, is a benchmark of archival cooperation in Ibero-America for archival development. Based on the perspectives of culture as a pillar of sustainable development advocated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL), the aim of this study is to present the contributions of the Iberarchivos program to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Methodologically, it is an applied, exploratory, and descriptive study in terms of objectives, as well as bibliographic and documentary research in primary sources as technical procedures. After a critical reading of each strategic plan for the Ibero-American partnership (PACCI) for the period of 2019 to 2026, all the initiatives related to the Iberarchivos program for the achievement of sustainable development will be identified and described to map the existence of sustainable practices and actions intended for the Ibero-American archives in their activities. This work has identified efforts and movements that highlight the relevance of guaranteeing the right of access to information, culture, and memory for citizenship and the objectives of the SDGs of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, as well as mobilization with other social sectors for the development and monitoring of cultural public policies. The conclusion of this research is that the contributions of the Iberarchivos program are essential for achieving the SDGs, consolidating the QBL, and, above all, the richness and diversity of Ibero-American culture in building sustainable knowledge for society in general and the archival community, as well as democratizing access to culture.

The Global Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda: The Case of the Iberarchivos Program

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The Iberarchivos program, which is a financial fund for the implementation of archival projects, is a benchmark of archival cooperation in Ibero-America for archival development. Based on the perspectives of culture as a pillar of sustainable development advocated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL), the aim of this study is to present the contributions of the Iberarchivos program to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Methodologically, it is an applied, exploratory, and descriptive study in terms of objectives, as well as bibliographic and documentary research in primary sources as technical procedures. After a critical reading of each strategic plan for the Ibero-American partnership (PACCI) for the period of 2019 to 2026, all the initiatives related to the Iberarchivos program for the achievement of sustainable development will be identified and described to map the existence of sustainable practices and actions intended for the Ibero-American archives in their activities. This work has identified efforts and movements that highlight the relevance of guaranteeing the right of access to information, culture, and memory for citizenship and the objectives of the SDGs of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, as well as mobilization with other social sectors for the development and monitoring of cultural public policies. The conclusion of this research is that the contributions of the Iberarchivos program are essential for achieving the SDGs, consolidating the QBL, and, above all, the richness and diversity of Ibero-American culture in building sustainable knowledge for society in general and the archival community, as well as democratizing access to culture.

Keywords: iberarchivos; global sustainable development goals, quadruple bottom line, access to information, cultural public policies, agenda 2030

Introduction

The relationship between development and the environment has been on the discussion agenda of the members of the United Nations (UN) and its agencies since the First Development Decade, which covered the years 1960 to 1970 (Barbieri, 2020), in the search for improvements in development processes and a change of focus.

In this sense, among the many efforts made, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE), popularly known as the Stockholm Conference (Sweden) of 1972, is considered a milestone because it was the first event that called on society to change its behaviour in favour of this relationship.

Over the years, the incentives to mobilize society in favor of everyone's commitment increased until 2015, when 193 heads of state from member countries, including Brazil, met at the UN headquarters in New York to approve and adopt a new plan of action to achieve sustainable development by 2030, with people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnerships at its center, and the environmental, economic, and social dimensions as pillars.

However, authors Geraldo and Pinto (2021) warn:

> Sustainable development doesn't just depend on companies and governments changing their attitudes; it is essential that society also be sensitized, made aware, and mobilized, both environmentally and in terms of social and economic aspects. There are sustainable practices that can be included in people's daily lives, and for this to happen, they must have adequate access to information about sustainability (p.12)

In the case of archival institutions, there is an opportunity to reaffirm their strategic role in the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to get closer to society since their mission is to guarantee the right of access to public information, which supports transparency, accountability, and social control in all dimensions, as well as memory and culture, based on the protection and preservation of documentary heritage for current and future generations.

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The Iberarchivos program, a benchmark for archival cooperation in Ibero-America, is a financial fund for implementing projects to develop and strengthen archival documents, especially Ibero-American culture and cultural diversity.

This study aims to present the contribution of the Iberarchivos program to achieving the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda. It is based on the perspective of culture as a pillar of sustainable development advocated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the body in charge of issues in the field of information.

In this paper, we ask the following question: What contributions does the Iberarchivos program make to sustainable development in line with the SDGs of the United Nations 2030 Agenda? In terms of methodological aspects, the study is characterized in terms of its objectives as exploratory and descriptive, of an applied nature in terms of data processing with a qualitative approach (Lakatos and Marconi, 2017; Minayo, 2012).

The technical procedures adopted were bibliographic and documentary research. For the bibliographic research, databases, and scientific publications in the fields of information science and archival science on approaches relevant to archival institutions, the right to information, and the sustainable development perspective developed up to Agenda 2030, including the quadruple bottom line as a pillar, were used.

The documentary research was collected through primary sources, such as the Quadrennial Action Plans for Ibero-American Cooperation (PACCI) for 2019-2022 and 2023-2026.

To identify and collect content related to the Iberarchivos program's contribution to sustainable development, the terms <Iberarchivos>, <PIPA> and <Cultural Cooperation Programs and Initiatives> were searched. PIPA was included, as the Iberarchivos program is part of the Programs, Initiatives, and Projects (PIPA) included in the PACCI. The results were presented in a summarized form using tables to simplify the data on the frequency of types of actions, results and related SDGs.

Literature Review

Vast literature produced in information science has demonstrated the relevance of information as a resource in development since the 1970s, reflected in the high investments in information and digital infrastructure and the establishment of information policies by developed countries.

Regarding social information use, Araújo (2018) discusses one of the main negative aspects triggered and most discussed in the 1990s, inequality in the production of and access to information, and Saracevic (2008, p. 54) states that information activities play an economic and social role of "strategic importance that goes beyond the level of regional and global co-operation, towards national development and social progress, as well as the promotion of organizational and competitive advantages."

According to Furnival (2000), characteristics such as comprehensiveness and interdisciplinarity, as well as the ability to provoke critical analysis that leads to action, reinforce the vital role of information in the elaboration, implementation, and consolidation of strategies to achieve sustainable development, which is essential for production processes.

The United Nations, to raise awareness of the greenhouse effect, deforestation, water pollution and global warming on the planet, during the Earth Summit or Rio-92 event held in 1992, emphasized the importance of producing and having access to adequate public information and reliable decisions for environmental decision-making as a basic principle of global sustainable development and in the Global Agenda 21, establishing that

> In sustainable development, everyone is a user and provider of information in the broadest sense, which includes data, information and appropriately presented experience and knowledge. The need for information arises at all levels, from higher decision-making at the national and international levels to the community and individual levels (United Nations Organization, 1992, p. 1).

In line with this principle and to value institutions that guarantee the right of access to information and culture, UNESCO published the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in 2002, in which it consolidated cultural diversity as a common heritage of humanity and its relationship to sustainable development since it "manifests the plurality of identities that characterize the groups and societies that make up humanity" (United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture, 2002a, p. 3).

Considering the inadequate and uneven implementation of measures to solve problems related to communication, the publication of environmental information, and to motivate social participation in the implementation of Agenda 21 at the local level, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), known as the Rio+20 Conference, an event held in 2012 to reinforce the agreements signed at Rio-92, recognized that

> Improving civil society participation depends on strengthening access to information and developing the capacity of civil society, as well as creating an enabling environment. It is recognized that information and communications technology facilitate the flow of information between governments and the public. It is crucial to enhance access to information and communication technologies, particularly broadband networks and services, and bridge the digital divide. This recognizes the contribution of international cooperation in this area (United Nations Organization, 2012,

p. 7, C44).

After positive evaluations of some global actions related to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and an intergovernmental process organized by the UN, new proposals emerged to include additional themes such as global climate change, increasing economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace, and justice. These priorities were considered global challenges, and the deadline and scope were extended accordingly (United Nations Development Programme, 2016).

This is the United Nations' 2030 Agenda, which is considered a global challenge and is to be integrated into government agendas and strategic planning. Table 1 displays the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 targets, and 232 indicators, which are interconnected and indivisible.

Table 1 highlights the approach to fulfilling the right of access to information. Target 16.10 aims to ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms following national legislation and international agreements to achieve SDG 16. This initiative emphasizes the responsibility of member states to develop policies and mechanisms covering information issues (United Nations Organization, 2015, p.36).

The same happens with cultural issues, which are also addressed in target 11.4 for achieving SDG 11; UNESCO's efforts are the focus. In that regard, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) notes:

> The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development does not present any Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on cultural matters, but nevertheless recognizes that cultures and cultural diversity contribute on a large scale to sustainable development (Secretaria Geral Iberoamerican [SEGIB], 2019, p.71).
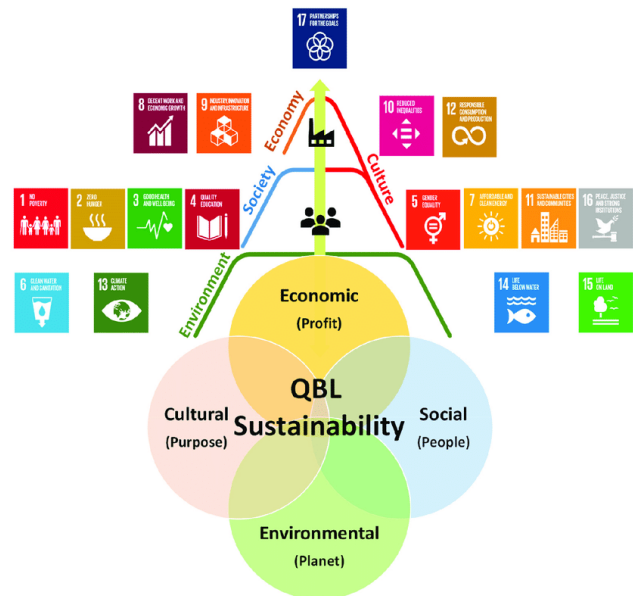
This advocacy by UNESCO and SEGIB for culture for sustainable development favours a different look at the initial pillars, the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) (environment, economy, and social) to the Quadruple Bottom line (QBL) (environment, economy, social and culture), illustrated in figure 1 by the authors Tiller et al. (2022), as crucial political tools for sustainable development, considering the negative impacts of climate change and the liberal economy suffered by local fisheries, livelihoods, behaviours, and rituals of the Inuit people of the Arctic region of Canada, Arctic shipping (ArSh), passed down from generation to generation.

As depicted in Figure 1, the authors highlighted the interdependent relationship between the culture that sustains both social well-being and economic prosperity, the economy that would not exist without societies, and the environment that allows societies to exist and prosper by relating the QBL framework to the SDGs. It is necessary to incorporate sustainability criteria into all dimensions circularly, by everyone and for everyone.

Cook (2012, p. 6) argues that understanding a society's

Figure 1

Framework - Quadruple Bottom line (QBL) pillars and the SDGs. Source: Tiller et al. (2022)

political, economic, social, and cultural environment is necessary to comprehend its archives. Archives, as institutions of memory and social nature, are responsible for ensuring access to information, identity, and justice. Archivists are leaders who contribute to society's access to its identity based on documents and memories.

In 1992, UNESCO established the Memory of the World Program (MoW) to draw attention to the significance of documentary heritage and its protection and preservation for constructing collective memory and world culture. The program aims to improve access to this heritage beyond current national boundaries.

The Memory of the World is the collective and documented memory of the world's peoples - their documentary heritage - representing a large part of the world's cultural heritage. It traces the evolution of thought, discoveries, and achievements of human society. It is the legacy of the past for the present and future world community. [...] Documentary heritage is the common moral property of all humanity (United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture, 2002b, pp. 5-26).

The Ibero-American program serves as a regional model for supporting archival projects that aim to promote citizens' right of access to archives, individual and collective memory, and the consolidation of an informed society. This is the foundation of democracy, accountability, and good administration (Iberarchivos, 2022, p. 1).

This funding program was created in 1997 at Spain's initiative to support archival institutions in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Spain, El Salvador, the Philippines, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay. The program aims to contribute to consolidating the Ibero-American Cultural Area (ECI).

In 2019, during the Ibero-American Year of Archives for Transparency and Memory, the Latin American Association (ALA), in collaboration with cultural cooperation programs such as Iberarchivos and the Diplomatic Archives Network (RADI), the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), drafted the Madrid Declaration. The declaration commits to sustainable development, specifically addressing the information issues of SDG 16 in the context of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the previously mentioned document, archives promote efficient, accountable, and transparent public management by providing citizens with access to documents produced by governments, organizations, and entities in accordance with current legislation. This promotes effective social control over the actions of public authorities, accountability, and participation in decision-making (Latin American Archives Association, 2019).

The results below are presented with discussions around sustainable actions and practices for the Iberarchivos program.

Results and Discussion

To answer the objective of the study, we initially looked at the actions aimed at the Iberarchivos program in the PACCI for the 2019-2022 (SEGIB, 2020) and 2023-2026 quadrennium (SEGIB, 2023) to be implemented in the archives of the 22 Ibero-American countries for the sustainable development of the region.

Among the 7 strategic axes established in PACCI 2019-2022, culture is included in strategic axis 5 to contribute to the richness of Ibero-American culture for sustainable development, as shown in Table 1 below:

The intended results of the 2019-2022 PACCI, which includes Iberarchivos and other cultural programs and projects, are associated with achieving targets 4.7, 8.9, 11.4 and 12.b and, potentially, SDGs 1, 5, 9, 10, 16 and 17, based on the recognition of culture's contributions and the development of mechanisms that promote the democratization of access to culture for sustainable development.

So much so that the circulation of cultural expressions in Ibero-America and the reduction of social exclusions, both in the provision and enjoyment of cultural goods and services, are placed as CI's intended results through Iberarchivos, which demonstrates the relevance of documentary heritage for social inclusion and reducing inequalities.

As for target 16.10, which covers the right of access to information, the actions to be implemented by Iberarchivos in the Ibero-American Strategy for Culture and Sustainable Development are detailed, summarized in Table 2 below:

The 2030 Agenda addresses the right to access information. CI also advocates for including cultural rights as fundamental and their relationship to attaining cultural citizenship in a democratic system that respects sustainable development.

Although not explicitly stated, the proposed actions to consolidate culture as a pillar of sustainable development, in line with the interconnected and indivisible nature of the SDGs, aim to achieve target 16.10. The QBL perspective significantly influences these proposals, adapting cultural aspects to those of access to information and justice.

In PACCI 2023-2026, cultural diversity is included in strategic axis 5, to contribute to cultural public policies for sustainable development. The following lines of action are adopted to achieve the intended results, as presented in Table 3 below:

It is important to note that CI continues to prioritize cultural cooperation programs and the protection and preservation of Ibero-America's cultural heritage, including documentary heritage, as essential to sustainable development by ensuring long-term access to Ibero-America's cultural reality. Additionally, there is a focus on promoting a gender perspective, cultural diversity, and effective communication.

Regarding the cultural cooperation programs in PACCI 2023-2026, CI aims to foster integration and alliances between PIPAs and other cultural programs and projects. This will be achieved by implementing systems that support and strengthen each other's cultural contributions to the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

Establishing cultural governance is a new development that promotes popular participation in creating cultural mechanisms and tools in each country. This will facilitate the exchange of good practices, policies, experiences, and mechanisms, such as diagnoses to identify inequalities, popular participation practices, and organizations representing ethno-cultural groups, multicultural indicators, awareness-raising, and communication strategies, among others.

Conclusion

To present the contributions of the Iberarchivos program to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda, this study considers concepts. It approaches relevant to archival institutions, the right to information and culture, the perspectives of sustainable development, and the quadruple bottom line as a pillar.

The results were obtained from the PACCIs for the 2019-2022 and 2023-2026 periods, which included the 2020 Ibero-American Strategy for Culture and Sustainable Development. Iberarchivos is located as a cultural cooperation program of PIPA.

The PACCI 2019-2022 aims to protect and safeguard the documentary heritage of Ibero-American archives held through the Iberarchivos Program. This contribution to sustainable development extends beyond the cultural heritage dimension. It includes the democratization of access to culture and the memory of humanity, the circulation of cultural expressions in Ibero-America, and the reduction of social exclusions in providing cultural services.

In this scenario, the Iberarchivos program is viewed as operational support for culture as a pillar of sustainable development. This reinforces the perspective of the interdependent relationship between the environmental, economic, social, and cultural dimensions, known as the quadruple bottom line.

The Iberarchivos program's actions, as outlined in the Ibero-American Strategy for Culture and Sustainable Development, aim to promote citizenship and democratize cultural access. These efforts involve mobilizing social sectors and cultural institutions to include cultural rights in regulations, formulate and implement public policies, and develop cultural indicators, all in line with the UN's SDGs of the 2030 Agenda.

In addition to ongoing efforts to acknowledge the contributions of culture and cultural diversity, PACCI 2023-2026 has identified significant innovations in the systematic organization of cultural cooperation programs, such as Iberarchivos, and governance to promote popular participation in the development of strategies and mechanisms that are more closely aligned with the Ibero-American cultural reality.

Based on the above, it can be concluded that Iberarchivos has the potential to contribute to sustainable development as part of the system of cultural cooperation programs and as one of the actors in the cultural governance proposed by Ibero-American Cooperation. It promotes advancing the appreciation of culture and cultural diversity, social identification, and representation in the Ibero-American region and globally, particularly for citizens.

Archival institutions play a strategic role in implementing the UN's 2030 Agenda by ensuring access to public information, memory, and culture for sustainable development. This promotes societal cohesion and upholds the right to access such information.

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