

Requirements for achieving sustainable development in archive centers in Algeria

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Abstract:

In recent years, at the international level, there has been an increasing number of archives trying to keep up with the trend towards sustainable development. In this article we discuss the prospects of the commitment of the archives sector in Algeria in this perspective of sustainable development. The methodology adopted is a deductive approach that shows the efforts made by international archival bodies to encourage archival organizations to invest in this sustainable development policy, and to accompany them in adopting the rules and standards enabling them to achieve this end. As for the archives in Algeria that try to follow this approach, this will not only allow them not to harm the environment and preserve the rights of future generations to live in a healthy world, to improve the working conditions of archivists, and to ensure the conservation and safeguarding of archival collections for as long as possible.

Key Words: Algeria; archive; archive centers; environment; sustainable development.

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Introduction:

The sustainable development that is known as fulfilling the needs in present without hurting the capabilities of future generations to their needs, it aims to achieve the balance between the different needs and sometimes the opposite in one hand, and between the nature of the environmental, social and economic consciousness that we face as society in other hand. It means, we as members of society, we should work to attain our needs with taking consideration the preservation of the future generations rights in living intact environment, and achieving their goals and needs. It can be said that nowadays, the sustainable development invaded all domains and sectors and even with the varying degrees on the practice or also to fix the idea that

each generation is not created in itself and only for reaching its ambitions but also to achieve that in consideration to maintain the existence of other generations. Information systems as informational institutions were interested on the sustainable development for years, many libraries try for years adapt with the rules and sustainable development and restrict to it in order to manage its tasks.

As well, archive centers as informational institutions that took initiative for years to reach a type of sustainable development and even in some countries and not others. The most important that the specialists can present it in archive domain to their occupation, is to collect between the pillars of their job represent in saving the archival collections and transmit it to those who want to reach it. With the consideration of maintaining the environment, nature and without affecting on it, and with regard to preserve our future through understanding and dealing with the effects the climate change on the archive occupation. In the context particularly in the sector of archive in Algeria, we try to present in this work the most interesting elements of sustainable development, its components, and its reality to what extent the ability apply it from archival institutions in Algeria, and what are the ways to do that.

As it is mentioned before, the problematic of our study will be in order to get an answer of the following question, how can the archival institutions in Algeria integrated in the context of sustainability for the permanence of collections and the protection of environment? As well as we can ask some sub-questions for framing the study and orient it.

- What is the relation between the archive and the sustainable development?
- What is the result that is gotten from the archivist profession in the context of the sustainable development?
- What are the possibilities and the ways of applying the foundations of the sustainable development in archival institutions in Algeria

I. Definition of sustainable development

It can be said that the subject of sustainable development is among the most important topics which brought the whole world interest in previous years and still happen, several congresses and conferences have been held to introduce it, and to make the points of views close towards its definition, unite it and create the unanimity about its mechanisms, furthermore, generalize its application and achieve the unanimity on it, but, although all the efforts which insisted about the importance of finding the agreed definition from all about terminology of sustainable development, it is not achieved. Nowadays, we find ourselves in front of dozens of definitions thought they are closest in the almost time, and that is generally is dealing the sustainable development as it aims to achieve economic development without affecting the capabilities of future generations in fulfilling their needs (United Nation., ٢٠٠٢, p. ١٠). It is the style for changing gathers between the rational exploit of the natural resources, with the orientation the investments by coordinating in an accordance to enhance the recently and future capabilities to provide the citizens needs and their aspirations, without compromising the environment and the needs of

future generations, *"This clarifies in the congress of the international summit for the sustainable development" in Johannesburg*^١.

II. The relation of the sustainable development to the environment

The different various conference that insisted about the sustainable development on the two dimensions economic and social aim to eliminate the poverty and cancel the gap between the rich and poor countries, and achieve kind of equality among societies, in addition, it does not ignore the environment distance which consist of several sessions of meetings particularly in the last period, because of the increasing of the dangers that threat the global world similar to the global warming, floods, environmental pollution, the lack of ecological balanced, the loss of biodiversity, these dangers that threat the individual life in the present and future, it must be taken in to account through applying the mechanism of the sustainable development for achieving the balance and the environmental sustainable future. The conference (United Nation., ١٩٩٢) referred to its principles that the achievement of sustainable development should be representing the protection of environment as an integral part of the process and cannot be thought in isolation.^٢

And in the framework of applying the principles of sustainable development and the its relation to environment from the documentaries institutions, the existence of emerging new terminologies as the green libraries, the and green museum and also the green center archive and all of them are linked as they are institutions relate between the scientific intellectual distance through its role as Information system, its function is to save the historical and cultural heritage and put it under the researchers, and its role as institutions try to maintain the environment and protecting the nature with regard the program of United Nations and UNISCO which aims to the spread to apply the sustainable development rule from the cultural bodies (Rio Declaration).

III. The relation between sustainable development and archive

Nowadays, the sustainable development is the essence of the archivist occupation; intersect closely with the basic function of archivist which aims to save the archival collections in a long run for the future generation in good situations that means protect it from danger especially the dangers that are caused form the climate changes, as it is previously mentioned.

^١ The World Summit on Sustainable Development adopted a Political Declaration and a Plan of Implementation of provisions relating to a set of activities and measures to be taken in order to achieve development that takes into account respect for the environment.

^٢ The **Rio Declaration on Environment and Development**, often shortened to **Rio Declaration**, was a short document produced at the ١٩٩٢ [United Nations](#) "Conference on Environment and Development" (UNCED), informally known as the [Earth Summit](#). The Rio Declaration consisted of ٢٧ principles intended to guide countries in future [sustainable development](#). It was signed by over ١٧٠ countries.

As the to the extent the change of climate, some countries were impacted on cultural property, beside the archival and documentary collections, they started interested in this problem and try to reduce it, resembles to the association of American Archivists that stimulate too much in this domain and invite all the countries to search on the extent of the impact of climate changes in the archive in order to reduce it.

The adoption of the sustainable development topic in the field of archive has been dealt from long period; it can be considered long term condition by specialist in this field, throughout the stimulation for foundations and the elements of sustainable development on the building archive, on the archives themselves and even on the users of archive afterwards.

Since 1999, the specialist Todd Welch in the domain of archive talked about “the green Archive” similar to the green libraries and the green museum, the center archive that adapt the idea of environment and take appropriate actions in this regard (Welch, 1999, p. 11). And he clarifies that the archive domain particularly the archivist occupation will recognize an important path in future if it interested in environmental side and its relation with archive collections, and ways to save the documents in long run. The speech about archives its link to special environment transformed throughout these interesting elements:

-The extent of impact the high temperature from year to the other in the archival collections.

-Increasing the percentage of humidity beside the temperature that leads to the archive deterioration.

To the topic of sustainable archival collections which is dealt by the specialist Heidi Abbey, to the important archivist occupation that represents in saving the archivist socks for long run and make it accessible to the next generations in which the archivist works on controlling in the ecological situations stocks to save, and make the warehouses that store these stocks respond to the appropriate specification in terms of humidity, lighting, temperature and other factors that affect life of these documents (Abbey, 2012, p. 101).

Moreover, from the side of the specialist in the field of archive Diaz Pédrégál, the topic archive building dealt with focusing on building archive that is supposed to respond to technical specifications that can save the collection in good conditions in a long term into consideration of reducing the use of non-renewable energy (Diaz pédrégál. 2009, p. 31)

In the same context, Julia Martin and David Kolman presented the archives as ecosystem as everything is connected. A well, Heidi Abbey dealt with this idea to show that we are trending towards the sustainable development in the field of archive.

In 2012, also American archive specialist Mark Wolfe published an important article in the magazine “Archival Science”: Beyond Green Building. He defends about the idea that the archivists must identify and develop the sustainable archive development according to what they have been applied for the archival building in advance (Wolf. 2009, p. 41).

IV. Archive and the climate changes:

Since the 1980s, the speech started about the climate changes that has several definitions about it and generally is defined as it is all the changes which occur on the climate overtime either its origin is natural or humanist, in addition, the united nation defines it as each change occur in climate due to the result of the human activity. Thus, because of the human's interactions and his industrial, agricultural activities, the climate change. Furthermore, the increase of the population, the lack of green spaces, due to the urban invasion, and through the forest's elimination either by fires or unregulated trade of wood. The specialists confirm that this leads to bad consequences around the globe during the global warming or drought and other factors (United Nations, 2007).

The application of the sustainable development mechanisms and rules in archive centers is demonstrated in giving priority to the environmental distance, yet, before we talk about the extent to which the archive centers which apply the rules of sustainable development, we have to indicate the topic that is related to both archive and sustainable development, and it is attached to the problem of climate change and its influence on the field of archive and archival collections. In this regard and since 2010, a group of American archivists started the awareness about the dangers of climate change concerning the occupation of archive, particularly its impact on archival heritage and its long-term preservation. The archive field as it is confirmed by the specialists that on the next year it will be interested in the issue of climate change either concerning the building archive or the archival collections in itself (drought, the high temperature, floods).

V. The archivist tasks in the framework of sustainable development:

The sustainable development is not limited just on the "governance" of building archive and the surrounding factors to save archive, but also it exceeded to the archival collections, the main tasks of archivist in framework of sustainable development including the maintenance of the collections that are exposed to the climate change, and ensuring its durability, in which Mark Greene and Dennis Meissner focus on the basic tasks of archivist towards the collections for making it sustainable, which means making thinking focus on the access of sustainable to these collections and ensure the availability to the user over time. However, besides the sustainable increasing of product of the archival documents which is produced by itself from the increasing use of automation technology, it difficult to process these collections leads to accessible obstruct of the researchers (Greene & Meissner, 2010, p. 141). So, it pushes to revise the treatment methods itself, that ensure the possibility availability of the largest amount of collections for viewing. In this regard, today some countries focus on making some changes in the operations that the archival collections are subjected to it through reducing these operations, such as not making the classification of historical archive and only arrange it according to collections respect, as the classification takes a lot of time and efforts for the archivists (Henry.

١٩٩٨, p. ٣١٢).

From the other side, international archive bodies have entrusted, led by the international council of archive and independent agency of American national archives, the independent agency of American national archive NARA of the archivist agenda in the framework adopting the principles of sustainability in center archive, its steps are represented in the following elements:

١. **The evaluation:** the archivist should start evaluating the center environment especially the saving warehouses in terms of the percentage of energy utilization and, water and this is periodically.

٢. **The creativity and innovation:** the archive specialist must develop the strategy of limited goals to achieve it in the schedule, in this framework the specialist Heidi Abbey presents several examples for the potential target (organizing environmental exhibitions, increasing the public awareness, managing the groups in sustainable form, and so on the strategies that will apply for achieving it. The specialist emphasis that the several of these procedures require changing mindsets more than the implementation of program or expensive technologies (Abbey. ٢٠١٠, p. ٩٣).

٣. **The collaboration:** the archivists must collaborate with each other, plus a group of neighboring or similar occupation such as the museums and libraries and also (experts, technicians, local partners, universities, local green industries, etc) to implement specific strategies.

٤. **The education:** the archive specialist creates culture sustainable development between them, and also towards the audience.

٥. **Re-evaluation:** the archive specialist must evaluate and investigate about the procedures that are implemented correspond to audience, the financial capabilities and preservation tasks.

٦. **Working on the fighting the climate changes:** and reduce it, throughout following the sustainable development measures and publishing, advocating to it through the posters and meetings, and benefit from the foreign experience by communication and exchanging data under availability communication technology and internet networking.

٧. **The measures of sustainable development:** on the need to act for making a good work condition concerning the archivist or preparing special work rooms and the sustainable development needs, taking into account to the social principles of sustainable development.

VI. The possibilities of activating the principles of sustainable development from the archive institutions:

A number of elements are set from the international council of archive, American specialists association, and a number of archive specialists to make it as the foundations which those archive institutions set on them in depending on the principles of sustainable development in archive centers, as it is limited in the following:

- The archivists must focus their interests on the constant permanent work to find solutions that enable them to save archive in long run and at the same time protecting the environment and not affecting it, with the regard of focusing on the principles of sustainable development.
- The necessity of equipping the archive centers with effective systems for air conditioning and artificial ventilation in order to preserve the collections depending on what the standards require for preserving the archive concerning the temperature and humidity.
- Taking into account that these systems require us sometimes much energy for operating them and pay attention to their negative impact on the environment and surrounding which they are not sustainable.
- Working the use of the renewable energy in archive centers, derived from natural resources that is not lasted and are constantly renewed, such as wind, water and the sun.
- Provides archive buildings with solar panels in order to produce renewable energy without polluted environment; and inexpensive concerning the archival bodies.
- Orienting special storages for keeping the archive in form of sideways in relation to the sunrise and sunset, in order to reduce their exposure to sunlight through the day.
- Applying the principles of insulation, that are known in the domain of architecture on the archive stores, in order to reduce the flow of temperature and humidity. Intensifying and doubling the surround (covering) of archive store.
- Preparing an adaptation or transformation plan which means making changes if it is necessary in terms of danger of happening of high rates of an appropriate important climate changes for good saving to archival collections as results of some human practices.
- From the other hand, in order to respect the principles of sustainable development, some center archive work for reducing energy consumption inside the archive storage, during finding building technique that are appropriate for this, in which it is possible to control and maintain temperature and humidity inside the preservation's rooms, and this for all types of documents.
- In the case, archive building exposure to some risks such as floods, the officials must be made aware about the necessity of transform these collections to other places.
- Adopting the strategy of how to manage some crisis and predicting when they happen in order to find solutions that help to avoid them to reduce the dangers that are caused for the archival collections.

- Adopting the idea of numeric, digitizing stocks where it exists in risk places, such as endangered islands, as well the islands that are situated in the Pacific Ocean.
- Aware the public and the users of archival collections to the importance of sustainable development.
- The collaboration between the information institutions in the domain of sustainable development and combat the climate changes.
- The use of recycling material and avoiding the use of materials that pollute the environment such as plastic in archive center, and remanufacturing the documents that are exposed to damage.
- Encourage the use of electric cars to transport and transfer the archive collections.

To indicate that these elements cannot be available in all the centers, yet relatively depending on the situations for each country, particularly, they sometimes require financial capabilities.

VII. The mechanisms that activate the principles of sustainable development in the field of archive in Algeria:

١. The archive organized in Algeria.

Before addressing to the most archival institutions in Algeria, it can be defining the archival institution that is a body that is interested in collection the archive in order to save it and provide the appropriate situations, and working for make it available to everyone who needs it either the administration that produce it, the citizen who needs to these documents in order to prove it, or the researcher who doesn't find the facts just in the archival collections.

١,١ The national Center Archive: the thing that characterized the archive organization in Algeria is the rarity of special archive centers in third year, this is the latter whose presence is limited to the national archive foundation or the national archive centers in archive in Algiers. This building involves ٧٤ stores in addition to the administration part involves big number of offices, reading rooms, digitization laboratories, printing, packaging and restoration. As well, it is considered as an important gain concerning the archive field in Algeria after the independence.

١,٢ The services of states Archive: the archive state services are the archive services of the second year, i.e., it has feature of archive administration services, although it is expensive at the same time throughout saving historical at the state level and take of it. Generally, it is guided by the joint ministerial decision issued in May ٩٢(O.G.A.R. ١٩٩٢). It makes from it, services related to the general secretariat of the state. Several from these services built for it independent building from the state building, where then the allocation of an outbuilding close to the state body, to

the fact that according to the texts, it did not become independent, but rather the interests of the archive remain intermediate.

١,٣ The services of municipal archive: it also undertakes the temporary administrative archive saving at the level of the municipality; it collects the historical archive at its level before affording to the state archive or the national archive center in order to preserve it permanently.

١,٤ The executive directorates archive offices: the Algerian authorities was interested in the archive aces, this clarifies the law ٨٨-٠٩ that induced the administrations and the public institutions about the necessity of paying attention on the its administrative archive for period of time before sorting it and push what has an administrative importance to the temporary center of saving archive, from this, it becomes each administration or public institution the executive directorates at the level of states services or at least the archive offices supervised most of the time by the specialists who graduated from library science and documentary sciences.

١,٥ The archive services of central administrations: the center administrations as ministers, the national organizations, among its services it involves services of temporary saving of archive. In order to reduce the pressure in these services and ensure the proper management to these primary archival collections, the general directorate of national archive established of national archive center an annex to save center administrations archive, it is called the preliminary archive center for the central administrations.

١,٦ The archive services of public institutions: the public economic institutions and the public institutions with administrative nature also include within their organizational structure of archive services, it works to save the administrative archive and organize it, manage it.

٢. The principles to activate the mechanisms of sustainable development in the archive field in Algeria:

Algeria participated in the most meetings and forums and conferences, that is specialized on the subject of sustainable development at the international level, that is considered international clock theme, which is dealt from specialist of some sectors, beside the press and means of communication, at the national level, but, we cannot ignore the subject of sustainable development that is far from the archive field in Algeria, except for referring to it in some meetings and seminars from the academic researchers, so, the archive sector in Algeria doesn't mention too much this topic. Moreover, the guardianship body of the archive in Algeria that is represented in the general directorate of national archives didn't take awareness of necessity to activate that concept to manage the archive sector in Algeria, starting to

apply the instructions that is linked to it concerning to construct the archive buildings, prepare the building to special technology to produce the renewable energy as well to concerning to the several of the foreign archive building that provided its outside walls by thousands of solar panels that produces the solar energy, this leads to its satisfaction from this energy is not polluted the environment, as well the national archive institution is the only one enables the employees in the field to train in the domain of applying the mechanisms of sustainable development through either workshops, forums or correspondence, make the local officials aware at the state level of the importance in providing the capabilities the material resources to archive state and municipal services and others important services from general directorate of national archive. From its side, conglomerates of specialist archivists including the association of the Algerian archivists have role in highlighting the importance of the subject, and the necessity to pay attention in applying the principles of sustainable development of archive sector as it clarified and set the special international bodies, particularly, it activates through the internet and communicate from a distance with specialists in the field, the tools of social communication in that frame. We cannot pass over the role of the important of the educational institutions specially the university ones that undertake the training in the field by signing to the issue to the sustainable development concerning the information systems in general an archive sector in specifically, even if the textual contents do not address that.

During this, we can start to achieve the management of the archive services of its different levels and belonging according to the principles of sustainable development as we referred to it before.

Conclusion:

Sustainable development, this term that has spread since the ٩٠'s of the last century, aims to achieve economic development without disturbing the environment, it emphasizes the human element by protecting its environment, and taking into account the rights of future generations to live in healthy environmental conditions, that is, to develop without affecting the environment. Sustainable development is linked to the concept of green investment, which combines the concepts of economy and environment, through economic development and social well-being associated with environmental conservation. On the other hand, sustainable development is not only linked to the economic and social sphere but affects all fields, both technological and technical, but also cultural and informational fields. It is in this latter context that the field of archives has been concerned for some years by the application of sustainable development at the level of archive centres, for the construction of the building itself, but also for the choice of infrastructures as well

as for the processing of archives. For this reason, international archival bodies have developed guidelines for applying the principles of sustainable development in the management and treatment of archives. This leads us to say that it is time for the field of information in Algeria to put itself at the same level of this evolution thanks to the application of sustainable development mechanisms by information institutions, also called information systems like libraries, documentation centres and especially archive centres.

However, the application of the principles of sustainable development can only be achieved if it is carried out by the national bodies that manage the archives, which must draw up a short-, medium- or even long-term policy aimed at applying the rules of sustainable development in the field of archives and provide the necessary means for this. This leads us to say that it is time for the field of information in Algeria to put itself at the same level of this evolution through the application of sustainable development mechanisms by archive centres. The application of sustainable development principles to archives, in addition to the social and economic benefits it brings to the country, it brings many benefits to the archives sector, including:

- The construction of sustainable archive buildings with materials that ensure the long-term safeguarding of archival documents.
- The use of renewable energies which preserve the environment and are at the same time economical, the same applies to the use of electric service vehicles.
- Recycling paper from disposable documents brings gains to archives and preserves the environment.
- The principles of sustainable development make the environment in which archivists work cleaner and healthier.
- The lifespan of archival documents will be much longer in an environment that respects the rules of sustainable development and that becomes more secure for archives and guarantees their maximum safeguarding.
- The work risks that archivists sometimes face can be significantly reduced thanks to the materials used in accordance with the requirements of sustainable development.

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