



BNP PARIBAS

Call for Papers

Archives, artefacts and professional practices

How to contextualize corporate heritage collections?

12 June 2025

Paris, France

Our starting point is the importance of collecting corporate historical heritage in the banking, monetary and financial sector. How does this policy of collecting the historical heritage of companies need to combine objects, archives and professional practices? How does this policy affect the future management and development of collections? How can we collect the data most closely in line with the business processes under way, thus enabling the "archives" to be preserved and exploited in the future?

1. COLLECT: How to collect archives and artifacts that form part of the historical heritage of companies?

What collection methods, tools and selection processes are available in the face of a plethora of information, bulky objects, or seemingly innocuous artifacts? Through the collection of the series of objects, how can we collect this know-how, which is not always documented and is often a matter of oral transmission and gesture? How then can a process be documented and its evolution seen in an oral "story" whose reliability is difficult to prove?

If there is no transfer of expertise, how do you manage a bulk or collection taken over after workers or employees have disappeared? What role should or must the internal awareness of employees in the affected companies play to ensure that the collected information is both relevant and accurate, reflecting the true nature of the business? Additionally, what do national laws stipulate regarding these safeguards, particularly in relation to archives or certain types of artifacts?

2. PRESERVE: How can we ensure optimum conservation of these artifacts given the complexity of making them?

Once the collection has been completed, there are questions about the conservation of these artifacts, whose materials can be very varied. From metal to organic materials to plastic and glue, how can we preserve these materials which have not been thought up for long-term



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preservation but for intensive industrial exploitation and therefore easily replaceable? What preventive conservation strategy should be put in place in this context?

3. Analyse and DISSEMINATE: How do you account for the industrial "gesture" or "know-how" over long periods? How can this industrial memory be accessed?

Through these series of objects, how can we analyse the processes of evolution of techniques, working methods and standard practices? How to measure significant changes in know-how and usage? As part of their exploitation, how can they be made accessible to the public? How can pedagogy be made effective by objects? Is there a specific feature of the banking, monetary, economic and financial sector?

This call is intended primarily for companies in the banking, monetary, economic and financial sectors, but may be extended to other industrial sectors which have put in place ambitious policies for the collection, conservation and development of historical industrial assets which have disappeared or are still in operation. It is largely open beyond Europe's borders. In addition to analysing methods and policies for collecting, conserving and enhancing the assets of companies, it includes significant feedback in order to list good practices and/or a reference framework that can be used by those involved in preserving the assets of enterprises.

Please send your abstract 250 words approx. and a short bio of three lines to Carmen Hofmann (c.hofmann@bankinghistory.org) no later than 15 January 2025. Notice of Acceptance will be given by the end of February 2025.