

The General Archive of the City of Rio de Janeiro (AGCRJ) a body of the Secretary for Culture/City Hall of Rio – was instituted in 1567, when the city was first founded. Over the centuries that followed, it gathered the documents produced by the Municipal Chamber, and in the republican period, by the City Hall. Today, it houses collections of private documents from mayors, administrators, professors, engineers and personalities in the life of Rio de Janeiro. The archive, which includes manuscripts and printed documents, photographs, prints, tapes, videos, books and periodicals, can be consulted by any citizen interested in the city's history, or in investigating his/her rights, and provides background material to support decision-making by the public administration. It also enables aspects of the political, economic, social and urban history of the city of Rio de Janeiro to be recreated. It is, therefore, an asset of inestimable value for affirming the cultural identity of the carioca people, as the

Text Documentation

The text documentation includes manuscripts and printed documents dating from 1565 to 1985. The shelving consists of 4000 linear meters of documents, with a total stock of more than 3,500,000 items. The majority of the written documentation comes from the Municipal Chamber and the City Hall, and consists of official and administrative documents pertaining to the structure and functioning of the city's government bodies, as well as information relating to the local life of its residents, such as street maps and prices charged by the municipal authority for various services and commerce.

Iconographic, Cartographic and Audiovisual Documentation

The iconographic, cartographic and audiovisual documents provide a meaningful record of the urban transformations, customs, popular festivals, official events, public works and services in the city. The collection of photographs, postcards, prints, designs, maps, plans, films, magnetic tape, diskettes, DVDs, CDs, and CD-Roms come from the public administration and private collections. A significant portion of the photographic archive is the work of Augusto Malta and his sons, Aristógiton and Uriel, and can be consulted at the following website:

http://portalaugustomalta.rio.rj.gov.br.

Bibliographic and Periodical Information

The AGCRJ houses around 18,000 book and periodical titles, as well as pamphlets, theses, monographs and newspaper clippings relating to the city and its administrative, urban, social, economic, political and cultural history. The bibliographic archive consists mainly of official publications.

Private Collections

Throughout its history, the AGCRJ has received donations of various private collections from personalities of the city, such as mayors, governors, writers, civil servants, engineers and professors. Of special note are the Ferreira da Rosa, José de Oliveira Reis, Mario da Veiga Cabral, Saldanha Marinho, Chagas Freitas, Marcos Tamoyo and Carlos Lacerda collections.

Conservation and Restoration

Another function of the institution is to preserve, clean and restore the documentation in its care. The team carries out regular control of the environmental conditions, such as temperature and relative air humidity, as well as cleaning and restoration of the document archive. The Technical Support Team is also responsible for providing guidance on microfilming and digitization of the documents, while Photographic Laboratory has the task of reproducing photographic copies of the

Research

Research is carried out with the aim of recovering significant aspects and themes relating to the history of the city of Rio de Janeiro. The investigations support the technical treatment of the document archive and decision-making by the municipal executive authority. This sector creates and publicizes the cultural actions organized by the AGCRJ, such as seminars, exhibitions and publications. It is also responsible for the Monograph Competition, and for editing the Revista do Arquivo Geral da Cidade do Rio de Janeiro – official Journal of the

Microfilm center

The AGCRJ has a Microfilm Center which ensures that documents are preserved for future generations. Also, by providing a copy on microfilm, it enables users to access the content of documents without having to handle the originals. The existence of this centre also means that documents can be microfilmed within the institution itself, thereby guaranteeing total security.



Fotos: Eduardo Rocha