

THE RETENTION AND USE OF ACCOUNTING RECORDS IN ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

WHAT ARE RESEARCHERS LOOKING FOR?

- 1) PROFITS OVER TIME, SALES OVER TIME, TOTAL ASSETS, CAPITAL, OVER TIME**
- 2) HOW FINANCIAL FIGURES WERE USED TO MANAGE FIRMS**
- 3) EVOLUTION OF ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS**

PROBLEMS: 1) INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED BOOKS IN ARCHIVES

PROBLEMS: 2) THE TENDENCY TO KEEP GENERAL/NOMINAL LEDGERS AND LITTLE ELSE

PROBLEMS:3) PRIVATE LEDGERS (WHICH ARE OFTEN MISSING)

PROBLEMS:4) INCOMPLETE RUNS OF BOOKS

PROBLEMS:5) COMPLICATED SUB-SYSTEMS

PROBLEMS:6) THE TENDENCY TO KEEP 'MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS' FOR SHORT PERIODS ONLY (SAY, 1 YEAR)

PROBLEMS:7) COSTS EXCLUDE DEPRECIATION BEFORE IT WAS INTRODUCED

PROBLEMS:8) UNDER-RECOVERED OVERHEADS IN MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISES DISTORT COSTS

WHAT CAN BE DONE?