

## **EAP046 Pilot project to seek, identify, contact and report on collections of the endangered archives of the states of Maranhão and Pará in the Amazon region of Brazil**

This pilot project was successful in surveying 28 archives located in the Brazilian States of Pará and Maranhão. Some digitisation was conducted but the main objective was the completion of a detailed inventory providing precise information about the archives. This will form the basis for a future major digitisation project.

### **Further Information**

You can contact the EAP team at [endangeredarchives@bl.uk](mailto:endangeredarchives@bl.uk)

# EAP046 ENDANGERED ARCHIVES OF THE STATES OF MARANHÃO AND PARÁ IN THE AMAZON REGION OF BRAZIL SURVEY RESULTS

## Project Identity Statement

**EAP Reference:** EAP046  
**Title:** Pilot project to seek, identify, contact and report on collections of the endangered archives of the states of Maranhão and Pará in the Amazon region of Brazil

**Date(s) of material:** 1539 - 1899  
**Scope of project:** Survey of 28 archives

### 1. Arquivo da Arquidiocese de São Luís

**Location of Archive:** São Luís, Maranhão, Brazil

**Date(s) of material:** c.1700 - 1889

**Scope and structure:**

**Language/scripts:**

**Creating agencies:**

**Administrative history  
of the Archive:**

**Biographical history:**

**Conditions governing  
access to the material:**

**Physical conditions and  
storage of material:**

**Existence of finding  
aids:**

**Interest in future  
digitisation:**

## **2. Biblioteca Pública Benedito Leite - Coleção Ribeiro do Amaral**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	São Luís, Maranhão, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1539 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	The documents compose a special collection inside the Public Library. The periodicals are divided by title and year, being tied in bunches without any particular type of protection against environmental agents. In total, the length of the periodical collection must be approximately 20 metres and the manuscripts approximately 3 metres. The manuscripts are mostly reports and speeches of Presidents of the Province, legislation, iconography and other documents.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Miscellaneous: public and private agencies, institutions and persons.
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	The Public Library of Maranhão was created in 1829 and installed in the facilities of the old Carmo Convent, where its collections remained until 1889. Since its genesis until very recently, the Public Library has been put under different situations, sometimes of complete abandon and others of peak. For the last, the work of librarians and directors that have created praiseworthy initiatives to promote reading in Maranhão is fundamental. From a historical point of view, the Public Library has acted as an important repository of information and culture for the intellectuality of Maranhão. In the educational field, it has been the privileged space of convergent ideas and knowledge of teachers, journalists and politicians that encouraged the foundation of the Oficina dos Novos (Workshop of Novice), Sociedade Civica das Datas Nacionais (Civic Society of National Dates), Academia Maranhense de Letras (Maranhense Academy of Letters), newspapers, magazines and other actions that helped São Luis to be named in the second half of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century as the Brazilian Athens. Present-day Biblioteca Pública Benedito Leite, was created in 1979 and its collections were installed in an 19 <sup>th</sup> century building.
<b>Biographical history of José Ribeiro do Amaral:</b>	José Ribeiro do Amaral was born in São Luís in 1853 and died in 1927. He was a teacher and the founder of the Colégio São Paulo, principal of the Liceu Maranhense, and director of the Public Library. He

was also an active member of the Instituto Histórico e Geográfico do Maranhão and the Academia Maranhense de Letras. During his life, he gathered an impressive collection of manuscripts (16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries) and periodicals (19<sup>th</sup> century), which were acquired by the Provincial Government after his death. This collection is presently at the Biblioteca Pública Benedito Leite.

**Conditions governing access to the material:**

**Physical conditions and storage of material:**

The material is housed in a 19<sup>th</sup> century building. The manuscripts are stored in metallic armoires, each one with several draws. In these draws, the manuscripts are held inside large white paper folders. It has no climate control system. There are absolutely no financial resources for restoration of documents. Dozens of documents are endangered as the result of time, handling, and weather conditions.

**Existence of finding aids:**

A typed and handwritten catalogue.

**Interest in future digitisation:**

A new director was appointed last March. As the project had already finished, it was impossible to discuss the project with them. Agreements with the previous director for digitization are on hold.

### **3. Arquivo do Cartório de Notas do 2º Ofício de São Luís**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	São Luís, Maranhão, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1698 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	The collection is organized according to the type and date of the books, which mostly refer to property, contracts, wills, inventories, inheritance, and books of purchase and lists of slaves.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Cartório de Notas do 2º Ofício de São Luís
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	This is the first Notarial Office of São Luís, and for many years the only one. Previous information collected in 1988 states that the book of notes number 2 was stamped with the date of 1698 and that the book of notes number 1 was not found. The first Notarial Officer was named Manoel Maciel Aranha. In 1760, the office was divided into two and, for bureaucratic reasons, this one was called 'second' despite the fact that it was actually the first one to be installed by the Portuguese in the city of São Luís.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access is restricted.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Uncertain
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	The situation remains obscure. Access to the collection was neither granted nor was it formally denied.

#### **4. Livros da Câmara Municipal de São Luís - Projeto Praia Grande**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	São Luís, Maranhão, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1646 – 1954
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	The collection is composed of 166 manuscript volumes, each one with 150 to 250 pages. In total, its length is approximately 5 metres. The content of the books are related to the various city issues regulated by the Câmara Municipal. The books carry many titles, the most important ones being the <i>termos de vereação</i> , <i>livros de acórdãos</i> , <i>de copiador de cartas</i> , and <i>de registro geral</i> .
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Câmara Municipal de São Luís
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	The books of the Câmara Municipal de São Luís (City Council) have been under the custody of the Praia Grande Project since 1982. In this year, during an official visit to evaluate the historical value of an old stock house, government agents found the books on the floor, where they had been abandoned for many years. Exposed to rain, dust, fungi and the action of rats and bugs, many documents were destroyed. The remaining ones were then incorporated into the Praia Grande Project, a local government agency dedicated to the preservation of historical buildings and architectural landscape. Many of these books were restored by the Arquivo Público, but most of them are in extremely bad shape.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access is restricted. Written authorisation from the director of the Praia Grande Project is necessary.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	The collection is housed in a 19 <sup>th</sup> century building called <i>Solar dos Vasconcelos</i> . The collection is housed in metallic armoires and the books are protected by ordinary brown paper. Financial resources for restoration of documents are extremely limited. Dozens of documents are endangered as the result of time, handling, and weather conditions. Extremely urgent restoration of some documents and digitization of complete collections is needed in order to avoid constant handling by researchers.

**Existence of finding aids:**

Chronological inventory of the books.

**Interest in future digitisation:**

Uncertain, due to the change in direction of the Praia Grande Project. During the completion of the pilot project, the team had access to some books that were being restored by the Public Archive. However, it was impossible to make copies of them because the director was unsure about the advantage of a digitization process financed by an international institution such as the British Library.

## **5. Arquivo do Tribunal de Justiça do Estado do Maranhão**

**Location of Archive:** São Luís, Maranhão, Brazil

**Date(s) of material:**

**Scope and structure:**

**Language/scripts:**

**Creating agencies:**

**Administrative history  
of the Archive:**

**Biographical history:**

**Physical conditions and  
storage of material:**

**Existence of finding  
aids:**

**Interest in future  
digitisation:**



## **6. Arquivo Público do Estado do Maranhão**

- Location of Archive:** São Luís, Maranhão, Brazil
- Date(s) of material:** c.1758 – 1899
- Scope and structure:** The documentation is divided into 27 collections, covering vast and diverse subjects: slavery, commerce, war, music, violence, crime, health, politics, economics, and society. Each one has hundreds and thousands of manuscripts produced by Portuguese and Brazilian authorities. In total, the length of these collections is approximately 1000 metres. Many documents are bound books, while some codices are packed in cardboard boxes. Besides manuscripts and printed documents, the archive possesses collections of maps, blueprints, musical records, and newspapers. The collections have a unique historical value for knowledge of the local history and its connections with Europe, Africa, the Americas, and other parts of Brazil.
- Language/scripts:** Portuguese
- Creating agencies:** Maranhão Provincial Presidency, its subordinate Secretaries and government agencies; Secretary of Police; Secretary of Treasury; and other colonial, imperial, and national government agencies.
- Administrative history of the Archive:** The first Arquivo Público of Maranhão was created in 1932. A few months later, in 1933, it was attached to the Public Library. Between 1938 and 1946, it was subordinated to the Secretaria Geral do Estado. In 1947, it was attached to Secretaria do Interior, Justiça e Segurança. However, between 1948 and 1978, its collections were distributed among various governmental facilities, whose conditions were not adequate to house archives. It caused the destruction of a considerable amount of documents. In 1974 the remaining collections of documents were reunited and, in 1978, the definitive facilities were installed in a 19<sup>th</sup> century building to hold historical collections. Present-day Arquivo Público do Estado do Maranhão is a government agency subordinated to the Secretary of Culture. It houses an enormous number of manuscripts; mainly from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- Biographical history:**

**Conditions governing access to the material:**

Access for research purposes only.

**Physical conditions and storage of material:**

The material is housed in a 19<sup>th</sup> century building. It has serious problems of water infiltration. Financial resources for the restoration of documents are extremely limited. Thousands of documents are endangered as the result of time, handling, and weather conditions. Extremely urgent restoration of some documents and digitization of complete collections is needed in order to avoid constant handling by researchers.

**Existence of finding aids:**

Catalogues exist.

**Interest in future digitisation:**

Yes.

## **7. Arquivo do Cartório de Notas do 1º Ofício de São Luís**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	São Luís, Maranhão, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1760 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	The collection is organized chronologically and according to the type of bound volumes: certificates, rural and urban properties, commercial transactions, books of selling/buying slaves, etc. Its length is approximately 25 metres long.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Cartório de Notas do 1º Ofício de São Luís
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	This <i>cartório</i> was created in 1760 and its first Notarial Clerk was Carlos José da Câmara.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access for research purposes only.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	The material is housed in a regular building used by the Notarial Office. Despite the fact that the team did not have access to the storage room where the archival material was located, it seems that there is no special treatment to the material, with it being exposed to natural and human actions.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Yes.

## **8. Arquivo do 1º Cartório de Órfãos de São Luís**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	São Luís, Maranhão, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1880 - 1888
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	The documentation is approximately 85 metres in length. There are many bound volumes referring to all different processes dealing with inheritance and legal issues faced by minor orphans and their representatives. According to information collected, most of the books are inventories of inherited property, including Black slaves. It was not possible to collect more detailed information on the collection.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	1º Cartório de Órfãos de São Luís
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	This type of Notarial Office dealt particularly with the issues related to orphans that inherited goods and properties from their parents but were not the legal age required to manage them. Usually, a designated judge appointed a curator to oversee their legal rights and assets.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Yes

## **9. Acrevo do Museu Histórico e Artístico de São Luís**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	São Luís, Maranhão, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1827 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	The collection has 355 documents from various origins, and also some pictures and drawings. The most important series is the original process moved by the prosecutor Celso da Cunha Magalhães against Rosa Viana Ribeiro, the Baroness of Grajaú, who was brought to judgment in 1876 after killing two slave children with a fork. She was absolved.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Various
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	The Museu Histórico e Artístico do Maranhão was created in 1968 and opened its doors in 1973. The first documents received came from donations made by private holdings. In 1975, it expanded and created an annex in the old building of the Cafua das Mercês, the old slave dungeon where Black slaves were hold before going to the public market. Its main items are documents and artefacts that relate to slavery in Maranhão.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Previous authorisation necessary.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	The material is housed in a 19 <sup>th</sup> century building. From the visit it was possible to see that the archival material is located in iron armoires, but the building does not have any system of climate control.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Yes. However, at the time of the survey no digital copies of the documents were allowed.

## **10. Arquivo do Cartório do 1º Ofício de Notas de Alcântara**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Alcântara, Maranhão, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1799 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	This Notarial Office holds an important part of the local history of the city of Alcântara. The length of the collection is approximately 5 metres. Most of the documents are bound into books that deal with registering property, mortgages, transference of land and buildings, wills and inventories.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Cartório do 1º Ofício de Notas de Alcântara
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access for research purposes only.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	Most of its bound volumes were sent to the Archive of the Tribunal de Justiça (please refer to 5. Arquivo do Tribunal de Justiça do Estado do Maranhão). The material is housed in a 19 <sup>th</sup> century building and is entirely exposed to the action of time and weather. Dozens of documents are endangered as the result of time, handling, and weather conditions. Extremely urgent restoration of some documents and digitization of complete collections is needed in order to avoid constant handling by researchers and clerks.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Yes. However, at the time of the survey no digital copies of the documents were allowed.

## **11. Arquivo do Cartório do 2º Ofício da Comarca de Alcântara**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Alcântara, Maranhão, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1802 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	During the completion of the project, the Notarial Office was undergoing reform and the archive material was not available for consultation. The senior clerk was unsure about the scope and structure of the collection and was not able to provide any information about it.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Cartório do 2º Ofício da Comarca de Alcântara
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	This Notarial Office was created in the last quarter of the 18 <sup>th</sup> century. Part of its original archive was sent to the Cartório do 1º Ofício da Comarca de Alcântara, when it was dismembered (please refer to 10. Arquivo do Cartório do 1º Ofício de Notas de Alcântara). A great deal of its documents were recently sent to the archive of the Tribunal de Justiça (please refer to 5. Arquivo do Tribunal de Justiça do Estado do Maranhão).
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access for research purposes only.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	The material is housed in a 19 <sup>th</sup> century building that was undergoing restoration during the completion of the project. However, examining the whole condition of the building and local extended practices on preservation, it is possible to infer that the documents were stored in inappropriate places for archival material. The senior clerk did not allow the team to have contact with the collection.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Unsure

## **12. Arquivo do Cartório do 1º Ofício de Caxias**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Caxias, Maranhão, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1749 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	The collection was not made available to the team of the project. Most of the documents were housed in the local <i>Forum</i> , the justice building. According to the available information, its length is of approximately 45 metres. It contains many volumes of various registers that relate to property and inheritance, and includes records on slaves.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Cartório do 1º Ofício de Caxias
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	This Notarial Office was founded in 1749. Its first officer was Gregório José Rebello.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access for research purposes only.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	The few materials made available for consultation showed a great deal of deterioration. The material is housed in a building erected in the 1970s, but most of it seems to be stored in an inappropriate fashion, without any kind of system of defence against plagues and weather conditions. Extremely urgent restoration of some documents and digitization of complete collections is needed in order to avoid constant handling by researchers and clerks.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Yes.



### **13. Arquivo do Cartório do 2º Ofício de Caxias**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Caxias, Maranhão, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1735 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	Previous reports on the collection state that it has documents from the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries. However it was impossible to check this information during the project as the present-day <i>tabelião</i> was unsure as to the whereabouts of the documents. They are possibly in storage at the local <i>Forum</i> .
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Cartório do 2º Ofício de Caxias
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	This Notarial Office was created in 1823. Its first officer was Antonio Carlos da Cunha.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	No

#### **14. Arquivo da Cúria Diocesana de Caxias**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Caxias, Maranhão, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1735 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	Most of the books deal with the religious life of the free and slave population, such as records of baptism, marriage, and death. The length of the collection is some 50 metres.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Cúria Diocesana de Caxias
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	The Diocese of Caxias was created by Pope Pius XII in 1939. The diocese received a large amount of documents from the churches of the region, especially from the church Nossa Senhora de Nazaré of Caxias.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access is restricted. Formal authorisation from the bishop is required.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	The collection is housed in an early 20 <sup>th</sup> century building. The books are stored on open shelves. The room has no climate control or protection against insects and rats. Extremely urgent restoration of many documents and digitization of complete collections is required in order to avoid constant handling by researchers, clerks and general public.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Unsure. At the time of the survey no digital copies of the documents were allowed.

## **15. Arquivo do Cartório do 1º Ofício de Codó**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Codó, Maranhão, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1836 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	Early reports on the collection state that it was composed of several books of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. However, the collection has now virtually vanished and no one could give a convincing account about how it happened. According to available information, most of the collection was sent to the local <i>Forum</i> and, from there, was collected by archivists of the Tribunal de Justiça do Maranhão (please refer to 5. Arquivo do Tribunal de Justiça do Estado do Maranhão). Remaining material was not suitable for consultation.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Cartório do 1º Ofício de Codó
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	Remaining material is in extreme danger. The documents are housed in a building not suitable for their protection.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	No

## **16. Arquivo do Cartório do 2º Ofício de Codó**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Codó, Maranhão, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1851 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	Early reports on the collection state that it was composed of several books of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. However, the collection has now virtually vanished and no one could give a convincing account about how it happened. According to available information, most of the collection was sent to the local <i>Forum</i> and, from there, was collected by archivists of the Tribunal de Justiça do Maranhão (please refer to 5. Arquivo do Tribunal de Justiça do Estado do Maranhão). Remaining material was not suitable for consultation.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Cartório do 2º Ofício de Codó
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	Remaining material is in extreme danger. The documents are housed in a building not suitable for their protection.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	No

## **17. Arquivo Público do Estado do Pará**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Belém, Pará, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1655 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	The archive holds approximately four million documents divided into 10 major collections covering subjects related to Executive, Legislative, and Judicial powers. The documents occupy an extension of approximately 5000 metres. The codices are conditioned into cardboard boxes and/or wrapped in brown paper. Besides manuscripts and printed documents, the archive possesses collections of iconographic material, maps, blueprints, drawings, and a copy of the rare <i>Atlas da Costa Brasileira</i> published in 1640 by the cosmographer João Teixeira de Albernaz. The collections have a unique historical value for knowledge of the local history and its connections with Europe, Africa, the Americas, and other parts of Brazil.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Secretaria do Governo de Estado do Grão Pará e Maranhão; Secretaria da Presidência da Província; Assembléia Legislativa Provincial; Congresso Legislativo; Varas Cíveis of Belém and other cities.
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	In 1884, archival collections of the former State of Grão Pará and Maranhão were incorporated into the Public Library. In 1901, the arrangement was formalized with the creation of the Biblioteca e Arquivo Público and remained unaltered until 1986, when the library and archive became autonomous government agencies; both subordinate to the Secretary of Culture. It is one of the most important archives of the Amazon region due the privileged situation of Belém, which remained the capital of the Portuguese Amazonia for several years. It houses an enormous number of manuscripts; mainly from the 17 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access for research purposes only.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	The archive is housed in a neo-classical style building from the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. It has precarious control of heat

and humidity. Financial resources for restoration of documents are limited. Thousands of documents are endangered as the result of time, handling, and weather conditions. Extremely urgent restoration of some documents and digitalization of complete collections in order to avoid constant handling by researchers.

**Existence of finding aids:**

Catalogues exist.

**Interest in future digitisation:**

Yes.

## **18. Arquidiocese de Belém**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Belém, Pará, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1719 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	The collections of the Diocese of Belém are distributed among several facilities and are unorganized as the Diocese has no specific building to house its archival material. The team did not have access to the collections.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Arquidiocese de Belém
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	The Diocese of Belém was created by Pope Clemente XI in 1719, when it was separated from the Diocese of Maranhão as a result of an appeal of the King of Portugal João V. It was elevated to the category of archdiocese in 1906 by Pope Pius X.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access is restricted.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Yes

## **19. Instituto Histórico e Geográfico do Pará - Coleção de Manuscritos**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Belém, Pará, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1809 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	This collection includes many documents from Belém's City Council. The main volumes are named: <i>Atas, Ofícios da Presidência, Livro de Lançamento das Resoluções</i> , etc. Private documents were donated by politicians and others.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Various
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	This collection was initially formed in 1943.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access for research purposes only.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	The building of the Instituto Histórico was under restoration and the team did not have access to the collection or its storage environment.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Yes



## **20. Irmandade Nossa Senhora do Rosário da Campina**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Belém, Pará, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1720 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	Unsure. All the documents were sent to the archives of the Diocese of Belém (please refer to 18. Arquidiocese de Belém).
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Irmandade Nossa Senhora do Rosário da Campina
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	This black religious brotherhood was created in 1682, its church being erected by slaves. In 1720, the <i>compromisso</i> of the brotherhood was signed by their members. It is surely one of the most remote documents signed by Black slaves in the Amazon region.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access is restricted.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Unsure

## **21. Arquivo do Tribunal de Justiça do Estado do Pará**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Belém, Pará, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1880 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	The collection is basically formed by judicial processes held within the <i>comarca</i> of Belém during the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Its length is approximately 100 metres. The collection is divided according to the date and types of documents.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Tribunal de Justiça do Estado do Pará and regional Notarial Offices
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	The library of the Tribunal de Justiça do Pará was created in 1874. As corollary, a section to house archival material was installed besides the library, being today designated as Divisão de Documentação e Arquivo.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access is restricted. In a phase of organisation.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	The collection is housed in a relatively new building. However, financial resources for the restoration of documents are limited. Hundreds of documents are endangered as the result of time, handling, and weather conditions. Extremely urgent restoration of some documents and digitalization of complete collections is required in order to avoid constant handling by researchers and clerks.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Yes

## **22. Cartório do 1º Ofício da Cidade de Santarém - Anexo**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Santarém, Pará, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1820 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	The collection is divided according to the date and type of the documents. It is composed of volumes related to property and commercial transactions. There are several books specifically dedicated to dealings on slaves during the 19 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Cartório do 1º Ofício da Cidade de Santarém
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	This Notarial Office was created in 1866.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access is restricted.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	The material is housed in a 19 <sup>th</sup> century building. The volumes are kept in steel armoires. There are no financial resources for restoration. Hundreds of documents are endangered as the result of time, handling, and weather conditions. Urgent restoration of some documents and digitization of complete collections are necessary.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Yes

### **23. Cartório do 2º Ofício da Cidade de Santarém - Fórum**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Santarém, Pará, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1770 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	Unsure. It seems that the collection was transferred to the local <i>Forum</i> , Justice facilities, but no one could give an accurate answer.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Cartório do 2º Ofício da Cidade de Santarém
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access is restricted.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	No

## **24. Museu Integrado de Óbidos – Manuscritos**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Óbidos, Pará, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1760 – 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	The documents are basically divided into 200 books and 1000 one-page manuscripts (approximately). Each book contains 150 to 250 pages. The inline extension of the collection is approximately 20 metres.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Óbidos' Mayor; local City Council; and others
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	The Museu Integrado de Óbidos was created in 1983 by the Associação Cultural Obidense. The main objectives of the association were: to restore architectural patrimony, to preserve and stimulate regional culture, and to establish a museum unit. In 1985 Museum facilities were installed in a 19 <sup>th</sup> century building, which also houses an important collection of local government documents.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access for research purposes only.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	The material is housed in a 19 <sup>th</sup> century building. The documents are in metal cabinets, in files (manuscripts) and in brown paper (books). Weather conditions threaten the documents since there is no climate and humidity control. Fungi have already destroyed several documents. It has serious problems with ventilation and humidity. Financial resources for restoration of documents are extremely limited. Hundreds of documents are endangered as the result of time, handling, and weather conditions. Extremely urgent restoration of some documents and digitalization of complete collections in order to avoid constant handling by researchers.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	A catalogue manuscript with the list of the documents and the artefacts of the museum.
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Yes

## **25. Igreja de Nossa Senhora de Sant' Anna**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Óbidos, Pará, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1697 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	Unsure. The collection is extremely rich, but access is difficult.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Igreja de Nossa Senhora de Sant' Anna
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	In 1663, Franciscan missionaries arrived in the area today known as Óbidos to help Portuguese settlers. They brought with them some Amerindian individuals from the Pauxi group. The presence of Amerindian in the city caused uncountable conflicts with the settlers because of the opposition of the priest to their enslavement. In the second half of the 18 <sup>th</sup> century, the Franciscan missionaries were expelled from Óbidos by the Marquis of Pombal. The religious life of the village passed to the secular church, subordinated to the state. Only in 1909 did Franciscan missionaries return to Óbidos.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access is extremely restricted. Past cases of stolen documents have made senior missionaries extremely jealous of the local religious archival collection.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	There are no archival facilities.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Unsure

## **26. Cartório do 1º Ofício da Cidade de Vigia**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Vigia, Pará, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1700 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	The historical documents were originally bound into books, but today most of them are falling apart. The length of the collection is approximately 5 metres.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Cartório do 1º Ofício da Cidade de Vigia
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	Not available until 1930, when this Notarial Office was directed by Francisco Olavo Raiol. Since then the <i>cartório</i> has been passed from one generation to another.
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access is restricted.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	The collection is housed in a 19 <sup>th</sup> century building. There is no protection against plagues and weather conditions. Humidity and poor storage has caused the destruction of many documents. Most of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century documents are in great danger of complete destruction. Extremely urgent restoration of many of the documents and digitization for the preservation of data is required. The situation was so precarious that it was impossible to make digital copies of documents.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Yes

## **27. Cartório do 1º Ofício de Registro de Imóvel da Cidade de Bragança**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Bragança, Pará, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1816 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	This Notarial Archive is approximately 15 metres long and is organized alphabetically and chronologically. The great majority of the volumes refer to real estate transactions, but it is possible to find records of wills, inventories, and sales of slaves.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Cartório do 1º Ofício de Registro de Imóvel da Cidade de Bragança
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access is restricted.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	The material is housed in a 19 <sup>th</sup> century building. It has problems of weather and plague control. There are no financial resources for the restoration of documents. Dozens of documents are endangered as the result of time, handling, and weather conditions. Urgent restoration of some documents and digitization of complete collections is required in order to avoid constant handling by researchers.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Yes. However, at the time of the survey no digital copies of the documents were allowed.



## **28. Arquivo da Igreja de São Domingos do Capim**

<b>Location of Archive:</b>	São Domingos do Capim, Pará, Brazil
<b>Date(s) of material:</b>	c.1779 - 1889
<b>Scope and structure:</b>	Previous reports on the collection state that there were ecclesiastic documents from the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries. However, during the visit of the team, we were informed that most of them were sent somewhere, but no one knew their precise and actual location. Only a few records of birth and marriage from the 19 <sup>th</sup> century remained.
<b>Language/scripts:</b>	Portuguese
<b>Creating agencies:</b>	Igreja de São Domingos do Capim
<b>Administrative history of the Archive:</b>	
<b>Biographical history:</b>	
<b>Conditions governing access to the material:</b>	Access is restricted.
<b>Physical conditions and storage of material:</b>	Remaining documents are stored in steel armoires, but the house is not adequate for the proper preservation of archival material.
<b>Existence of finding aids:</b>	Not available
<b>Interest in future digitisation:</b>	Yes. However, at the time of the survey no digital copies of the documents were allowed.