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# THE IMPORTANCE OF ELECTRONIC STORAGE OF DOCUMENTATION IN AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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**Summary:** In this study, the authors point out the importance of archiving documentation in agricultural enterprises in the Republic of Serbia. The aim of the study was to point out the importance of a new approach (application of electronic archiving) in agricultural enterprises. This is of great importance because documentation is the basis for financial reporting and financially stable management in the company. The survey was conducted in 144 agricultural enterprises and we found that financial management and control was introduced in 79 enterprises, and that an insufficient level of control at the enterprise level was present in 65 enterprises. By presenting the Phi/Cramer correlation coefficient, the authors proved the existence of statistical significance (p = .00) and achieving more secure archiving of documentation in agricultural enterprises that have introduced a system of financial management and control in their regular operations.

**Keywords:** documentation, financial management and control.

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# INTRODUCTION

Corporate management in the economy, and especially management in agricultural enterprises, requires adequate storage and archiving of documentation [1-5] in enterprises. Archiving documentation in companies is one of the most important tasks that must be done in order to reduce the general risk of doing business in companies [6-10].

Numerous studies emphasize the importance of applying standards in business. One of the ways to perform general standardization in business is the application of international accounting standards [11]. This is especially significant in companies that operate mainly as agricultural companies and that make their living in primary agricultural production [12-15], where the application of internal controls of all production processes is becoming more pronounced.

Thus observed, the existence of general conditions related to business in agricultural production essentially leads to changes in the general socio-economic conditions of business in the economy as a whole [16].

In agricultural production and production that accompanies agriculture, it is necessary to take into account real financial reporting, which is pointed out by numerous authors such as [17], which essentially represents only the first stage of successful management.

The second stage is the disposal of documentation, i.e. archiving of documentation, which was the basis for the preparati on of this study by the author.

Therefore, the authors of the study basically had the idea to observe the archiving of documentation in agricultural companies, but also to observe the forms of control introduced in them from the point of view of general security of documentation disposal in the mentioned companies.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

To prepare this study, the authors conducted a survey in 144 companies that basically operate as agricultural companies. The survey was conducted with the aim of determining the existence of possible differences between electronic archiving of documentation in agricultural companies and the classic form of archiving documentation.

The aim of the author was to determine the existence of possible differences between the two forms of archiving documentation in the surveyed companies. The existence of the introduced system of financial control and management was determined in 79 agricultural companies, and the introduced systems of establishing control in the company were not found in 65 companies.

The research was done in the first half of 2021. Sim surveyed companies were guaranteed anonymity and it was guaranteed that the generals of the company would not be shown, but the obtained data would be used for the purpose of publishing scientific papers and for the purposes of this study.

The statistical package SPSS IBM 22.0 was used for data processing.

The authors used the application of descriptive statistical methods, which were intended for different types of levels of measurement of variables (Phi / Cramer correlation coefficient).

#### RESEARCH RESULTS

For the purpose of strengthening attitudes regarding the archiving of documentation, the authors of the study used a descriptive presentation of the obtained survey results. The starting point in the research was the existence of two forms of archiving documentation, namely: classical archiving of documentation and electronic archiving of documentation (a new model of archiving). The obtained results are presented by the authors in the form of Table 1.

Strengthening of attitudes was done by applying the representation using the Phi / Cramer correlation coefficient, and the results of statistical significance are presented by the authors in the form of a tabular presentation in Table 2.

Table 1. Descriptive presentation of the two analyzed forms of archivin documentation in agricultural enterprises in relation to the two forms of introduced control in enterprises

agricultural enterprises in relation to the two forms of introduced control in enterprises					
		Control form		Total	
		Financial management and control	Lack of control	Total	
Form of	Electronic office	77	3	80	
archiving	Classic office	2	62	64	
Total		79	65	144	

Source: authors' calculation (2021).

Table 2: Display of Phi/Cramer's correlation coefficient

	The correlation coefficient	Statistical significance of the coefficient
Phi	.930	.000
Cramer's V	.930	.000
Total number of surveyed companies	144	

Source: authors' calculation (2021).

#### **DISCUSSION**

The starting point in this study was that archiving of documents works equally well in companies if a system of financial management and control is introduced, as well as that in such companies in most cases archiving is done in electronic form (a new way of archiving documentation), in relation to another form of archiving in companies in which the system of financial management and control has not been introduced, and in such companies the documentation is stored and archived through a classically organized office (company office).

The results of the research indicate that there is a statistical significance expressed through Cramer's correlation coefficient (p = .000), i.e. there are pronounced differences in the security of documentation archiving in the mentioned two forms of organization in companies.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the obtained research results, it can be concluded that there is a really big difference between the two forms of archiving organization in agricultural enterprises in the Republic of Serbia. A new way of organizing archiving in agricultural companies most often occurs with companies that have introduced electronic archiving of documentation, but also with which there is an introduced system of financial management and control. The old way of archiving is present in agricultural companies that do not have introduced controls. The authors of the study indicate that the results of the research are such that there is a pronounced statistical significance visible in Table 2 by showing Cramer's correlation coefficient (p = .000), i.e. there are significant differences in the security of archiving documentation for agricultural enterprises that have introduced one form of control in their business, and forms of archiving documentation.

# Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the Authors.

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# ZNAČAJ ELEKTRONSKOG ČUVANJA DOKUMENTACIJE U POLJOPRIVREDNIM PREDUZEĆIMA U REPUBLICI SRBIJI

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Sažetak: U ovoj studiji autori ukazuju na značaj arhiviranja dokumentacije u poljoprivrednim preduzećima u Republici Srbiji. Cilj studije bio je da ukaže na značaj novog pristupa (primeni elektronskog arhiviranja) u poljoprivrednim preduzećima. To je od velike važnosti jer dokumentacija je osnov za finansijsko izveštavanje i finansijsko stabilno upravljanje u preduzeću.

Istraživanje je sprovedeno u 144 poljoprivredna preduzeća i utvrdili smo da je finansijsko upravljanje i kontrola uvedena u 79 preduzeća, a da nedovoljan nivo kontrole na nivou preduzeća je prisutan u 65 preduzeća.

Prikazom Phi-Cramer koeficijenta korelacije Autori su dokazali postojanje statističke značaja (p = .00) i postizanje sigurnijeg arhiviranja dokumentacije u poljoprivrednim preduzećima koja su uvela sistem finansijskog upravljanja i kontrole u svoje redovno poslovanje.

Ključne reči: dokumentacija, finansijsko upravljanje i kontrola.

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