



Forming new rare work collections: Typologies, reasons and projection in university environment

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121 — *Rare and special collections depending on history: Latin America and the Caribbean* — Rare Books and Manuscripts Section with Latin America and the Caribbean

Abstract:

In the sphere of forms and manuscripts, the passage of time causes the dynamics of the concept of 'rare' applied to collections that once time didn't consider such in the reaches of academic libraries in Latin American, essentially generated in 20th century. Surviving numerous adverse factors, among them the lack of interest and necessity of the environment in which they were originally created and valued, diverse types of materials usually are only conserved -in best of the cases- in warehouses, disuse areas or discarded of the general collections, in other cases in some office of the academic personnel, or in some personal collection. Starting with traditional concept of 'rare', the concept is a new configuration in this type of collections, discussing the diverse incident factors which take to affirm that these collections have become rare: Extinction supposed, Shortage, Absence of conservation, Disuse and Purge. Some detected typologies are detailed, such as the produced by the request of the academic activity (case of theses, minor thesis and field research projects), original forms for curricular and extracurricular courses (programs, manuals, tests), as well as the produced by the institutional activity (case of internal printed of all type). Following the case study methodology, the previous thing is exemplified in the library book collection identified in Cultural Heritage of Monterrey Tech, institution of education superior with presence in all Mexico. Some representative cases within each typology are reviewed. The problems referred to the control, storage and conservation of these collections in a scope of special collections, and relation with the academic library are approached. The wealth that hoards these documents (over the years the curve of intrinsic value of these collections is accentuated), not only as far as historical/institutional thing, but with the object of causing studies is explained on history of science, methodology characteristics of scientific literature, analyses, trends and research methods, precise pursuit to the trajectory of some scientists and intellectuals, among others.

INTRODUCTION

With the beginning of the 21st century 2nd decade, they begin to appear an enormous concern around the expiry of documentary materials mainly of formats, which until years ago seemed irremovable.

In the case of audio-visual material, VHS could be an excellent example and compact disks in the digital supports field. And we could follow, because the technological evolution takes to it.

The incorporation of new documentary materials to the concept of 'rare' has not been sufficiently analyzed, from our humble perspective, because there is a lack of a necessary reflection about it in an academic and university libraries field.

The pass of the time also brings about this quiet and dangerous incorporation. Quiet because usually it happens unnoticed before the vortex of events in academic means and dangerous because several types of documents run the risk of disappearing if they do not consider and works suitably for conservation in the same academic means where it was produced and used.

DEVELOPMENT

Reitz (2004) by rarity understand: "The degree to which a book, map, or other item is scarce or uncommon, which, in combination with its age, condition, and aesthetic qualities, helps determine its value in the market place."

In this way the rarity isn't simple. It is complex, and that complexity is related with material and immaterial aspects, and it ties in this definition to a market sale of documentary goods.

Martinez de Souza (1993) indicates a book can be rare "por la materia que trata, el corto número de ejemplares impresos o conservados, su antigüedad u otra característica o circunstancia se convierte en un excepción." It identifies two causes of rarity: 1. Little amount of units. 2. Peculiarity in materials and procedures for work impression.

Part to be understood here that the work or works it adapt/s to the concept, but nevertheless the concept can be updated according to the context and to the time to avoid an anachronism in it.

Thus, the dynamics and the passage of time to help examine newly this concept, which next will be realised on the matter in the light of new evidence.

The departure point is the existence of academic documentary types in universities worldwide, but particularly in Latin America, that constitute a singular value for the university institutions.

It is the case of thesis and minor thesis, frequently taken like requirements to be able to arrive at a defined academic degree. In some institutions minor thesis is used for the degree and the thesis for the postgraduate, or properly thesis or doctoral dissertation.

The investigation or research field projects are another document typology that generally does not get to have the level of depth of those, but imply a research work and elaboration on the coaching basis or educational advising. These, like monographs and tests, are taken in some institutions like final papers or culminating works from an university degree .

Certainly the monographs and essays don't have the investigation level and original elaboration from before mentioned, but they imply bibliographical investigation and a meticulous elaboration and writing.

All these types of mentioned documents are elevated like true institutional documentary memory, since the graduation of a person, definitive an administrative act in an academic institution, depends on his finished and approval of a court, jury or educational committee, taking passage to the concession of an academic degree from a determined educative institution.

Besides these documents - that can be unique in many cases- in the educative institutions can be found printed that they are born from academic dynamics: Curricular programs with or without course's bibliographies, support materials (exercises, experiments, readings, etc.), course's manuals, as well as true essays and monographic works, product of the intellectual educators activity. This typology tends to pass to the digital format with the increasing use of educative platforms, as the case of Learning Space, Blackboard, WebCT, Learning Frame, etc., which raises another enormous challenge of conservation, because the digital information usually is more ephemeral in the context of Internet that the own printed information.

Outside academic publications types indicated, that usually they are united to a course, a teacher, a particular curriculum and that therefore is probable that the more early or behind schedule no longer they reproduce, or, they reproduce with successive modifications.

This generates a great challenge for who organizes the information and wants to conserve registered, ordered and controlled this institutional academic material.

To complicate more this situation, the universities and higher education institutions can be found more material (the pamphlet's proliferates, although not only) like memories, reports, catalogues and informative pamphlets of all classes and sizes, that certainly they constitute institutional memory because it derives from the nature of the political activity, administrative and cultural of the organization. Nevertheless, rarely it is considered material ephemeral worthy to be conserved.

Against this background, rarity concept comes to the east consideration with which this section was opened.

It is probable that in the market, these types of materials don't own the economic interest that is praised in the definition of Reitz, but doesn't mean that they don't own a value and a particular interest in the context in which they took place, developed

and somehow they dead, losing the interest of consultation in some cases and conservation in others.

This must to that the permanent change generates conditions or factors critics to consider them rare:

1. **Supposed extinction:** This usually happens when the necessity arises to commit some compilation of retrospective information with the object of information, remembrances, evocations and tributes. When being protected it doesn't copy some, the memory arises in some head and begins the frenetic tracking of a document that is not within certain temporary space of search in an institutional context. It is necessary open the requirement to other scopes and that generates certain tension and uncertainty that the material isn't already in existence. This is what returns rare to a material, because the situation makes valuable and necessary.
2. **Shortage:** The absence of an optimal amount of copies known the document causes that the same begins to be seen in a value context, of another way. Here the phrases "I have a copy that I can loan you" to you do see this makes a rare document of the same.
3. **Absence of conservation:** The lack of a defined policy of ephemeral document conservation is generally what causes in this material type. There are problems of control and location, as well as negligence in his conservation (the typical boxes with documents that are left in a warehouse, a humid corner, etc.).
4. **Disuse:** The disuse is brought about in academic means before the change. Change of teacher, change of curriculum, change of contents, etc. But also before the loss of use of contents that cause that the material less is used in the typical pending use curve of an academic document, as the case of theses.
5. **Purge:** This they are put under some academic documentary typologies, which culminate with a true depredation of the same, before the consideration of low print, internal circulation fugitive, among others aspects to consider.

MONTERREY TECH CASE

Following the methodology of cases, according to Stake (cited by Hernández Sampieri, Fernández Collado & Baptista Lucio, 2010) of intrinsic type (that the intention is to intensify the interest of the reader and the specialist) all the information around the referred situation of the following documentary types appears before indicated, located in the libraries of the Monterrey Tech: Thesis and academic publications tie to degree courses.

In order to begin, it's possible to indicate that the Monterrey Tech (founded in 1943 in the Mexican city that gives name him) is a subsystem of the Monterrey Tech System, conformed from November ends of 2010 by other 3 subsystems: Millenium Tech, Virtual University and Medical Institutes and Centers.

The Monterrey Tech consists in “31 campus y 22 sedes internacionales, así como sus dos Escuelas Nacionales de Posgrado: la EGADE Business School, y la EGAP (Escuela de Graduados en Administración Pública y Política Pública).” (Tecnológico de Monterrey, SNC, 2010). In this way it is possible to be considered like the unique national University, with 80,000 students and 8,000 teachers, great influence and increasing weight in some areas of investigation.

It owns a network of Libraries that are interconnected through a portal whose central axis is the catalogue on line (<http://millenium.itesm.mx/>), in that a total of 2.683.454 volumes is combined, according to the 2010 annual report (Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, 2011), having itself acquired 150,494 volumes during the same year.

When speech of volumes, volumes are included in “libros, bases de datos, enciclopedias, discos compactos y videos” (Idem, p. 14).

Through of the Millennium System statistical module, handled by the Monterrey Tech Libraries, basic information could be obtained to characterize the location and the consequent treatment of the indicated documentary types.

THESIS

In the case of theses, the catalogued in the automated system and format paper, added 7630 bibliographical records, that is to say, titles, to 2011 May.

703 digitalized were excepted, 197 located in the Education Library of the Virtual University of Monterrey Tech and 31 in the Medical School Ignacio Santos library (EMIS).

Of 7,630 theses, 5,862 (76.82%) are in the Monterrey Campus. The rest distributes in the rest of the libraries, emphasizing the Campus Mexico City with the 365 (4.78%) and Toluca Campus with 295 (3.86%).

Generally the theses in the Campuses are in bookcase, or of free access or in reference.

In the case of the Monterrey Campus, the things change enormously. To the being the foundational Campus or ‘mother’, where are the first professional theses to more recent doctoral dissertations of unique programs, only offered in this Campus.

Thus, for example, are 3,086 theses, professionals in their majority, a denominated location “Relocation”, the cellar of Library building. 817 are located there, but a copy in microfiche of the work in paper exists additionally. In 102 cases they are in that location, but there are existing copies in other Campus. 92 were in processing, 74 in facilities of Cultural Heritage (old theses of diverse origin, not of the Monterrey Tech) and 1,765 in the floors.

So that a thesis in cellar goes to the floors, must be required, reason why it is understood that an enormous amount of theses that when being required, are not

especially marginalized in a little recommendable location for their conservation, for oldest exists.

What means in this work oldest? Because the cut that sets out is year 1984 including, since in 1985 a new institutional stage with a new Chancellor began who in the end lasted 26 years in functions and expanded and transformed the Monterrey Tech into an educative multi-system.

Counting these theses (the produced ones until 1984 including), they are the 2,253 catalogued and that they have the following space distribution:

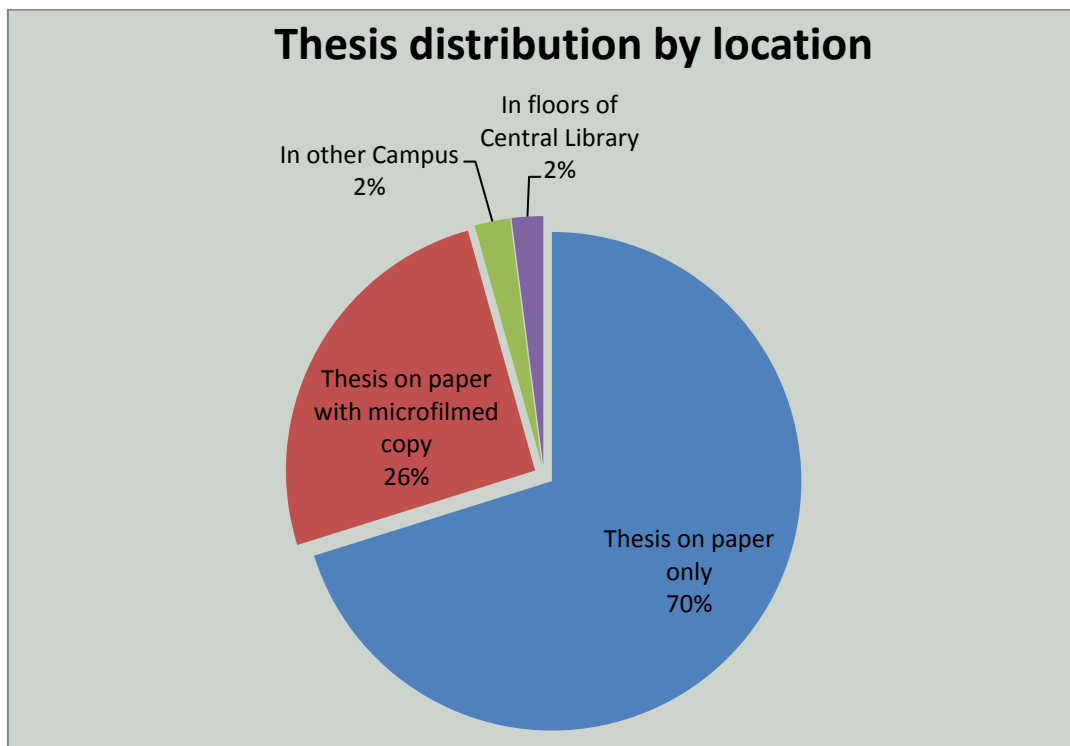


Figure 1: Location of catalogued thesis.

It is to clarify that the theses in other Campuses of date until 1984 aren't theses that from student's Institution, so that its origin is another university.

The attention concentrates now in that 1581 that is in paper. Of almost all 2 copies are controlled. Is tranquility on the one side, but on the other constitutes a potential danger before the possibility of deterioration as his storage.

It's important to clarify that all the theses that are in this set don't have their origin in the Institute. 2% correspond to the Chapingo University and 1% to the Autonomous University of Nuevo León (UANL in Spanish abbreviation). In any case the enormous majority constitutes unique material that must be assayed like academic memory.

Down, in Figure 2, its subject composition:

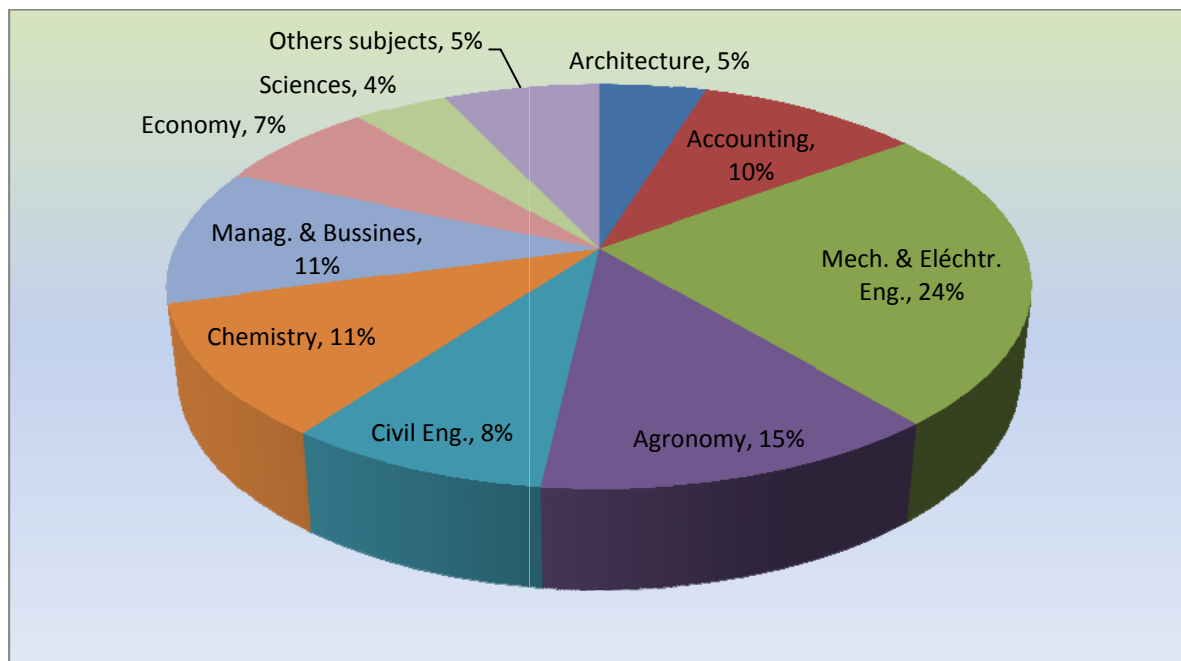


Figure 2: Subject distribution of thesis until 1984 in Monterrey Campus (Monterrey Tech.)

This demonstrates the motley thing and fragmented of the knowledge lodged there.

The point is that the dispersion of location, endorsement and forms of access, use and conservation is great and make complex the conjunction possibility of this collection.

Cultural Heritage of Monterrey Tech (www.patrimoniocultural.com.mx) it must like mission lodge originating bibliohemerographic, documentary, photographic, microfilmic and archaeological collections, etc. of donations to the Institute. Between its collections have some originating of the own Institute, like the student scholar files among 1943 and 1972 or working archive documents of Aquiles Menéndez, Jesuit and teacher in the Monterrey Campus by many years.

It would be possible thought of natural way that it must have a roll with respect to this collection that becomes rare because there are not more of those copies of that research and academic material.

The control is in the hands of Central Library that works according to other criteria. The work in "Relocation" is asked for by the student for its non immediate delivery generally and through that only done it happens automatically to the floors once given back. The rest remains like in warehouse until there is a user interested in consulting it.

COURSE'S PUBLICATIONS PRINTS

These are counted by great amounts. In this study reference to all those will become that were published until 1984 including and which they are catalogued in the Millennium system of Monterrey Tech Libraries

It very difficult it's to be able to find those not registered and that some emeritus or withdrawn teacher perhaps has in his hands some copy.

Essentially this work is concentrated in the analysis of tie material to courses and printed by the institution, because the material printed in one publishing account with greater circulation, print run, etc., and doesn't come to the case in the categories already specified within this work.

Of 7,576 bibliographical records in whose imprint it appeared "Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey" to any publishing house or another publishing organization (or "ITESM" in its brief form in spanish), appear 1,910 (25.21%) records on the edition or publication until 1984 including.

They are from training programs to manuals, happening through notes, publications with exercises, problems, etc.

In a second purge, of the 1,910 eliminated 512 duplicated records and 305 records that corresponded to related publications to programs of High School or were institutional publications that were not linked properly to the academic courses.

As result, they stayed 1093 titles, those that are distributed of the following way:

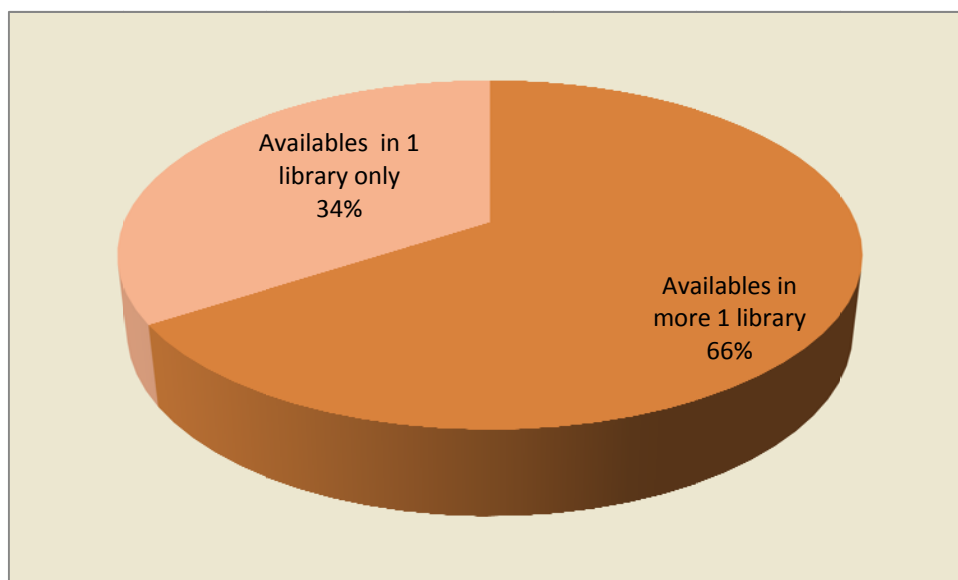


Figure 3: Availability of works printed tie to courses.

What indicates Figure 3 is a third of the analyzed materials that only are at this moment in a single library of the System.

It isn't difficult to deduce that as spends the time that percentage will be increased to the natural rate of discardings, losses, etc.

The great majority of the material that is in a single library (94%), is in locations of general room, while a 6% only are in warehouse areas, verticals archives, or locations of indirect access to the user.

This reinforces the aforesaid thing and denotes a lack of general strategy of work with this type of printed material that in this study is considered rare as it only exists in the institution (by its way of production, distribution and use at internal academic level).

With respect to the content subject, the distribution of studied forms, is the indicated down, in Figure 4.

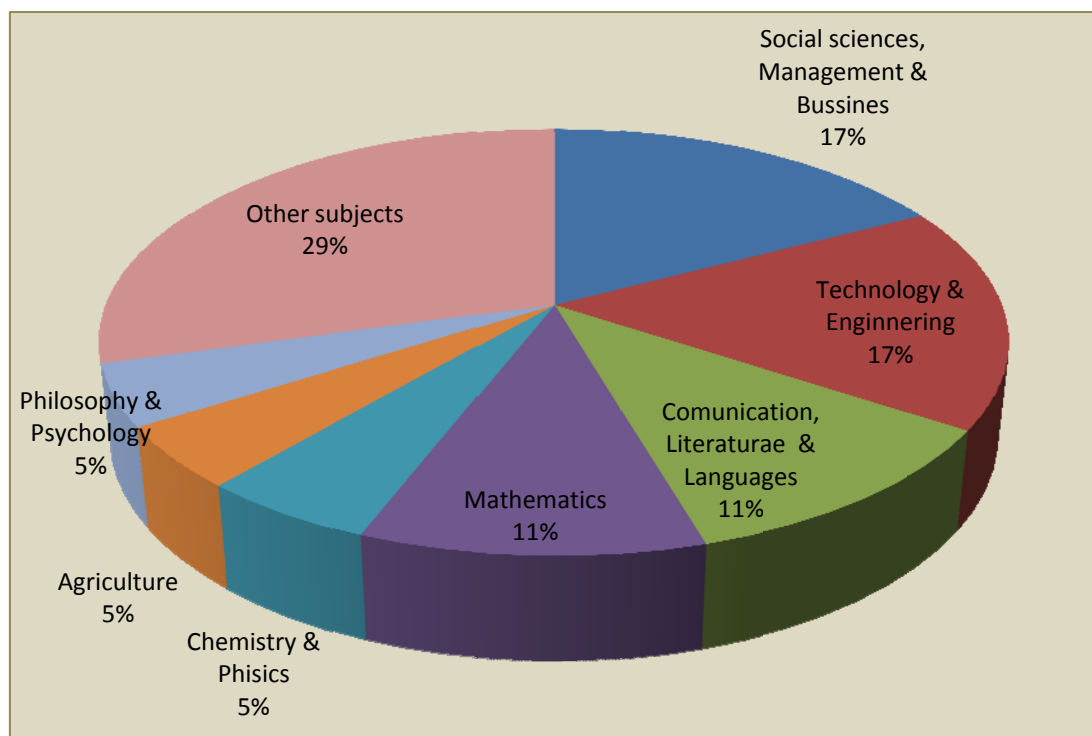


Figure 4: Subject percentage distribution of prints published until 1984 by the ITESM, related to courses.

In this documentary typology also is a great thematic dispersion according to the university curricula.

With respect to this collection, Cultural Heritage of Monterrey Tech comes developing a strategy for the incorporation from these forms in its heaps insofar as they are falling in the disuse and is in danger its disappearance. For this reason, between January and March of 2011 the germ of a new collection within the old collections was formed, exactly with this type of printed works, incorporating in one first stage 30 works.

In this way, progressively it is tried to have although it is a copy of each of these printed works insofar as they are falling in disuse and it removes them to the purge from the shelves of Central Library, without passing to warehouse or another instance that its conservation is jeopardized.

VALUE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS COLLECTIONS

The value of these collections has been expressed already in some sense, perhaps not in its monetary cost, but in its intrinsic and emotional value for the university community where it was originated and in which it is used, as well as its legacy for present and future generations.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to emphasize some important aspects of this legacy:

- ***Institutional academic history:*** The loss of these documents would cause not to be able to reconstruct in the future, in a rigorous way, the institutional and academic evolution.

- ***Educative model evolution:*** It is similar to the previous point, perhaps with the aggravating that the typical products of an educative model that governed decades in the organization, based on the centrality of the teacher, are lost.

- ***Research methodology:*** In the thesis works, principally, it is possible to visualize the product of the postgraduate researches. The methodologies applied in diverse contexts and diverse areas of knowledge, original contributions of solutions, devices and instruments, pictures, experimental results, still today can be very useful for a study of trends and retrospective evolution of investigation methods, revisions, etc.

- ***History of science in Mexico:*** It goes united to the previous, in the sense that the contribution of hundreds of theses, in spite of the modesty that some can present/display, can as much be studied from an historical perspective institutionally as in regional and/or the national thing.

- ***History of professionals and scientists:*** In biographical or bio-bibliographical studies, the indicated documentary types can even shed light on interesting and forgotten people and organizations.

- ***Scientific and divulgating Literature:*** The study of this type of documentary materials opens an interesting perspective for the student, as much in the referred thing of thesis form (integral parts), like in the material form of the same with original material glued, typescript, mimeographed, etc.

CONCLUSION

Before the specified thing previously probably to more uncertainties and debates are opened than concrete answers. The way that is drawing up in the boarded case is incipient in sequence to try to solve the subject with certain technical and professional maturity.

Nevertheless the positions on the handling, use and control of these collections conspire against a suitable preservation of thesis and materials printed academic in disappearance danger.

The collaborative work and the joint analysis can in particular take to good term the subject in this case. The context will change of university in university, but the certain thing is that they must approach these situations with risk to jeopardize the document conservation mainly of the century XX with which the sections of old collections must be intrude of active way and it jeopardize.

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