

Community Archive as Place-Based Decision-Making Process: A Proposal for the "Archivio Atena"

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Abstract. The construction of a community archive can be a tool for analysis, public engagement and support for activating social innovation and urban regeneration processes. The study presents the methodological proposal developed in an educational laboratory in cooperation between public entities, universities, and the third sector, for a local cultural and social regeneration project in the historic centre of Atena Lucana in the South of Italy. The proposed community archive aims to archive in a digital system the architectural and urban heritage of Atena Lucana's historic centre to trigger processes of adaptive reuse and urban regeneration leveraging on a socio-spatial relationship. The paper proposed a methodology framework to co-design a multidimensional archive, which includes georeferenced hard and soft data deduced based on interviews, focus groups and collaborative mapping. A place-based community archive constitutes a spatial decision support system for urban regeneration. Based on specific objectives and methods, the community archive aims to develop sustainable and inclusive regeneration strategies.

Keywords: Community archive · digital archive · public space · spatial decision-support system · urban regeneration

1 Introduction

In the most recent scholarly literature, there is growing attention to community archives, initiatives often with relatively long histories but whose importance has only recently been widely recognised by cultural policymakers and professional organisations (https://www.ucl.ac.uk/information-studies/community-archives-and-identities-documenting-and-sustaining-community-heritage). The 2004 Task Force Archives

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report, titled "Listening to the Past, Speaking to the Future" [1], stated that the community archives are a new and resourceful source, significant for society as institutional archives in public collections. At the same time, establishing community archives as structured and recognisable organisational identities poses the need to interpret what an archive and a community are. While Flinn, Stevens and Shepherd define community as "any kind of people who come together and present themselves as such" [2], on the other hand, Scotini [3] argues that the archive is not simply a collection of data, documents or information, but a fundamental practice with the power to restore visibility and voice to what has not been archived: a repressed, exiled identity, a memory. A community archive is configured as an "unresolved" operation since it arises in the paradox of something that, while aspiring to be archived, eludes archiving. More specifically, the community archive can be interpreted as the product of community attempts to document the history of their commonality, resulting in "collections of material collected primarily by members of a given community and over whose use community members exercise some level of control" [2].

Since both activist archiving techniques and data activism strongly emphasise involving communities of interested stakeholders in creating representations that assert their points of view, the Environmental Data and Governance Initiatives (EDGI) instance shows that there are striking parallels between both [4]. Caswell, Cifor and Ramirez assert that community archives can be an alternative to traditional archives "through which communities can make collective decisions about what is of lasting value to them, shape the collective memory of their past, and control how stories about their past are constructed" [5]. There where the two ways of understanding archives, namely the traditional and the community archives, are developed in a logic of opposition, the more recent literature introduces a "participatory turn" according to which the latter presents itself as an opportunity to re-configure the former mode, thus presenting a challenge to traditional archives. Also, in the light of the Faro Convention [6], according to which the involvement of communities in the identification, knowledge, protection and enhancement of tangible and intangible heritage is an indispensable practice to foster the preservation, Patricia Garcia pays particular attention to how communities practice the management and administration of archives, glimpsing in their participation in cataloguing a tool to enrich the ordinary archival structure [7].

In contrast to traditional archives, community members can be involved in every stage of archival creation, from defining the scope to describing materials to providing resistance to further advance movement building and solidarity. Huvila et al. [8] point how community archives suggest a shift of responsibility between archivist and user, harnessing community knowledge to reposition archives as sites of empowerment and solidarity, reflecting community needs [9]. In this sense, community archives are institutions in which community members "exercise some level of control" and community archivists as mediators between "professional heritage services" and communities [10]. Born mainly out of a long tradition of documentation of local history and social movements by volunteers and activists, community archives can be venues of representation of social minorities and told of custody, collection development and appraisal, processing, arrangement and description, organisation, representation and naming, collaboration, resource generation and allocation, activism and social justice, preservation, reuse, and

sustainability [11]. Over time, community archives have emerged as part of the broader participatory movement to enhance cultural heritage [12–14].

In the renewed participatory turn of community archives, digital technology has played a relevant role by enabling community members to collect and digitise materials and share them [14, 15]. Community archives take the form primarily of digital storage that contains, preserves, and makes accessible the cultural, historical, and social heritage of a specific community or group of people and can include a variety of materials such as documents, photographs, audio and video recordings, oral histories, art, and personal objects. Digital platforms thus become particularly significant both for building interactive and long-lasting databases and for facilitating interaction among users [16], defining themselves as much in open-source digital resource management systems such as Omeka and Islandora [12, 17] as in geographic information systems (GIS) to support archiving.

The main objectives of community archives include: preserving the collective memory and history of one or more communities, helping to build a sense of identity and belonging; providing an educational resource for future generations, helping to understand the community's past and traditions; enhancing cultural diversity and promote intercultural dialogue by encouraging understanding and respect among different communities; support historical and socio-cultural research by providing a base of reliable data and sources; and facilitate community participation and civic engagement by involving people in collecting, preserving and sharing their heritage.

In an attempt to achieve these goals, multiple experiences have developed, especially in more recent times, around the world. The Community Archives and Heritage Group (CAHG) is a community archive project active since 2006 in the UK and Ireland. After three years, it was developed informally. Starting from the work on memory and identity and memory, the project has grown up to today and was established with a vision statement based on principles of inclusion, collaboration for creating value for more people and respect for the environment. The information is mapped and opened via a web platform, and all activities are advertised. The project developed with a creative perspective that went beyond mere archiving. In fact, the collection of work and team efforts over time have produced community-led projects (https://www.communityarchives.org.uk/index.php).

The project, Community Archives and Identities: Documenting and Sustaining Community Heritage, examined how community archives contributed to the construction of collective identities in historically marginalised "communities", focusing on how much such archives might advance broader social policy goals [10]. According to the study, there are five primary areas of practice where mainstream, publicly financed cultural organisations-especially archives-engage with community archives. These include administration, gathering, curation and dissemination, consulting, and advising. The categories' descriptions are meant to illustrate possibilities rather than exhaustive. A prominent worldwide photographic art gallery, Belfast Exposed celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2013 after beginning as a grassroots, community-based photography enterprise. To make the analogue collection more accessible to a wider audience, more than 3000 photographs from it had been digitally archived by 2005. By 2007, the gallery had created two digital libraries, one offline and one online, using archival and psychoanalytic social

theory. Additionally, several works of art based on the collection that Belfast Exposed commissioned in the previous ten years have been examined as illustrations of new approaches to interacting with the archive [18].

Among the Italian experiences, the community archive of Manerba del Garda was born in 2021 based on participatory research and teaching activities begun in the 1970s, the result of collaboration with ASAR and some universities, with the aim of cataloguing information on the history and cultural heritage of the municipality. In continuous evolution, the archive consists of a School of Participatory Research aimed at its construction and expansion through conferences, guided tours, research activities for filing landscapes, sites and architecture, and dissemination. On the occasion of Matera 2019 Capital of Culture, the ARCO - ARchivio digitale di COmunità project was developed. The goal is not to lose the testimony of these moments of aggregation rooted in Lucanian agricultural culture, using photographs, videos, oral histories and newspaper articles collected by the community as tools of territorial investigation to be returned then within a web platform. On the other hand, the most recent Apulian experience sees the creation in 2022 in San Cesario di Lecce of the Community Sound Archive (ASC) "The City that Speaks." ASC is the result of a participatory process that involves citizens exercising self-representation and recognising the specificities of their place. The goal of ASC is to reconnect residents in a joint reflection on the places they live and to trigger proposals that can bring out community priorities (https://partecipazione.regione.puglia.it/processes/la-citta-che-parla/f/208/).

It is possible to access the archive through a travelling map app. It will be set up in physical form inside Distilleria De Giorgi, one of southern Italy's most exciting and impressive industrial archaeology sites, now converted into a cultural container. It emerges how in the landscape of community archives and the different declinations of the genre, the document represents the device whose interpretation changes the structure and approach with which to relate to archiving. Indeed, over time, the idea of "document" has expanded from written text to artefacts, monuments, products, and even entire neighbourhoods and cities [19].

In this perspective, documentation shifts from more sterile document preservation to a more dynamic collective design. At the same time, the archive, rather than a memory, is an aspiration, an anticipation of collective memory through value elicitation as a meta-intervention. As McKemmish [20] argues, archives are "always in flux", and their narratives depend on decisions about which objects are significant, which should be preserved and which should not. Precisely for this reason, the community archive becomes a tool of imagination and social design, inquiry and communication, of debate and desire at the same time.

The research is part of the planning of "Archivio Atena" - Community Archive of Atena Lucana" to design a place-based decision-making process by which to identify and catalogue, through collaborative approaches, the dimensions recognised as particularly representative of the material and immaterial heritage of the historic centre of Atena Lucana. In this perspective, the community archive is intended to investigate the multiple dimensions of the local identity of the area through visible and non-visible elements and bring out, more fully and complexly, its values through collaborative decision-making processes. The experimentation, which intends to structure a methodological-typical

approach functional to activating a community archive, is configured simultaneously, as a tool for investigation and intervention, in Italy's inland areas and, specifically, in abandoned centres. In this way, the construction of the community archive represents a co-design challenge of an urban regeneration process that opens up some research questions:

- How to identify the characterising/representative elements for a place-based community archive?
- How to structure a scientific decision-making process as a participatory tool, simultaneously of self-representation and knowledge of communities?
- Can a community archive provide data to inform a decision support system for developing urban regeneration projects?

In an attempt to answer these questions, the article is structured into a first part devoted to the introduction and contextualisation of the research question within a panorama of international literature, a second part relating to the spatial and project context in which the study was developed, the third part in which the research methodology is expressed followed by the fourth part in which the decision-making process framework is described as a result of this initial positioning. Finally, in the fifth part, discussions and conclusions are gathered.

2 Archivio Atena: An Urban Regeneration Strategy

"Archivio Atena" is a winning project of the public notice, "Attractivity of the villages", part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR M1C3) financed by the Next Generation EU. The project's objective is to build the community archive of the Municipality of Atena Lucana, a small town in the province of Salerno, in the Campania Region, in southern Italy. The project is structured to create innovative tools for narrating the territory from part of the community through digitising the cultural heritage and establishing a permanent laboratory for the meeting of artists, scholars, cultural operators, institutions and individuals (Fig. 1). The Municipality of Atena developed this project with a significant partnership consisting of the Central Institute for Cataloging and Documentation (ICCD), ISIA Urbino, MAXXI L'Aquila, Legacoop, MIDA, Studio Bellosguardo Association, Amici San Ciro Association, Leel association, Le Case di Igea association, Artem association, Comunità Montana, National Cilento Park Vallo di Diano e Alburni, SC Hotel, Cartolibreria Etoile. The involvement of many institutional subjects but also local actors and different people, realities and visions in its events and activities (i.e. inhabitants, male and female students, male and female artists, entrepreneurial activities, territorial associations and census implementers) has the aim of making a collective work.

The Archivio Atena project aims to collect the local cultural heritage in a community archive. Through the digitalisation of private photographs, the creation of photographic campaigns, and the production of audio-visual material in the area, Archivio Atena intends to preserve and enhance the common identity of the inhabitants of Atena Lucana, safeguarding a historical-cultural wealth that risks being dispersed. Also, Archivio Atena is a project that invests in training and considers the teaching of traditional techniques



Fig. 1. Archivio Atena

and arts as a social glue and a precious resource to be disseminated. Increasing the village's attractiveness also means supporting the development of new job opportunities by redeveloping shared spaces, creating cultural aggregation initiatives and supplying technological tools and digital equipment for the country. Then, with several annual appointments, events, festivals, educational activities and artistic residencies, Archivio Atena is bringing young people, male and female students, to the area to encourage encounters and contamination and use the town as a party thanks to the participation and involvement of all citizens.

The project's leitmotif is the archive, i.e. the practice of collecting and digitising private photographs and material and immaterial, natural and environmental heritage, which defines the historical and cultural identity of Atena Lucana. In this context, the teaching and research laboratory is part of the RIVA research, teaching and third mission network of the Federico II Department of Architecture in Naples, to structure a place-based census technique able to integrate a critical census of architecture, and public space, considering tangible and intangible identity elements.

3 Material and Methods

As part of a worldwide push for increased decentralisation, accountability, and popular democracy [21–24], the notion of encouraging involvement in decision-making emerged in the late 1970s and 1980s. The idea is that people taking part in government is a step forward in the fight for democracy and equality. The essential basic characteristics of 'good governance' include responsibility and legitimacy and, under those ideas, transparency, inclusivity, respect, and efficacy [25–28].

In particular, Seale [29, 30] divides archives into two categories: primary sources, which are the original documents that have survived from the past, and secondary sources, which are "accounts created by people writing at some distance in space or time from the events described." Archives include unique data that is not accessible anywhere else. This information is also available in a wide variety of formats, such as text (which Seale further subdivides into oral sources, which are spoken sources that are subsequently

transcribed, and documentary sources, which are written sources that are generated either during or after an event), images, family trees, and more [30].

The construction of community archives can constitute significant advantages in terms of active involvement in urban regeneration processes.

With this in mind, deliberative evaluation methods and tools are considered to be particularly relevant, becoming significant, especially in the collaborative exploration phases in which different stakeholders are involved in the recognition and elicitation of shared, plural and cultural values [31–34] that can contribute to constituting the characterising elements for the definition of a community archive.

Deliberation of shared values considers the collective and intersubjective meanings that, through social interactions, convey conceptions of the common good among people [34–37]. They are particularly relevant and significant in confronting practice, especially in collaborative exploration phases where different stakeholders recognise and elicithared, plural and cultural values [31–34]. The deliberative approach also arises to consider evaluative processes of equity and justice [37–39]. Irvine et al. [40] discuss the potential of deliberative evaluations as new democratic spaces, and Kenter [34] adds that such assessments can function as boundary objects between researchers, stakeholders and decision-makers [32].

From this perspective, the goal of integrating deliberation into evaluation is not only a more robust elicitation of values. However, it can provide more effective opportunities for recognising different voices in decision-making and building bridges between potentially conflicting perspectives and interests in decision-making [34].

Deliberative evaluation is an interactive evaluation method that leads different actors (politicians, citizens, etc.) to form value judgements by facilitating open dialogue between the parties, thus, taking into account ethical beliefs, moral commitments and social norms beyond individual and collective utility. Therefore, deliberative methods also can promote learning and reflection, encouraging people to go beyond self-interest to construct collective judgements that reflect a more comprehensive and socially just evaluation of public goods.

Kenter et al. [34] describe that a deliberative process can be structured around the following stages:

1. the search for, acquisition and social exchange of information, the addition of knowledge (from the report identified) and the expression and exchange of transcendental values and beliefs to form reasoned opinions;
2. the expression of reasoned opinions as part of the dialogical and civilised engagement between participants, respecting the different points of view held by participants, being able to openly express disagreement, providing equal opportunities for all participants to engage in deliberation and providing opportunities for participants to evaluate and re-evaluate their positions
3. identification and critical evaluation of options or ‘solutions’ that could address a problem, reflecting on the potential consequences and trade-offs associated with different options
4. integrating insights from the deliberative process to establish contextual values around different options and, finally, determine a preferred, informed and reasoned choice.

The scientific literature divides these techniques into deliberative, analytic -deliberative, potentially-interpretive deliberative, interpretive, psychometric-deliberative and psychometric [41, 42].

These techniques can be included in the broader categorisation of revealed preference-based and stated preference-related methods [43].

Revealed preference-based methods largely coincide with the techniques defined by Kenter as interpretive [41] and include:

- direct observation, as human action and behaviour reflect social value;
- documentation, as the consultation of textual, photographic, and historical material, returns information about human preferences concerning the topics discussed;
- media/social media analysis, as analysis of shared material on the topic or place of interest, yields significant data to reference values.

Declared preference methods, on the other hand, rely directly on the statements made by stakeholders questioned to express a value. These include the following potential-interpretive deliberative techniques:

- Interviews: gaining an in-depth understanding of the stakeholder's expression of opinion regarding a specific issue or place;
- Questionnaires: structured questions to gather information on the values expressed by the interviewees, generically traced back to a given set of values/actions and a Likert scale to assess relevance;
- Storytelling: analysis of participants' experiences, relationships, and stories to obtain information on the values expressed by them directly or indirectly [34];
- Participatory mapping: combines the tools of modern cartography with participatory methods to map the values and benefits found in a specific context by making a physical or digital map to indicate the value (and problematic) features and sometimes rank them by importance [44–47];
- Participatory GIS (PGIS): combines the method of participatory mapping with GIS techniques of spatial analysis [48, 49];
- Public Participation GIS (PPGIS): emphasises the local level of stakeholder involvement to promote knowledge production by local non-governmental groups;
- Focus groups: activates group discussions, enabling information to be obtained based on the interactions that arise during the thematic debate;
- Expert-based: uses experts' professional knowledge to assess the relevance of values, making explicit the benefits and critical issues at stake. An example of this is the Delphi method [50].

In particular, following the stated knowledge-based methods, the last decades have seen a proliferation of integrated theoretical and methodological approaches to GIS [51–56] setting the research effort for the interaction, not only between the technical/computational aspects with the participatory/collaborative ones but also, and above all, with intangible socio-cultural aspects that make the interaction with GIS an innovative tool that can lead to a much more profound knowledge of all the elements that contribute to the construction of a decision-making process and in this case of a community archive. As a result, the concept has evolved in research, development and practice

domains consisting of different approaches and frameworks. In particular, spatial aspects (such as the domains of geo-computation and geo-visualisation) and spatial decision support systems have been integrated with new technologies increasingly related to the concepts of co-participation and collaboration, also known as: intelligent SDSS [57], planning support systems - PSS [58], collaborative GIS - CGIS [59], group SDSS [60], participatory GIS - PGIS [61–64], public participation GIS - PPGIS [62, 65, 66], spatial knowledge-based systems [67], spatial multi-agent systems [68]. All these tools constitute, on the one hand, the advancement of the concept of SDSS, which Malczewski [69] defines as "an interactive computer-based system designed to support a user or group of users in achieving more effective decision-making while solving a semi-structured spatial decision-making problem", and on the other hand the advancement to the critical issues raised over the years regarding the inability to have adequate tools for active public participation [66, 70] and thus of tools designed to support community knowledge and involvement in the production and use of geographic information [71–73]. The action of mapping this information, and making it accessible to all through GIS platforms, is a way to make it operational, making it available both for pure knowledge and also to stimulate planning considering local identity and memory. In this way, a community archive with specific and geolocated information becomes a Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) [74, 75].

Participatory Maps and Participatory Mapping are 'maps' (representations of geographic information) created by a community or groups of individuals via participatory methods [48, 49, 76, 77]. They are based on local interests, needs, and (spatial) knowledge, and they use various mapping and elicitation techniques - they are an 'approach' rather than a single method [61, 66, 71, 76, 78, 79]. Moreover, as local spatial knowledge is complex, multi-source and multidimensional, collaborative mapping methods can help define future regeneration processes, some useful in bringing a place alive, rethinking, and reactivating it. The primary goal of collaborative mapping processes for community archives is to successfully capture the invaluable (yet often invisible) spatial knowledge of local natives and put it to better use for practical purposes in public policy [74, 76] or to revive a cultural identity that has been eroding over time. Local spatial knowledge is fundamental that describes living spaces and places, paying particular attention to understanding the directness of the elements and values that have defined a taxonomic identity for those settings. Public space and landscapes' symbolic, emotional, and mystical experience is crucial to local spatial knowledge. According to McCall M. [76] the 'laid of the land' defines cultural and activity areas and responsibility spaces. The understanding of the ontology of specific belief systems complicates what seems to be a simple binary separation between facts and values. In other words, what constitutes "facts" may differ depending on the meta-value system. (Spatial) ontologies organically integrate people's values of and about space with spatial facts regarding spatial analysis; these things are concatenated. Societies and cultures engage in lengthy, profound meta-value system construction and appropriation processes. The frame of identification and transmission of values is necessary for the designation and understanding of spatial facts. People's values may modify the interpretation of realised spatial facts, which feeds back into the ontological system that validates and re-frames the facts [80]. Translating facts and

values, often ignored from the outside, inherent in and constituting a community archive into collaborative maps requires adequate representation and valid representativeness.

Facts matter more than values in representation, but values matter more than facts in representativity. Participatory mapping not only displays points but also seeks, finds, and maps valuable areas. Furthermore, the need to seek out representative voices applies equally to factual knowledge and its mapping to ethical principles. For these reasons, some of the deliberative approaches described above are fundamental, including interviews, questionnaires, focus groups and storytelling, which define a reasoned construction of a community archive aiming at co-design.

4 Methodology

In an attempt to produce an advance towards the construction of a place-based community archive, research activities developed as part of educational laboratories have been structured in four distinct phases according to the methodological process specifically designed and below (Fig. 2). The first two phases are preliminary to building the archive, effectively developing in the third and fourth phases. The archive structuring process involves using different approaches, methods, and tools, inferring soft and hard data and including other points of view.

Phase 1. Context and Community Knowledge. It is aimed at the definition and description of the analysis context (i), the identification of involved stakeholders (ii) and to defining of the objective underlying the construction of the community archive (iii), respectively addressed in the three steps in which phase 1 is divided: context analysis (1.1), stakeholder analysis (1.2), specific objective definition (1.3).

Phase 2. Archive Type Identification. This phase has been specifically structured to choose the most suitable supports to grasp the most significant features. To this end, the second phase is divided into two distinct steps, the first focusing on the tool selection (2.1) and the second aimed at identifying specific descriptive categories deduced from theoretical and operational frameworks (2.2).

Phase 3. Archive Elements Identification. Divided into four distinct steps and aimed at collecting information material, the structuring of the process is based on the integration of top-down and bottom-up approaches. In addition to specific phases of the stakeholders' consultation, the laboratory activities take place in the context of a research group, including experts and local community members. To define the most suitable categories, the ones that have been selected in the second phase have been then discussed in the context of the research team, involving experts and community, through a proper consultation phase (3.1), which has been deemed valuable to point the discussion. This step includes introducing the basic theoretical concepts, a critical interpretation of the same, and the basic knowledge for mapping information material. Then, starting from the critical considerations that have emerged, it has proceeded to identify and classify the most significant elements (tangible and intangible) of the archive's objective. Finally, the step provides for georeferenced mapping of the elements identified. Step 3.2 has been specially structured to classify the elements selected, providing an interpretative key of the main characteristics through brainstorming and literature study. Finally, step 3.3 is

dedicated to collecting data valid for database structuring. Then, the database resulting from the research group is submitted to the local community as part of a consultation phase (3.4) which aims to test the built model in the actual context (through on-site visits, focus groups, and interviews) and detect the data helpful in making the archive (data collection is carried out through interviews, direct observation, and documentary analysis).

Phase 4. Archiving and Digitisation. In this phase, through four steps, the database produced as a result of step 3.3 is reworked based on the observations received from the local community. Therefore, mapping (4.1) and database (4.2) are revised. Subsequently, the data in the archive is digitised (4.3). Finally, to validate the archived material, a further phase of interaction involving the local community and the main stakeholders has been provided (4.4).

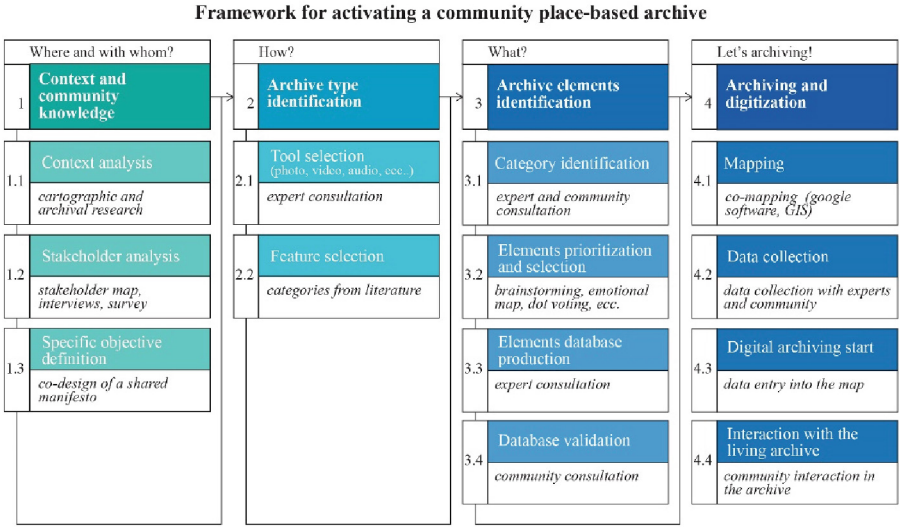

Fig. 2. The methodological workflow

5 Discussion and Conclusion

An analysis of the literature has shown that interest in community archives has grown significantly recently. Research has paid particular attention to the meaning of community, the values and urgencies expressed by the sponsoring communities, and the opportunities, in terms of professional skills and empowerment, that these experiences can offer. In particular, commonly, these experiences share a bottom-up view, an approach to the theme of the community archive that emerged and matured over time by citizens driven by shared cultural and social motives. However, less space has been given to the techniques and approaches proper for activating and curating a community archive.

The current research proposed a methodological framework for activating place-based community archives, starting from this gap and from the need to experiment with the community archive as an operational tool for urban regeneration in a central dimension between top-down institutional and bottom-up community-based. The aim was to systematise the various experiences and investigations activated to represent a collaborative process, replicable in other contexts as well, capable of orienting not the object of the archive but how it can be defined with the community of reference. In this endeavour, a method was structured to support independent groups, associations or public bodies that intend to trigger community and place-based urban regeneration processes in their territory. The proposal was born in the framework of the Archivio Atena project, which involves the territory of Atena Lucana and, in particular, the historic centre of Atena Lucana. In this sense, the methodological proposal fits, even more in detail, in the construction of valuable tools and methods of investigation and, above all, of a project to operate in "inland areas" and in abandoned areas starting from the values expressed by communities in close connection with uses, forms and traditions of their territory.

Among the proposal's limitations is placing itself in a hybrid dimension between bottom-up and top-down. Where the methodological framework becomes a tool for triggering the process and thus activating communities, the risk is that the researcher becomes alien by constructing methodological mechanisms that must be properly consistent with the inhabiting communities' characteristics, skills and aspirations. At the same time, revealing the complexity of the collaborative process required to activate a community and place-based archival experience scientifically could be, on the one hand, an obstacle to project implementation and, on the other, a challenge for institutions already engaged in institutional archives. Finally, the choice of community engagement techniques and mapping and archiving tools becomes relevant in fostering or not resident participation. In this case, the use of technically structured and not properly collaborative tools could become a limitation to participation and, more importantly, to communities' appropriation of the archival tool.

In constructing the database model for collecting the data to be archived, the presence of the Archivio Atena project team, with the project manager and representative of the municipal administration, was as crucial as the presence of a local community member. Because site-specific issues can change the elements that do or do not deserve to be surveyed, arguably, without any local community member, the model would have been repeated several times due to the discussion with the community or during the workshop. At the same time, a team of academics was an essential resource in the framework's design and, in particular, in building the structure of an archival database that would then have to be validated by the resident communities.

Future directions of the research include the application of the methodology in the context of the historic centre of Atena Lucana, in which the inhabitants will test and validate the database. Furthermore, particular attention will be given to testing collaborative approaches for selecting, prioritising and co-assessing the objects of which the archive is composed. In this sense, it will be necessary to build ad-hoc streamlined and operational techniques and tools through which communities can fully self-represent themselves at all times.

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