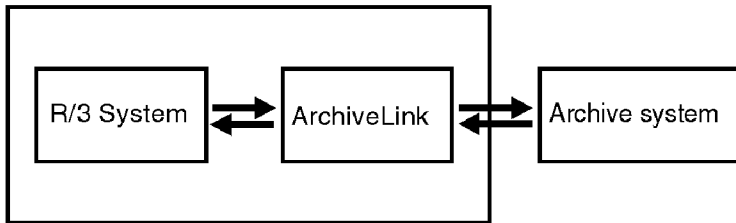


Introduction to ArchiveLink

ArchiveLink is the communication interface between the R/3 System and optical archive systems. With this interface it is possible to incorporate archive services, such as displaying an archived object or making an object available in an index, in the R/3 System.



For this purpose, the ArchiveLink function modules must be integrated into the R/3 applications. Function calls are sent from the R/3 applications to ArchiveLink. These function calls are then passed on to the archive system in the form of messages. Via these messages the system specifies which archive service is required. The archive system checks whether it can provide the required service and communicates the results to ArchiveLink. ArchiveLink then forwards the results to the calling function.

Use of Optical Archiving in SAP Applications

This section explains the basic terms used in this area and discusses the following topics:

- the administration concept (link tables, Meta table, and archive table)
- how the storage of archive objects is supported
- which archive objects can be displayed
- which typical operations can be applied to the objects using the ArchiveLink function modules

Terminology

Administration Concept (Archive table, Meta Table, Link Tables)

Storing CI Documents in the Archive

Displaying Archive Objects

Function Modules

Terminology

In this topic, the basic terms "technical document class", "document type", "object type", "NCI document", and "CI document" will be explained.

Technical Document Classes, Document Types, Object Types

ArchiveLink currently manages four document kinds. A **technical document class** is assigned to each of these. The technical document class refers to a storage format for the archive. The storage format can be interpreted by the ArchiveLink Viewer and enables the user to display archived objects.

Document kinds with technical document classes

Kind of document	Technical document class
Incoming original documents	FAX
Outgoing original documents (created in the SAP System)	OTF (Output Text Format)
Print lists (created in the SAP System)	ALF (Advanced List Format)
Archiving data (created in the SAP System, data base extracts)	REO

It is possible to define **document types** for the document kinds. Using document types, the user can classify more precisely the objects that need to be archived.

Example:

The document type FIINVOICE is assigned to an incoming invoice (belongs to the document kind for incoming original documents).

In addition to the archive-related technical document class and document type, the SAP-related term **object type** needs to be explained:

SAP applications define characteristic object types. Certain methods, on the other hand, are defined for these object types. The methods determine the actions a user may apply to documents belonging to the object type concerned, for example, creating or processing.

The method names are defined globally, that is, the same method names are displayed to the user in each application. This guarantees a uniform interface.

The implementations behind these methods, however, differ per application for the individual object types.

Archiving and processing of document types is always executed on an object type basis.

Example:

The object type BKPF (accounting document) is defined in the application FI. The methods Creating, Confirming, and Searching are defined for accounting documents.

NCI and CI Documents

Incoming original documents (referred to in this manual as originals or original documents) are objects that are imported into the system with the help of a scanner. These objects are also known as **Non-Coded Information (NCI) Documents**. In NCI documents, the information is stored in a raster (binary data).

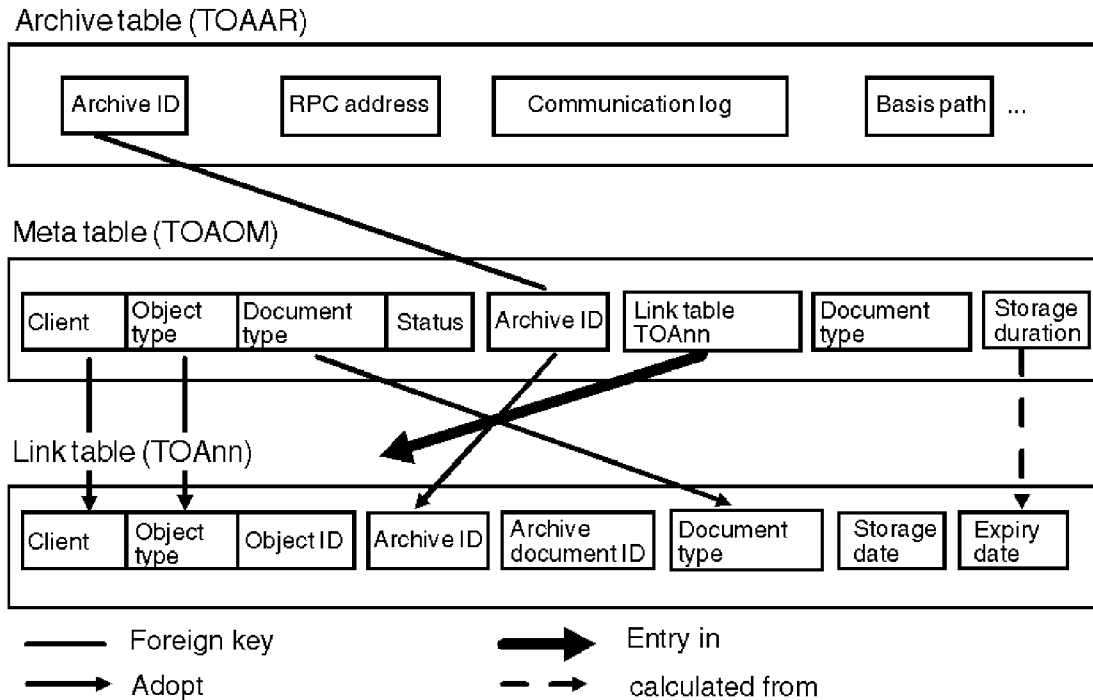
Outgoing original documents (referred to in this manual as outgoing documents), print lists and archiving files are known as **Coded Information (CI) Documents**. In contrast to NCI documents, CI documents are generated with standard data processing procedures and can be processed automatically.

Administration Concept (Archive table, Meta Table, Link Tables)

To generate the link between the objects in the SAP applications and the objects in the archive system, various administration tasks need to be carried out in the SAP system beforehand :

- definition of the archives in the archive table
- assignment of object types and document types to archives and link tables in the Meta table
- creation of the link between the SAP object and the archive object in the link tables

The following figure displays an overview of the administration concept:



Various Customizing functions are provided for the definition, assignment, and linking tasks. For further information on these topics, see [Customizing](#). In the following topics, the tasks of the tables are explained.

Archive Table TOAAR

The archive table is used for managing the optical archive systems linked up to the R/3 System. The archives are identified by their respective archive IDs and addressed via an RPC address. The communication takes place via the specified communication log. Using the basic path, the archive system can access an index within the R/3 System. Further specifications must be maintained in the table TOAAR. For detailed information on these specifications, see [Archives](#).

Meta Table TOAOM

In the Meta table, the following information concerning object type and document type is defined:

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