We seek to characterize the evolutionary role played by the transactional record that is the foundation of modern accounting. We theorize that systematic recordkeeping crystallizes memory and, along with other institutions (e.g., law, weights, and measures), promotes the trust necessary for large-scale human cooperation. Our theory yields two predictions: (1) permanent records emerge to supplement memory when complex intertemporal exchange between strangers becomes more common and (2) systematic records and other exchange-supporting institutions co-evolve and feed back to increase gains from economic coordination and division of labor. Many aspects of ancient Mesopotamian recordkeeping are consistent with these hypotheses, suggesting that our evolutionary theory is plausible. We outline ways to directly test our predictions with experiments, ethnographies, and agent-based models, and describe other techniques that can be used to explore the co-evolution of accounting with the human brain, language, and law.
The Generally Accepted Recordkeeping Principles (The Principles), were created by ARMA International as a common set of principles that describe the conditions under which business records and related information should be maintained. The eight principles are designed to identify the major hallmarks of effective information governance, but do not follow a numerical hierarchy of importance. Principle of Accountability. Principle of Transparency. Principle of Integrity. Principle of Protection. Recordkeeping and Human Evolution. Emory Law and Economics Research Paper No. 05-13. 45 Pages Posted: 29 Jul 2005. See all articles by Sudipta Basu. Several aspects of ancient Mesopotamian recordkeeping are consistent with these predictions, which we believe suggests our hypothesis is plausible. We also identify opportunities for directly testing our predictions with experiments and ethnographies as well as other implications for the co-evolution of accounting, law, cognition, and language. Keywords: intertemporal trade, verifiable history, dispute resolution, cultural selection. JEL Classification: D74, D83, M4, O31. Suggested Citation: Suggested Citation. Basu, Sudipta and Waymire, Gregory B., Recordkeeping and Human Evolution (November Moreover, the application of the distributed ledger technology in the international medical record-keeping process will phase out the additional administrative units, thus markedly reducing the costs of present intermediaries used for healthcare information exchange. But the essential is that combining these fragmented systems will let us achieve deeper insights and better evaluate the value of care being provided to each patient. Here, the higher level of transparency and full access in the medical record-keeping system worldwide would surely provide a better access to high-quality medical se