

Five Archiving Trends That Will Shape System Landscapes in 2026

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Neu-Isenburg, 26 November 2025 – The year 2026 will bring a significant reorganization of data landscapes across many companies. While some organizations will experience major changes driven by the transition to SAP S/4HANA, others are facing increasing pressure to realign their data management and archiving strategies.

Key drivers not only include technical migration projects but also stricter European regulations, rising compliance and data sovereignty requirements, as well as the growing aspiration to treat archived information not as static storage, but as a value-generating resource. kgs identifies the following trends in document and data archiving for 2026:

1 From Migration to Strategy

The discussion around archiving is shifting away from pure technical migration towards selective document and data strategies that integrate technical, legal, and business objectives. Such strategies help keep operational systems lean, ensure compliance with statutory retention requirements, and optimize the use of storage resources. Archiving is becoming part of a broader data governance framework that manages information lifecycles—from collection and usage to controlled deletion.

2 AI-Driven Archives Become Knowledge Sources

AI is increasingly entering the world of archiving. After several years of experimental projects, 2026 will show where AI can deliver tangible value in the archiving context. The focus is on applications built on solid, validated document and data foundations, providing automated

classification, tagging, semantic search capabilities, and intelligent summarization. It is essential that the archive functions as a trusted data source. Governance, traceability, and data integrity are crucial to meeting the requirements of the European AI Act.

3 Cloud Archiving for Maximum Flexibility

In the coming year, the focus will no longer be on the question “Cloud – yes or no?”, but on the strategic use of cloud technologies. Many companies are combining on-premises and cloud components to balance cost, flexibility, and compliance. A key topic in this context is avoiding vendor lock-in, especially with major hyperscalers.

4 From ECM to the Strategic Archive

Monolithic platforms with overlapping functions equivalent to ERP or collaboration systems are increasingly viewed as cumbersome, costly, and oversized. Modern organizations would rather rely on specialized, integrated archiving solutions that seamlessly connect with systems such as SAP S/4HANA and Microsoft 365. At the center is a “Single Point of Truth” that provides information in a legally compliant, cross-system, and cloud-ready manner—without duplicate data storage or superfluous workflows. The future lies in open interfaces and API-first architectures.

5 Compliance Requirements Gain Importance

Where companies previously oriented themselves toward national standards and auditing procedures, the expanding regulatory landscape at EU level requires a shift in mindset. With the AI Act, the Data Act, and e-invoicing directives, a complex network of requirements is emerging—demanding both technological and organizational adaptability. Archiving systems are becoming active components of compliance, ensuring not only the preservation of documents and data but also provable auditability and adaptability.

KGS Software GmbH

KGS Software GmbH has been a leader in SAP archiving for over 25 years, offering the highest level of expertise. Leading companies worldwide – such as Lufthansa Group, Procter & Gamble, BMW, and Kärcher – rely on kgs solutions. Data, documents and attachments from SAP, as well as attachments from other leading applications like Microsoft SharePoint, are migrated and archived using cloud-native, high-performance software.

Under the brand "tia®" – the intelligent archive – kgs unites all product modules under a common vision of the intelligent document archive. tia® stands for autonomous archiving, is compatible with any applications, storage solutions, and cloud technologies, and provides companies with a Single Point of Truth (SPoT) for document access. tia® supports the SAP certified interfaces ArchiveLink®, ILM, and CMIS. With the world's first SAP-certified CMIS interface, kgs' technological leadership in document management was once again confirmed in 2022.

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