

# A look at the history of Spend Management



In today's digitized, fast-paced business environment, sometimes it is difficult to take a step back and recognize how far humans have progressed. Follow along our timeline to witness the cost-saving journey of spend management.

## The Stone Age

a VERY long time ago to 3,000 B.C.

- The most basic form of procurement happens
- Cavemen discover fire forms where lightening strikes, creating a valuable "business" opportunity



## The Bronze Age

3,000 to 1,300 B.C.

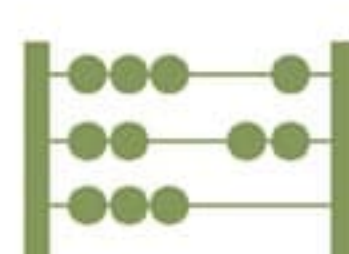
- Continuous supply needed to support massive efforts like pyramid construction
- Scribes record the amounts of materials needed on papyrus rolls and travel to neighboring civilizations to exchange goods and services
- Long-distance trade is limited to luxury goods like textiles, spices and precious metals



## The Iron & Middle Ages

200 B.C. to 1500 A.D.

- Trade distances dramatically increase thanks to sailing ships and currency is adopted for easier payments
- Recording tallies to represent transactions and remembering debts is commonplace



## 19th and Early 20th Century

- The Industrial Revolution established large production factories, where steam and coal are all the rage
- Supplier networks were largely made of families (these were scarier times)
- New machinery, mass production, and wages brought an influx of workers to the city
- Purchasing becomes its own department as selecting and tracking materials becomes critical



## The Age of Bureaucracy

1950s - 60s

- The Great Depression and WWII demonstrated that the prices, quality of materials, and the performance of suppliers effect transactions rather than the availability of materials
- Business becomes bureaucratic with administrative and legal work involved in every transaction
- Suppliers expand their reach across industry sectors making supply networks increasingly complex



1970s - 80s

- War-related oil embargoes effect purchasing processes
- Product life-cycles shorten with the spread of technology
- Supply chain management becomes a priority to alleviate costs, make improvements, and increase information sharing from suppliers to customers



1990s - Early 2000s

- The World Wide Web accelerates globalization of supply chains
- AP is intertwined with procurement and disbursement processes
- Information management leads to computerized databases
- Skeptics of information security harbor paper invoices and POs, causing payment delays
- Long-term contracts with suppliers cut costs and fulfill demands in a fast-paced economy
- Medius forms with a focus on the importance of AP and ERP integration



Present

- Medius acquires 20 year veteran in sourcing and procurement, Wax Digital to create a complete spend management suite
- Means of global communication are near instantaneous
- The advances of Big Data and AI allow your favorite retailers to make continuous, personalized suggestions for all your needs



Medius has been a leading provider of spend management solutions for the last 20 years.  
Are you ready to automate your AP processes? Contact us to learn how.