Spain

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Spencer coat and “Basquiña”
late 18th century- beginning 19th century
Museo del Traje
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Foto: Subdirección de Museos Estatales, Ministerio de Cultura
Digitisation policies and emerging initiatives

In relation with the policy scenario for digitisation in Spain, drawn up in Coordination Digitisation in Europe. Progress Report of the NRG Coordination Mechanisms for digitisation policies and programmes 2002 (known as the Global Report 2002), the main difference in 2003 has been the launch of the programme Patrimonio.es (Heritage.es). The programme is part of the Information Society policy España.es (Spain.es). Previous activities regarding coordination have merged into this initiative.

Patrimonio.es

Created by law 53/2002, 30th December (Ley de Medidas Fiscales, Administrativas y del Orden Social que acompaña a los Presupuestos Generales del Estado, Cláusula 4 del artículo 75) at the end of 2002, the programme Patrimonio.es was entrusted to Red.es, a state-owned company legally attached the Spanish Ministry of Science & Technology (MCyT). It aims to digitise, preserve and disseminate Spanish Heritage. One of the first steps to launch the programme was the signing of an agreement between the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture & Sport (MECD) and the MCyT, which took place on the 10th June 2003. Besides, during 2003 a strategic and technological survey is being carried out in order to establish the action lines of the programme. The programme is running three pilot projects with Filmoteca Española (Spanish Film Institute), Biblioteca Nacional (National Library) and Museo Cerralbo (one of the 17 State Museums). Patrimonio.es will become the main instrument to disseminate Lund Principles in Spain through its Web site: http://www.patrimonio.es. Although the content of the Web site at the moment is merely informative, in the near future it will become a portal and it will assume an active role in the coordination of digitisation of cultural, scientific and natural heritage in Spain. The agreement between the two Ministries highlights the Terms of Reference Endorsement in Spain. Therefore, Ana Álvarez (Institutional and International Relations at Patrimonio.es) has been designated as the new Spanish representative in the NRG to replace José Luis Esteban (National Library) to head the coordination tasks with Patrimonio.es.

Programmes and projects

The initiatives described in this report are a selection of programmes and projects, both at national and regional level. The goal is to illustrate the scenario for digitisation of cultural and scientific heritage with initiatives other than those mentioned in the Global Report 2002. Regarding state owned cultural institutions, among other digitisation initiatives, state museums and public libraries exemplify the growing importance of digitisation of cultural heritage:

- The Subdirección General de Museos Estatales (State Museums Department of the MECD) has designed and implemented a normalised information system, known as DOMUS, for museum collections and documentation. DOMUS encompasses catalogation, collection management and digitisation of museum collections. The system is being implemented in State museums. The progressive adoption of the system by public regional and local museums will enable the exchange of collection information via Web.
During 2003-2004 a programme for the digitisation of historical press both regional and local is being executed by the Bibliotecas Públicas del Estado (Public Estate Libraries) to preserve XIX century documents in danger. The budget for 2003 is 500,000 € and the amount of quality images will reach 2,500,000 images. The programme includes digitisation together with hardware and software adaptation to enable the on-line access to the images. More information shortly in http://www.cultura.mecd.es/bibliotecas.

Regarding on-line publication, the Biblioteca Nacional (Spanish National Library) is working on a new Digital Holdings Access System. New software development will offer access to users (researchers, visitors, readers, etc) to the digital collection built up from the holdings of the Library to end. The system, connected to the Library’s Catalogue, allows, according to the user’s profile, to display, print and/or download digital assets of the Library. Therefore, the result of the National Library digitisation projects, both from internal and external (resulting from agreements with other Institutions involving exchange of digitisation assets), will be accessible to the Library users. Digital assets include digitised versions of Library holdings made of images, sounds and videos. As a result of this initiative, the Library has had to enhance its Information Technology equipment and, up till now, the storage system has an overall capacity of nearly 6 Terabytes of disk space.

Regarding regional institutions, due to the de-centralisation of the Spanish Public Administration - Comunidades Autónomas -, the programme Patrimonio.es is carrying out a survey to identify digitisation programmes and projects at this level. The programme was presented 31st October 2003 in Aranjuez during a meeting of the Consejo de Patrimonio Histórico (Heritage Council), where representatives of the General State Administration, Comunidades Autónomas and other institutions involved in the protection of cultural heritage meet three times a year. This unique opportunity was useful to remind regional authorities about the need of coordination following Lund principles and Action Plan. A questionnaire was given to each regional representative to fill in with information regarding digitisation initiatives. Though the following list is not a result from the survey, Patrimonio.es hopes to illustrate regional scenarios with a selection of projects classified by cultural sectors.

Cultural heritage
Comunidad Valenciana: Inventario de Bienes Muebles e Inmuebles (Movable and immovable protected heritage). On-line access including digital images to the regional protected heritage: http://www.cult.gva.es/dgpa/

Inmovable heritage
Comunidad Autónoma del País Vasco: Monumentos de Euskadi (Basque Country Monuments). On-line access to images and documentation of relevant monuments: http://www.euskadi.net/zentroa/monumentos/indice_c.htm

Movable heritage/museums
Comunidad Autónoma de Cataluña: Xarxa de Museus (Museum Network). Museum directory done by the Generalitat de Catalunya including links to museum Webs, which generally include images and multimedia resources. http://cultura.gencat.es/museus/index.htm
Año, 1605.

CON PRIVILEGIO,
EN MADRID Por Iuan de la Cuesta.
Bibliographic/Documental heritage
Comunidad Valenciana: BIVALDI (Digital Library of Valencia). On-line access and download to digital images of original documents with transcriptions and text translation. User registration required.
http://bv2.gva.es/

Comunidad Foral de Navarra: Digitalización Fondos Fotográficos Príncipe de Viana (Photographic collections digitisation which belong to the institution Príncipe de Viana). Digitisation project of XIX century - 1960 photographic collection.

Film heritage
Comunidad Autónoma de Galicia: Digitalización del film “La tragedia de Xirobio” (“La tragedia de Xirobio” film digitisation). Digitisation Project carried out by the Centro Gallego de las Artes de la Imagen (Image Art Center of Galicia)

Intangible Heritage
Comunidad Autónoma de Aragón: Patrimonio Etnológico de Aragón (Ethnological heritage of Aragón). On-line access to documentary and digital resources related with oral tradition of Aragón as result of research projects funded by regional authority.

On-going programmes and projects of digitisation are increasingly concerned with end-user access to digital assets and content need of Information Society.

The Museo Ciencias Naturales (Natural History Museum) of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas –CSIC- (Council of Scientific Research) is an outstanding example of digitisation of scientific heritage. Natural specimens, together with other documentation sources of scientific heritage (such as drawings, photographs or videos) are being digitised to guarantee their physical preservation, public access and foster scientific knowledge. Several projects are being executed: Historical negatives (wetplate collodion) of the photographic collection of a XIXth century scientific expedition, the Iconographic archive and the Invertebrates Collection (not insects not mollusc) dating from 1771-1815 from the Royal Natural History Cabinet. The Museum has created, with funding from regional and scientific bodies, the Mediateca del CSIC (the CSIC Audiovisual Library) in 2003. The Mediateca is a library of digital assets (600 videos, 15.000 photographs and 2000 sounds) which can be accessed through 28 terminals.

The Ministry of Science and Technology has funded through the Programme for the Promotion of Technical Research (PROFIT) (2000-2003) aimed to foster scientific research and technological development policies under the National RTD Plan, several projects related with digitisation of cultural content. An example is the project of Fundación Isaac Albeniz in the domain of cultural digitised content for education, with the digitisation of master music classes to provide music schools with multimedia content served through broadband or local servers.

Vocational training related with digitisation, digital content management and metadata is increasingly
being demanded by professionals of the cultural sector. A growing number of seminars and courses organised by professional associations of librarians and documentalists evidence this trend. More into the cultural sector, for example, the Training Department of the Instituto Histórico Andaluz de Patrimonio Histórico (Historical Heritage Institute of Andalucía) has a wide scope of courses that aim to bridge the gap between formal university education and the skills required in the day-to-day.

http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/iaph/formacion/formacion.html

Cooperation developments

Cooperation in the field of digitisation of cultural content is mainly driven by opportunities of funding from national or international sources. Universities and IT companies, together with regional and local authorities, are more proactive than cultural institutions applying and participating in cooperation projects. Cultural institutions are present in the international sectoral federations for example the Filmoteca Española (Spanish Film Institute) at the FIAF (International Federation of Film Archives) and the Subdirección de Archivos Estatales (State Archives Subdirection) at the ICA (International Council of Archives). These fora provide a good opportunity to exchange information on issues like digitisation by different institutions of the same sector.

Emerging issues

One of the emerging issues is the interest shown by small and medium size cultural institutions as well as regional and local authorities, in standards and guidelines to accomplish programmes and projects following best practices. Another trend is the development of platforms, which include Digital Rights Management Systems (DRMS), by collective management societies mainly related with digital visual arts, music and cinema.

Use of NRG/MINERVA results and impact

Patrimonio.es is taking into account the outputs of NRG/MINERVA for the definition of the programme. Dissemination of these initiatives has been carried out with the distribution of the Global Report to 144 organisms and institutions related with the digitisation of cultural and scientific heritage in Spain. The Web of Patrimonio.es and the participation in conferences and seminars of Red.es will also contribute to extend the benefits to a wide audience.