Spain

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Punta de la Baña Lighthouse, Tarragona
Photo: José Martínez Sánchez, c. 1867
Fondo Fotográfico-Fundación Universitaria de Navarra
Universidad de Navarra
Policy scenario

At a national level political support for digitisation continues to be based on the programme Patrimonio.es. As a result of the definition of the programme and the three pilot experiences, a public call will be launched in 2005 to fund digitisation in collaboration with regional and local authorities. Synergies with cultural tourism and educational content will be taken into account in the project selection.

Co-operation

1. National networks

Digitisation and creation of cultural content have fostered partnerships among similar institutions and collections and also among institutions with different approaches to cultural heritage.

Patrimonio Cultural Universitario

The University of Alicante (Fundación General de la Universidad de Alicante, Comunidad Valenciana) is leading a project to disseminate, protect, foster and research University Cultural Heritage, movable and immovable heritage of artistic, historical or archaeological value -such as architectural works, archaeological sites, works of Fine arts, manuscripts and antique books- as well as scientific collections and intangible heritage. Digitisation of the works will be carried out in order to illustrate a database, which will be accessible from the web portal of the project.

www.patrimonioniversitario.ua.es

Legado español en Roma

The Instituto Cervantes (Institute for the promotion of Spanish language abroad) has set up an original project of cultural digital content. Spanish legacy in Rome is presented through an interactive map which offers routes with the main works of art of Spanish origin in the Eternal City. Approximately 1500 works of art are accessible through images, written texts and audios for those visually impaired, together with their location. The result is, at the same time, encyclopaedic and user-friendly, as well as of interest for researchers, for curious visitors and students of Spanish. Each work of art can be traced to the place where today is kept and the information of the location both practical and historical. The project was carried out during a whole year, though the digital maps were acquired and the main effort was the digitisation and the elaboration of texts for each item. A team of 15 people was involved in the project and it counted with the collaboration of the Escuela Española de Historia y Arqueología (Spanish school of History and Archeology in Rome) dependent from the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC, Scientific Research Council) and the University of Valencia.

http://legado.cervantes.es

Other similar projects have been developed with the support of the Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes regarding the Spanish exile during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939): “El exilio español en París” (Spanish exile in Paris) is a literary virtual route while “El exilio español en Roma” (Spanish exile in Rome) includes itineraries around the places visited by three emblematic representatives of Spanish intelligentsia: Rafael Alberti, María Zambrano and Ramón Gaya.

The Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes is creating
2. International co-operation

Local institutions, ICT companies and universities represent Spanish participation in European projects regarding ICT and cultural heritage. The Provincial Library of Huelva (Biblioteca Provincial de Huelva, Andalucia) is a partner in CALIMERA (Cultural Applications: local Institutions Mediating Electronic Resources Access). The University of Alicante and Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes (BVMC) are partners in the project META-e, which aims to address the need for an automated generation of metadata during the digitisation of printed Documents. Several Spanish universities, local authorities and companies are involved in the network of excellence EPOCH which combines expertise and resources of technologists, heritage administrators, heritage professionals and communication experts concerned with the effective and sustainable application of digital technology to archaeological research and cultural heritage presentation at museums, monuments, and historic sites.

The website of the Immigration History Museum of Catalonia (Museo de Historia de la Inmigración de Catalunya) has been developed by OLIBA, a research group of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) working in ICT and cultural heritage, as a result of the participation in the project COINE(Cultural Objects in Networked Environments). The digital archive of the Museum has been created with the tools of COINE, which allow creating and uploading content in the web. The website includes information about the museum permanent exhibition, the temporary exhibitions, digital content of audios and videos with the experiences of the immigrants of other parts of Spain, and educational activities. www.mhic.net www.uoc.edu/in3/oliba/index_es.html www.coine.org

Cooperation with Latin America regarding digitisation of cultural content is also an important chapter. Several programmes and initiatives have been set up within the IberoAmerican Cooperation Secretariat (Secretaría de Cooperación Iberoamericana –SECIB-), organism created to support and disseminate the programmes and cooperation networks related to the Iberoamerican Summit of Heads of State and Government as follows below:

- Latin American Diplomatic Archives Network (Red de Archivos Diplomáticos Iberoamericanos –RADI–): Programme of restoration of historical archives which aims to establish a common system to organise the different archives, to promote cooperation activities, to disseminate, preserve and exchange information and to foster research of the relations among Latin American countries, enabling remote access.
- National Libraries Development Programme (Programa de desarrollo de las Bibliotecas Nacionales –ABINIA–): The former programme of National
Libraries of Latin America – ABINIA – has become an International Organism in order to obtain material contributions from its member countries. Although digitisation is not mentioned in the objectives of the Programme, an initiative involving Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela has been carried out during 2002 and 2003 regarding digitisation of XIXth century press of the Gran Colombia (60 titles dating 1820-1830) and a CD has been published with the results. Another initiative is the Latin American and Caribbean Digital Library regarding digitisation in the different national libraries.

- Development Support Programme for Latin American Archives (Programa de apoyo desarrollo de Archivos Iberoamericanos –ADAI-): The programme aims to foster the development of archives of the participant countries (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Spain and Mexico). Digitisation activities are related to preservation, conservation and restoration of archives. The following initiatives should be pointed out: microfilming and digitisation of the Archivo General de la Nación de Colombia holdings; computerisation and digitisation of the records of the Mayor’s Office of the Archivo Histórico de Cartagena, Colombia; and the digitisation of the notarial records of the Archivo Histórico Provincial de Camagüey, Cuba.

Main digitisation initiatives

1. National portals for culture / networked digital repositories

Altogether with other initiatives mentioned in the previous reports leaded by public and private cultural or scientific institutions, private foundations such as Fundación Telefónica and the Spanish Catholic Church are increasingly involved in creating cultural portals.

Fundación Telefónica as a part of its cultural activities, funds several initiatives, which contribute to create cultural quality content in the web. In the portal Ars Virtual, which was mentioned in the first report, new heritage sites have been added to the 3D virtual recreation of Spanish monuments. More Spanish sites and the two first Latin American ones located in Peru can be browsed. Fundación Telefónica also sponsors three projects regarding digitisation of bibliographic material with the objective of enriching digital repositories in the web:

- the portal offers access to the holdings of the library of the Monastery of San Millán de la Cogolla (La Rioja)
- the digitisation of the bibliographic records and works of art kept in the Abbey of Montserrat (Catalunya), which has been carried out since 1998, and which will be shared through a website
- and one of the most reputed initiatives in digitisation, the Virtual Library Miguel de Cervantes (BVMC), has also signed an agreement where the Fundación Telefónica will allow new digital collections to be incorporated to the Virtual Library website with materials coming from other libraries.

www.fsaneillan.org
www.abadiamontserrat.net
www.cervantesvirtual.com

The cultural heritage of the Catholic Church is a very important part of Spanish heritage as a whole. Protection, conservation and restoration of this heritage are not any more side issues. Therefore introduction...
Crucified Christ, XVII century
Photo: G. Segada
Hospital Real, Granada
© Universidad de Granada
of ICT and digitisation have been adopted to improve these aspects. One of the examples of this concern is the project lead by the diocese of Vitoria (Basque Country) through the Fundación Catedral de Santa María. The Cathedral Foundation has digitised the cathedral as a part of the Restoration Plan so as to use the digital information with a double purpose: documenting the restoration works and disseminating its cultural value. The website offers a virtual tour of the Cathedral and suggestions for the physical visit along with a complete set of photographs of the premises.

www.catedralvitoria.com

2. Services for the users

User services remain mainly targeted to researchers and informational intermediaries (infomediaries) although cultural institutions still do not offer their services through the Internet. The Documentation Centre of the Real Fundación Toledo (Castilla-La Mancha) is open to researchers interested in the history of Toledo. As the result of two digitisation projects, the digitisation of the convent archives of Toledo and Image of Toledo, the Fundación has digitised the holdings of several convents of Toledo and is gathering a digital collection of ancient photographs of the city from different sources such as the Royal Palace Archive, National Library, General Administration Archive, Agencia Efe and Fondo Loty.

www.realfundaciontoledo.es

3. Emerging initiatives

Digitisation lead by universities

Spanish universities are leading interesting digitisation projects. The universities of Granada, Navarra and Madrid are digitising their heritage as a part of research and conservation tasks. The University of Granada (Vicerrectorado de Patrimonio, Equipamiento e Infraestructuras) owns a rich artistic heritage – including paintings, decorative arts, buildings, documents and books – together with scientific objects of the Museo de la Farmacia, Pharmacy Museum. As the result of research, computerisation and digitisation, the aim is to produce a CD/DVD to promote the University collections. The Photographic Collection (Fondo Fotográfico de la Universidad de Navarra) has been digitising its collections, which add up to 7500 photographs and approximately 80,000 negatives of great artistic and documentary value (due to the legacies of several photographers: José Ortiz Echagüe, Juan Docet, el Conde de Ventosa and an important photographic collection of XIXth century). Digitisation is considered an essential tool for collection management and to enable access to researchers, at the moment only from the University premises. The website of the Ortiz-Echagüe Legacy (Legado Ortiz-Echagüe) offers a selection of low resolution images of the photographic collection with texts in Spanish and English.

www.unav.es/oechague/

The historical library of the Universidad Complutense, in charge of the conservation and dissemination of the historical bibliographic heritage, is carrying out a digitisation project called Dioscorides Digital Library (Biblioteca Digital Dioscórides). More than 750,000 pages of books and manuscripts dating from the XVth – XVIIIth centuries of bibliographic and scientific value have been digitised. Internet access is offered not only to the virtual facsimiles but also to the plates and engravings separately by author, subject and chronological period in the Engraving Database. The project is sponsored
Other universities—for example, Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canarias and Universidad de León—are digitising heritage as a result of a project to gather information about a specific matter. The library of the Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canarias (Canary Islands) is leading Memoria Digital de Canarias—mdC—(Digital memory of the Canary Islands) since 2002. This project is unique in Spanish Universities because it is the first digitisation and dissemination project whose scope is regional documentary heritage: any document produced in the islands, whose subject is of the Canary Islands or whose author is Canarian or resident there. IPR is the only limit because the project includes all type of documents regardless time, medium or publication. Free access to complete digital facsimiles of the following materials: texts (manuscripts, books, magazines and leaflets), images (photographs, engravings, and posters), audio (conferences, musical events, readings) and video (films, documentaries and short films) is offered in the portal of the project. http://bdigital.ulpgc.es/mdc/

“Scientia Digital” is the virtual library of scientific XIXth century texts developed by the University of León (Castilla-León) and the electronic magazine BORNET. The University puts up the bibliographic holdings and the hosting of the database, several persons have contributed granting permission to include more texts and the project receives funding from sponsors and advertisers, which are featured in the web. High definition content is offered in the website shop, in CD-ROM. http://scientiadigital.unileon.es

Scattered heritage

Similarly to other European initiatives, digitisation has proven to be a useful instrument to bring together scattered heritage. The Exile Portal is a good example, as a permanent exhibition for remembrance of the exile of republicans during and after the Spanish Civil War. Digitisation of a part of the documents owned by different institutions, including images, audios and documents of the time illustrates the portal exhibitions “Exile” and “War children” (Los niños de la Guerra). The website is expected to receive more contributions from researchers and other institutions or persons who own interesting material. The project is lead by the Fundación Jaime Vera together with other foundations, archives and associations. www.portaldelexilio.org/

Educational content

Educational content is one of the emerging initiatives due to the need of take-up of Information Society infrastructures within school and other learning sectors. Public initiatives such as the CNICE, or National Education Information and Communication Center (Centro Nacional de información y comunicación educativa) which depends on the Ministry of Education and Science, are working to develop ICT use in schools. www.cnice.mecd.es/

The Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum has developed an entire website with content aimed to teachers and parents, called Educathyssen. Educational content and tools have been created to respond to their specific needs and the web aims to create a virtual community. Museum digital images and virtual visits integrate the learning materials along with specific educational texts. www.educathyssen.org
Private initiative has also contributed to create education portals. Educared of Fundación Telefónica offers resources for teachers and students regarding contents, tools, and news about the school sector. This foundation is a technological partner of cultural institutions in exchange of contents for websites like Educared and Campusred targeted to university students.

www.educared.net/

On the other hand, Artifex Balear is a project to foster ICT in relation with the recuperation of traditional building skills and adult education. The initiative promoted by a non-profit association receives funding from the Balearic Islands Government, the Fundación Ibit, Leader II programme and the town council of Alaró. The techniques and vocabulary of old stonemasons are illustrated with an image database of 20,000 records of traditional examples of architecture from Mallorca.

http://www.artifexbalear.org

Web position and IPR
An initiative regarding web positioning and search engines optimization of cultural content in the Internet has been lead by a working group coordinated by the Instituto Cervantes (Institute for the promotion of Spanish language abroad), which integrates several cultural institutions such as the Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes, University of Alicante, the Museum Thyssen-Bornemisza, Casa de América, Biblioteca Nacional de España, UNED, CINDOC-CSIC and Red.es. The group started working in June 2003. A couple of seminars have been organised so far, in November 2003 in Madrid and May 2004 in Alicante. The development of a methodological analysis to improve web positioning of Internet projects of institutions which offer education, cultural and scientific content will enable benchmarking regarding analysis, terminology and common indicators to compare the effectiveness of cultural institutions in Internet.

www.cervantesvirtual.com/posicionamiento/index.shtml

Regarding Intellectual Property Rights, three initiatives must be highlighted in relation with the digitisation and use of digital assets. Firstly, the Ministry of Culture issued a new draft of the Copyright Law with the changes deemed necessary in order to comply with Directive 2001/29/EC, on copyright and neighbouring rights in the Information Society. The proposed modification of the Copyright Law should bring some legal security to creators and users of digital works. Secondly, controversy has arisen whether there should be a remuneration right to public lending of works. The view of the European Commission is that Spain should change its Copyright Law in order to introduce such a right for the authors and the Commission plans to press charges for infringement of Directive 92/100/EEC, on rental, lending and related rights against the Spanish Government. Thirdly, the translation to Spanish of the Creative Commons licenses and their adaptation to Spanish Law have been accomplished. This allows Spanish copyright holders to freely distribute their works in Internet reserving for themselves the rights they want to keep under their control.

El ingenioso hidalgo don Quijote de la Mancha, by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, new corrected edition by Real Academia Española, Madrid: Joaquín Ibarra, 1780

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