

BRAZIL

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOUNDATION OF BRAZIL

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THE BRAZILIAN MEMORY VIRTUAL LIBRARY NETWORK PROGRAM

The National Library acts as a coordinating center for the public library system and the program above has been tailored to provide a goal to be achieved at national level among libraries already connected with the Electronic **Consortium of Libraries** whether public libraries or university libraries.

The Brazilian Memory will deal with unique features of the life and behavioral patterns of distinct communities in Brazil through the work of libraries in identifying relevant material of their region and provide digital archives with metadata. The National Library outreach program will orient and train these libraries to permit this program to develop.

This program offers services for helping libraries to create their own database by consulting a 500,000 books database and by copy cataloging their collection from the online catalogs of the National Library that can be accessed through special login and password using Z39.50. At present, a new addition of one million card catalog has been made available by digitizing the old cards catalog and is now available by Internet and has expanded this service which was offered since 1998 for libraries and users. Also a Metadata database will be available linking digital archives with bibliographical records.

So, at present, the Web site offers current national bibliography linked to images and sound with around one million artifacts, legal deposit and ISBN, as well as 200 full text classical Brazilian literatures.

New funding was provided in 2001 to expand the site of the National Library, which contracted outside services for digitizing a large number of documents among the material considered as treasures of the collection and the site with this new design and digitized material has been named **Library without frontiers**

Since 1999 this virtual library makes it possible to obtain copies of images, photos, maps, sound etc, as well as digital files with image and full text.

A NEW INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

Agreements made with the Library of Congress (USA) and Miguel de Cervantes Library (University of Alicante, Spain) will expand the present virtual project and give it a new international dimension.

The Miguel de Cervantes Virtual Library has entered into an agreement with the National Library and will include Portuguese speaking literature already available at the National Library site, which will cater more to the Spanish public and Latin American Spanish speaking countries which accessed and contribute to this site. At present, there is no Portuguese-speaking literature contribution. At the same time, a new cooperation will be launched concerning the visually impaired public accessing by Internet. Exchange of staff will provide training on the program used to be applied at the National Library.

The Library of Congress is developing, with the National Library a joint site concerning Brazil which will deal with its development whether cultural, artistically or historical based on both collections and giving the remote user access to digital files connected to the bibliographical records, as well as to the summaries by topics. The site is being developed jointly by both libraries and will be in English and Portuguese and should be launched in 2002/03 as part of the program launched by the Library of Congress with Spain and Russian under the umbrella **International Horizons**. It provides information on literature, images and sound on the topics presented and will be a guideline to study Brazil and its evolving culture and past. It will serve also the public library system, as well as educational institutions and school libraries. Its libraries structure will be used to develop the virtual memory library network in Brazil with 5,000 libraries.

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