

SPAIN

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2002 – 2003

First created as the Royal Library by Philip V in 1711, the Spanish National Library is now an independent institution attached to the Secretary of State for Culture under the Ministry for Education, Culture and Sports.

The National Library's remit and structure were set out in the Royal Decree of October 31, 1991, and during this period, it has carried out its essential activities of acquiring, cataloguing and preserving bibliographic assets produced in any Spanish language, and disseminating its works through the consultation, loan and reproduction of its collections.

Furthermore, as the State's most senior library institution and as head of the Spanish library system, it is responsible for national bibliographic output and for developing research and cooperation programmes with other libraries.

Its Book Museum houses a permanent exhibition of 250 works, displaying manuscripts, incunabula, photographs, maps, and so on, together with the most advanced audiovisual systems.

The temporary exhibitions that have taken place this year are as follows:

- British satirical prints. Hogarth and his age
- Best artistic bookbinding 1999-2000
- Treasures of Spanish cartography
- The illuminated text: A look at contemporary Spanish and Ibero-American illustration
- A hundred years of education in Spain
- From Limoges to Silos

In addition to the customary activities, the following were also undertaken over the past year:

- Reorganisation process of the institution's human resources, without increasing staff numbers
- Extending the service of automatic download of records using the Z39.50 server, with download via the web server to be introduced shortly
- Bibliographic control of more than 700,000 items
- Installation of the reading room, sound booth, and listening and viewing stations in the Musical Score, Sound and Audiovisual Recording Department.
- Implementation of new IT developments
- Development of the Virtual National Library project and cooperation on projects involving the digitisation of holdings with other national and international institutions

- Standardisation of item donation criteria
- Intranet design study
- Preparation of the new web page design.

VIRTUAL NATIONAL LIBRARY

This project seeks to create a digital library based on the bibliographic and documentary assets held by the Spanish National Library.

The aim of the project is to use catalogues and digital storage facilities to offer bibliographic information retrieval, publication and consultation services which make the best possible use of the benefits that are generically referred to as "Internet technologies" (ubiquitousness, accessibility using universal search tools, hipertextuality, multimedia contents, etc.).

The services will be designed for and geared towards both researchers and library professionals as well as the general public.

The construction of the Virtual National Library is subject to a process of ongoing improvement and development, and will be enlarged through the constant incorporation of contents and technologies, as and when these become available.

The phase involving requirement analysis and development of the first software products took place in 2002, and initial estimates suggest that a 30-month period will be necessary to develop the first operative phase.

VIRTUAL CERVANTES

Cooperation with the University of Alicante in its project Cervantes Virtual.com. The National Library will provide digitised versions of a selection of books in their textual version. This cooperation has been set out in a formal agreement.

VIRTUAL VALENCIAN LIBRARY

Cooperation with the University of Valencia in its incipient Virtual Valencian Library (BIVALDI).

DIGITAL LIBRARY OF IBERO-AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

A project sponsored by UNESCO and ABINIA in which the National Library has been invited to participate.

It aims to create a Virtual Library based on the holdings available in 36 different institutions of the Ibero-American cultural area.

The National Library's contribution will take the shape of digital versions of its most representative holdings (initially this will probably involve 150-200 works) and the contribution of four specialists in different subjects to implement the project.

STATISTICS

Collection as at December 31, 2002

Books (monographs):	8,000,000 items
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Leaflets:	3,041,480
Newspapers:	3,000 titles
Periodicals:	105,000 titles
Manuscripts:	25,000
Reserved holdings:	273,695
Drawings:	40,000
Engravings:	105,000
Portraits:	38,000
Photography collection:	1,500,000
Ex-libris:	98,000
Collection of ephemeral material:	91,000
Poster collection:	946,000
Maps:	125,651
Musical scores:	225,199
Pianola rolls:	1,288
Sound recordings:	377,468
Videos:	48,342
Microforms:	1,000,000
Electronic resources:	9,665
Personnel:	460
Budget:	35,905.25 (thousand Euro)
Number of users:	190,588
Items consulted:	463,471
Website usage:	4,667 per day

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