

July 2010



Section on Rare Books and Manuscripts

Newsletter

Section's Homepage: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s18/index.htm>

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People



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From the Editors

The present edition has been prepared by Chantal Keijsper and Ernst-Jan Munnik (Leiden University Library).

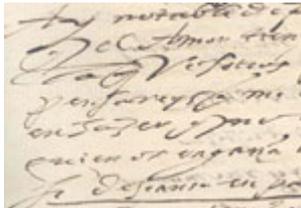
The newsletter will only be published in electronic format in future. This gives us the opportunity to include illustrations in the text and thus to enhance the visual attractiveness of the newsletter. **So please keep sending us texts, and if you can, include a digital image, too!**

From the Libraries

Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional de España



Codex Daza, autograph manuscript of Lope de Vega



In February 2010, The Biblioteca Nacional de España has acquired the so-called 'Codex Daza ', a unique and important autograph manuscript by Felix Lope de Vega Carpio (1562-1635). The manuscript was released from a private collection in 2005 and this year the Ministry of Culture has financed the acquisition.

Written by Lope between 1631 and 1634, on laid paper, it has 532 pages, some of them upside down and bound with "flags" (pieces of paper overlaid with text amendments, as usual). On the death of Lope, the codex belonged to the Duke of Sessa, patron and collector of the first large-scale production of the "Fénix de los ingenios", and in the guards are his manuscripts notes. After scattering in the nineteenth century the collection of the Counts of Altamira and Dukes of Sessa, went through several owners as Valentín Carderera , and the family of painters Madrazo. Thus, the codex has remained largely hidden from the public for centuries and just saw it from the 40s of last century, the Professor of Literature Joaquin Entrambasaguas in 1970 describes and transcribes its contents into "A manuscript of Lope de Vega autograph and unknown "(Journal of Literature, 1970).

The codex contains a part of unpublished work, especially poetry, and several fragments of known and published works, in some cases, with variations. For example: *Dorotea*, 1632, *Amarilis*, *huerto desecho* All of them mixed in the manuscript, which shows the working methods of Lope de Vega, both the creation of several works at once. The great importance of this work is that there are only three Lope de Vega's drafts in the world.

Lope de Vega wrote his plays directly, so that even if they come to us full of erasures, were all definitive works, ie, the final handwritten essays or copies intended for sale but never drafts, increasing the rarity and value of the manuscript acquired. In the Hispanic Digital Library is available the digitalized version of this important manuscript. Given the complexity of it, two versions have been created, one is bound as of great interest to specialists and another modified placing pages for better reading the codex.

(More information:

<http://bdh.bne.es/bnearch/CompleteSearch.do?text=codice+daza&exact=&advanced=false&pageSize=1&pageNumber=2>)

Personal Archive of the violinist Federico Senen

Margarita Duport, heiress to the violinist Federico Senen, has donated to the National Library the musician's personal archive.

Federico Senen López-Alonso was born in León in 1901 and died in Madrid in 1961. He served as professor of violin at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Madrid since

1933 until the date of his death; he won the Sarasate Prize in 1920. The documentation that includes the donation is part of his music library, scores of his repertoire with handwritten notes, playbills of his concert activity from 1915 to 1961 and newspaper clippings alluding to him collected by his wife, Andrea Duport.

Personal Archives

Since this year is available on the Web, the database on Personal and Entities Archives of the Biblioteca Nacional de España that allows the search and location of the documentary, which are the result of personal and professional activities of prominent figures of our culture. In the case of music archives there are also included collections generated by the activity of certain entities, which bear witness to the production and reception of music in Spain.

Using the database, which will increase gradually, you can access to a detailed study of the background, history of acquisition, as well as each of the papers grouped into sections and series to reflect an orderly fashion content.

With the onlines access of this database is intended to facilitate access and research and encourage private collectors and institutions to deposit this kind of archives in the BNE as a means to prevent its spread.

Currently you can access to 15 personal and entities archives. More information:: <http://www.bne.es/es/Catalogos/ArchivosPersonales/>

Fundación de Amigos de la Biblioteca Nacional de España

In the month of February 2010 it has been created the Foundation of Amigos de la Biblioteca Nacional de España. This foundation, private and non-profit, was born at the initiative of a group of founders and is open to individuals, institutions and companies, interested in supporting the work of the Biblioteca Nacional de España. The Foundation aims especially everything connected with the promotion, encouragement, support and development of cultural activities, educational and other developments relevant to the National Library to support its mission and activities, and to increase their collections, their knowledge, dissemination, national and international levels and their integration into society.

**München,
Bayerische
Staatsbibliothek**

450 Jahre **BSB** Bayerische
Staatsbibliothek

Since early 2010, the library takes part in the EU-funded Project 'Europeana Regia' led by the Bibliothèque nationale de France. In the course of the project 114 of our Carolingian manuscripts, particularly those with illuminations, will be digitized and made accessible via Europeana. The famous Codex aureus of St Emmeram (Regensburg), Clm 14000, one of the highlights of the Munich collection, has been digitized beforehand, on the basis of the facsimile edition.

Cataloguing for the VD 18 (Verzeichnis der im deutschen Sprachraum erschienenen Drucke des 18. Jahrhunderts, 1701-1800), the German national retrospective bibliography of 18th century imprints, started in July 2009. The library takes part in this project together with the libraries in Halle, Dresden, Göttingen and the State Library of Berlin. The DFG-funded project focusses on re-cataloguing and digitizing one copy of every edition published in Germany or in German language abroad

during the 18th century. An estimated 600.000 titles will have to be recatalogued and digitized. More than 5000 titles from the BSB have already been recatalogued, more than 25.000 books for VD 18 have been digitized within the Google project.

All digitized content provided by the library has been integrated into Europeana in early 2010.

Highlights of the collections of the Bavarian State Library are also accessible through WDL.

Paris, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts



The Ecole nationale supérieure des beaux-arts (Paris, France) has the very great pleasure to inform of the free online access to:

Catzarts, the database of its worldwide-known collections : ca. 75,000 records (describing over 100,000 items), 52,000 of them illustrated.

<http://www.ensba.fr/ow2/catzarts/>

and to

Catzarts-livres, the catalogue of the 67 000 printed books from the art and architecture library of the *Service des collections* :

<http://www.beauxartsparis.fr/catzartslivres/>



These two databases are of major interest not only to the public of art history but also and more unexpectedly, to the public interested to mediaeval manuscripts and to the history of the book, mostly thanks to the extraordinary donation of the collector Jean Masson (1856-1933).



Cat'zarts, the database of the works of art and the manuscripts, count more than 400 records describing richly illuminated mediaeval manuscripts and a rare collection of illuminated cuttings and fragments equivalent to these of the Victoria and Albert museum and of the Musée Marmottan (Paris, France). The famous series of Jean Bourdichon "Les Quatre états de la société" stands among them, for example.

Cat'zarts-livres, the catalogue of the printed books, records about 13 000 old and rare books, from several European countries (France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, the Netherlands, covering every thematic field of the printed book, and most of them illustrated. The incunabula section counts about 500 items, 33 *unica* having been identified : 200 described so far, inventory on-going. The collection also holds 127 printed books of hours, numerous festival books, and one of the largest collection of old architecture books in Europe.





Up to this day the Ecole des beaux-arts in Paris has been one of the few established bodies housing both paramount art teaching and outstanding art collections – a commodity seldom, if ever, to be met in the same place. The school can boast of numerous heritage collections, inherited from the Academie royale de peinture et de sculpture and the Academie royale d'architecture founded by Louis XIV, and further enriched by numerous splendid donations, like the one of the architect Joseph Lesoufaché (1804-1887), a rival collector of Hippolyte Destailleur. These collections amounting to half a million items include artworks as varied as paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, photographs, illuminated manuscripts and art archives, described in Cat'zarts.

The databases have been given the names of *Cat'zArts* and *Cat'zArts-livres* in reference to the annual Quat'zArts ball (1910-1968), a merry meeting of the students carousing through the Parisian streets. The databases are available through the web site of the Ecole :

<http://www.ensba.fr/ow2/catzarts/> (languages available : French and English)

<http://www.beauxartsparis.fr/catzartslivres/>

A presentation of the collections and of the heritage service :

<http://www.ensba.fr/patrimoine/collections>

Contacts : catzarts AT beauxartsparis.fr ; juliette.jestaz AT beauxartsparis.fr, curator for books and manuscripts ; consultation-collections AT beauxartsparis.fr

Chief curator : bruno.girveau AT beauxartsparis.fr

Exhibitions

Los Angeles, The Getty Research Institute



Printing the Grand Manner: Monumental Prints in the Age of Louis XIV (May 18 – October 17, 2010)



Printing the Grand Manner explores the form, content and function of late seventeenth-century reproductive engravings that, given their quality and impressive size, were meant to evoke the grandeur of Charles Le Brun's large-scale paintings and tapestry designs. Despite the fact that no other moment in the history of art witnessed such a concerted production of unusually grand reproductive prints, this visually compelling group of images has not drawn the attention of specialists or the public (in part, because the prints are difficult to handle and display). The exhibition explores the prints' rich vocabulary and illuminates the context of their production between the mid 1660s and 1690. It also calls out the relationship between

Le Brun and his printmakers, while interpreting the prints and their inscriptions in light of debates regarding allegories, narratives, and the representation of Louis XIV.

Madrid, Biblioteca Histórica Universidad Complutense



Javier Olivares: 10 libros ilustrados (4th February – 23rd April)



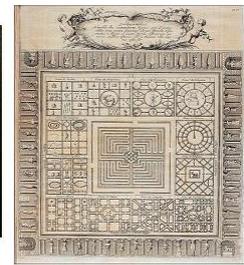
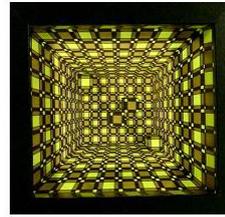
Javier Olivares is considered one of his generation's most important Spanish illustrators. The sample reviewed his career, allowing the viewer to understand Olivares' creative process from the very first idea to the finished work, through sketches, pencil drawings, coloured inked drawings, finished works... and the crayons, ballpoints, pens, paintbrush, watercolours... used in his works.

More information: <http://www.ucm.es/BUCEM/foa/35913.php>

Libros y Enigmas Visuales Gráficos: diálogo a través de la historia (6th May – 2nd June)

The fourth edition of the traditional exhibitions cycle “Dialog through History” was this year devoted to distortions, graphic visual puzzles, misunderstandings and ambiguities in art, in short, to optical illusions.

From the observation of different engravings picked from the library’s bibliographic heritage collections, a group of students and professors at the Faculty of Fine Arts of Universidad Complutense de Madrid, discovering what was behind the images, invented for this occasion their plastic manifestations which were shown accompanied by the original books as the leading figure.



These contemporary creations are composed not only by the items allegedly perceived objectives but by the mental projection of the artist's imagination and complement.

In addition to this show, Fine Arts Faculty of Universidad Complutense de Madrid concurrently displayed the exhibition “Distorsión, equívocos y ambigüedades: ensayo para un libro abierto”. As well, the research group Drawing and Knowledge presented a publication: *Distorsión, equívocos y ambigüedades: Las ilusiones ópticas en el arte*.

More information: <http://www.ucm.es/BUCM/foa/37656.php>

Arte en Libro: Libros de Artista Complutenses (9th June – 3rd September)



This exhibition comprises a large selection of artist’s books, original works of art which have a dialogue with books, created by contemporary artists at the Faculty of Fine Arts of Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

The exhibition shows us the art of the book through various reflections on the book’s creation, transformation and destruction, including sculptures, paintings, engravings and other forms of art.

Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional de España



Europa en papel (March 11-June 6, 2010)



The Biblioteca Nacional de España has present, together with the Spanish presidency of the European Union during the first half of 2010, the exhibition *Europa en papel*, organized in collaboration with the State Society for Cultural Commemorations with more than a hundred pieces (manuscripts, rare books, newspapers, maps, plans, drawings, engravings, prints, photographs and audio files)

preserved in the BNE, which illustrate the history of the continent and implications about the history and development of the idea of Europe since classical times, sleep going through the Emperor Charles V, the hegemonic domination of Napoleon and the Nazi Germany, until the process of building modern Europe in which democratic values and principles were the basis on which cemented and consolidated the current European Union.

Gregorio Marañón 1887-1960. Médico, humanista y liberal (23 March to 6 June 2010)

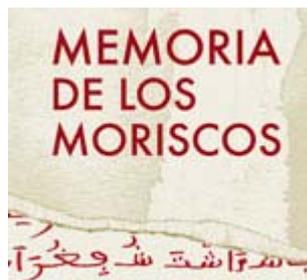
The Biblioteca Nacional de España will host the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Gregorio Marañón, the exhibition *Gregorio Marañón 1887-1960, Médico, humanista y liberal*, organized together with the State Society for Cultural Commemorations, Fundación Gregorio Marañón and the Biblioteca Nacional de España.



The aim of the exhibition, is to present the life and work of one of the brightest figures of the twentieth century.

Scientist, doctor, historian and humanist, Gregorio Marañón was a member of the Real Academia Española, of Medicina, Historia, Ciencias Exactas, Físicas and also Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando. It offers a tour of his biography, the close friendship he had with some of the leading intellectuals of the time, political commitment, years of exile, and the importance of scientific and humanistic legacy through a selection of photographs, manuscripts, letters, newspapers, books of Gregorio Marañón about him and his time, materials and scientific and medical works of art.

Memoria de los moriscos. Escritos y relatos de una diáspora cultural (18 June to 26 September 2010)



The Biblioteca Nacional de España will host the exhibition *Memoria de los Moriscos. Escritos y relatos de una diáspora cultural*, organized by the State Society for Cultural Commemorations, under the program of activities commemorating the fourth centenary of the expulsion of the Moors by Philip III.

Between 1609 and 1614 saw the expulsion of some 300,000 moors: descendants of the Muslim population of the Iberian Peninsula who had converted to Christianity but kept some of their old customs. In the exhibition, meet for the first time the most important manuscripts "aljamiados" that are preserved. These texts are written in Spanish with Arabic script, called "aljamiado" from Arabic "ahamiyah", meaning "foreigner."

Most *aljamiado* documents appeared when breaking down old houses in Jalon Valley (Aragon), wrapped in linen cloth and salt rocks, hidden within the walls of houses. Most of them are religious texts, but also preserved many manuscripts of fables, imaginary journeys, stories, log on daily life or testimony about the loss of personal freedom and the older laws.

In the exhibition, there are also some texts of Islamic literature written in Castilian, as well as oral testimonies of the Moors transcribed by the clerks of the Inquisition result of the persecution they were subjected when the expulsion took place.

Important among the more than hundred works exhibits, the first complete translation of the Coran into spanish, the opera of Mancebo de Arevalo, work in which a mysterious Moorish goes through Spain interviewing Muslims hidden from the Inquisition; the Alkitab of Samarqandi, a collection of short exempling stories or Yusuf´s poem. Also meet the last vestiges of the Moors from his exile in North Africa, immediately after the expulsion, or those who were prosecuted by the Inquisition. Del Códice al Libro electrónico (April 6 to October 3, 2010: XII Educational itinerary in the Sala de las Musas, Museo of the BNE).

This exhibit reflects the history of the material´s book; it discusses various formats to broach, even in broad terms, its evolution, tracing the first signs, however slight they may seem, the features of these new books, such as interactivity, encyclopedic, portability, hypertext, hypermedia, non-sequential access, as well as their effects and consequences on the mass reading literacy, acculturation, digital divide, globalization, Or, which is the same, try to find traces in the online edition or inherited forms of their precursors on papyrus, parchment or paper. This is the time to trace the history of large and small innovations that still survives is, in short, that of literacy.



**München,
Bayerische
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450 Jahre BSB Bayerische
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Bella figura – Italienische Buchmalerei in der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek, Le miniature italiane alla Biblioteca Statale Bavarese (10th June to 18th August 2010)

With catalogue, ed. Ulrike Bauer-Eberhardt

Die Wunder der Schöpfung. Handschriften der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek aus dem islamischen Kulturkreis (16th September to 5th December 2010)

“Miracles of creation. Islamic Manuscripts in the Bavarian State Library”. This is the main annual exhibition of the Library, a catalogue (ed. Helga Rebhan) will be published in German and English.

New Haven CT, Yale University – Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library



Lee Wulff: “Each fly is a dream we cast out to fool fish” (June 25 - September 16, 2010)

The name Lee Wulff holds a position of particular honor in all of American sport fishing. Catch and Release, a standard fishing practice today, was pioneered by

Wulff. Where to put your flies and gear?--in the fishing vest that Wulff designed and sewed himself in 1931. While Lee Wulff may be best known for fly fishing, he captured fish by all means possible. From native brook trout to enormous bluefin tuna, he successfully fished for nearly everything with fins. We may think that Wulff was ahead of his time, but in a very real sense he was exactly of his time.



In his long career, Lee Wulff (1905-1991) balanced broad-ranging interests and talents. Fly fisherman, fly tier, conservationist, poet, scientist, artist, naturalist, pilot, writer, and film-maker cover some, but by no means all of his endeavors. His inquisitive nature and inexhaustible energy propelled him into remote regions of the world, on the ground and in the air. During his tenure operating fishing camps in Canada, he witnessed the depletion of that once abundant species, the Atlantic salmon, due to overfishing, timber harvesting, and the encroachment of civilization. Whether flying in his floatplane to remote areas of Newfoundland, wearing his waders with his fly rod by his side, or leading a party of high-ranking US generals on a much-needed fishing trip before the Normandy Invasion, Lee devoted a substantial portion of his time to salmon fishing and salmon conservation. His legacy is carried forward today by scores of sportsmen and sportswomen, as well as scientists, naturalists, political figures, and academics, all striving to protect Lee Wulff's beloved Atlantic salmon. [Web Exhibition](#)

Treasures Old & New: Recent Additions to Beinecke Collections (July 12 - September 17, 2010)



The Beinecke Library fills its shelves with rare, unusual, and significant books and manuscripts. This special summer exhibition provides a window into the most recent additions to our collections. From a 12th-century Bible to 18th-century handbooks on weaving and cookery to the original manuscript of *The Myth of Sisyphus* in the hand of Albert Camus, these recently added treasures display the breadth of research opportunities at the library - one of the world's most significant repositories of cultural artifacts.

Events and conferences

Helsinki, Finnish Research Library Association



The message of the Old Book in the New Environment – an International Seminar, L'Institut Finlandais en France, Paris, 18-19 March 2011, in the context of the Paris Book Fair – Le Salon du Livre de Paris

Venue: L'Institut Finlandais en France – Centre Culturel de la Finlande à Paris
(<http://www.institut-finlandais.asso.fr/>) (<http://www.institute.fi/fi/pariisi.php>)
Address: 60, rue des Écoles, 75005 Paris

Organizer: The International Relations Group of the Finnish Research Library Association <http://www.stks.fi/in-english>

Target Group: Librarians and archivists, book and library historians, art and cultural historians, publishers, students of information studies.

Language: The main language of the Seminar is English, but those who prefer French are welcome to use it.

Speakers: The speakers of the Seminar are distinguished French and Finnish as well as Anglo- Scandinavian specialists.

Purpose: The Seminar aims to bring together specialists from libraries and archives, universities, from the printing and publishing industry to discuss current development projects and research on the old book; explore the essence of the manuscript, the hand written and hand printed book in the digital environment; introduce and illustrate conceptual and data models developed for presenting the contents and cultural contexts of the manuscript, the hand written and hand printed book to the present day reader; strengthen the collaboration of libraries and archives in devising conceptual and data models and enhance standardization; promote the co-operation of Finnish and French libraries in the research of the old book; enrich the current discussion of the cultural context of the book by addressing issues, such as: Why the present day reader may be interested in the old book? How can the present day reader approach the old book?

Registration Fees:

Member of the Finnish Research Library Association 115, 90 €, including 22% VAT (will be 95€ + 23% VAT)

Non-member of the Finnish Research Library Association 183 €, including 22% VAT (will be 150€+23% VAT)

More information: <http://www.biztradeshows.com/trade-events/paris-book-fair.html>;
Eva-Costiander Hulden eva.costiander-hulden@abo.fi; Päivi Pekkarinen:
paivi.pekkarinen@helsinki.fi

Programme draft as of 26.6.2010

Friday 18th March 2011

13:00 Cultural Contexts and Visual Contents of the Book

Marja Sakari: *The book as a visual object*

Sirkka Havu: *The Library of Monrepos Manor - cultural contexts*

István Kecskeméti: *The message of the paper*

Discussion

15:00 Dimensions of Semiosphere

Patrick LeBoeuf: *Modeling unique and rare documents – using FRBRoo/CIDOC CRN*

Eeva Murtomaa: *The Acerbi project – mapping meanings into travels in Sweden and Finland*

Jessica Parland-von Essen: *The semantic code of Topelius*

Discussion

Saturday 19th March.2011

10:00 Ontologies of Culture and TEI (Text Encoding Initiative): applications and innovations

Øyvind Eide: *Cultural heritage ontologies: Exchange of information?*

Ville Marttila: *The creation of digital editions of 15th Century English culinary recipes*

Mika Nyman: *The statues of Gudeaa in Louvre - the contextual knowledge of artefacts and texts*

Discussion

13:30 The Past Meets the Future

Dolores Iorizzo: *Isaac Newton manuscript transcriptions*

Matthieu Bonicel: *The Europeana Regia project*

Iris Schwanck: *The future of the Finnish book in France*

Discussion

Madrid, Biblioteca Histórica Universidad Complutense



Master on management of documentation, libraries and archives

Throughout the first half-year of 2010, the Biblioteca Histórica of the Complutense University of Madrid has taken part in a Master on management of documentation, libraries and archives organized by the Faculty of Documentation belonging to our University. Classes have been taught by part of the library staff using the library facilities.

The subjects discussed were related to the rare book and library heritage in general, such as the organization of bibliographical exhibitions, old books and manuscripts digitization management, preservation and restoration of special materials, and access and dissemination of the documentary heritage.

Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional de España



Jornada sobre incremento del Patrimonio Bibliográfico (February 8, 2010)

During this conference organized by the Biblioteca Nacional de España on the occasion of the exhibition *Tesoros al descubierto: adquisiciones patrimoniales de la BNE*, researchers, collectors, booksellers and librarians discussed about the heritage collections

Jornada sobre las lenguas y las literaturas judías de Europa y el Mageb (2-4 February 2010)

Organized by Casa Sefarad-Israel in collaboration with the Biblioteca Nacional de España, the aim was to report the major Judeo-European languages.

Seminario sobre la digitalización del material cultural: Bibliotecas digitales y derechos de autor (12 to 14 April 2010)

The aim of this seminar, held at the Biblioteca Nacional de España, was the reflection and analysis on the process of digitization of culture and his place in the European knowledge society. Essential elements of analysis of the seminar were the new models offer legal digital, *Europeana* and orphan works and their impact on access to culture and the protection of intellectual property rights.

All information on the Seminar is available at:

http://www.mcu.es/novedades/2010/novedades_dest_bn_seminario.html

Seminario del Grupo LIBER de Arquitectura (14 to 16 April 2010)

From 14 to 16 April, the Biblioteca Nacional de España, hosted the seminar LIBER Architecture Group (*Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche*). This seminar is held every two years and usually attracts more than a hundred attendees from across Europe - mainly librarians, architects, public administration staff - and especially to those librarians who work on projects related to construction of new library buildings, additions, alterations, etc.



The seminar program covers from the changes and adjustments to the library buildings, acoustics, design - the preservation of the permanent collection and is made to share the joint work that librarians and architects made from concrete cases. In addition, visits were made to libraries in the Comunidad of Madrid and Castilla La Mancha (Guadalajara and Toledo), the UNED Library and Tomás Navarro Tomás Library (CSIC) and the second seat of the BNE in Alcalá de Henares.

VIII Jornada de Puertas Abiertas (April 24, 2010)

About 1,500 people visited the Biblioteca Nacional de España in its traditional Open Day. Visitors could see a selection of outstanding works, such as a 1780 edition of *El Quijote*, printed by Joaquin Ibarra, the most important Spanish printer of the time, one of the first editions of Lope de Vega's *La dama boba*, the original score of Zarzuela *La Gran Vía*, of Federico Chueca or *Saint Jerome reading* engraving by Jose de Ribera.

Lectures on the “Pieza del mes” at the Museo of the BNE

- *Miquel Planas, arquitecto del libro (Museo, January 28, 2010)*



During the month of January, in the cycle *Pieza del Mes*, is a selection of Christmas greetings from Miquel Plana. The prints, which are presented along with poems by Catalan writers, belonging to the series of large Christmas cards that the artist send every year to celebrate the arrival of Christmas.

Miquel Plana (Olot, Girona, 1943) is a publisher, printer, designer, engraver ... architect of the book, takes care to detail: the typeface is best suited to each work, the right tone of ink, papermaking and its exact weight, the choice of technique for the engravings to accompany the literary text which has previously been sought with love, to complete the

work that transcends the book collector', to become artist's book.

- *Maimónides, el Gran Águila del judaísmo español: su vida y sus obras (Museo, June 29, 2010)*

More Nebuchino or *Guía de Perplejos* of Maimonides, manuscript written in full intellectual maturity (1190), is the key to his religious and scientific thought and exerted a strong influence on both Jewish and Christian circles and especially scholars.

Maimonides, born in Cordoba in 1135, and belonging to a family of scholars and community leaders, some of them judges, received a thorough education and he is one of most celebrated figures of Jewish culture in Spain. His rabbinic writings are for Judaism genuine pillars of faith and religious practice. It is also according to the unanimous opinion, the greatest Jewish philosopher, and his medical work still arouses the interest of many physicians of our time. Proof of what has been represented and represents the continuing publication of his works through the ages.



**München,
Bayerische
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450 Jahre **BSB** Bayerische
Staatsbibliothek

The proceedings of the IFLA preconference in August 2009 and of the VD17 symposium in October 2009 are currently being prepared for publication by Bettina Wagner and Marcia Reed for the IFLA preconference and by Claudia Fabian and Claudia Bubenik for the VD 17 symposium.

From 25th to 27th October 2010 the bi-annual conference of German librarians responsible for manuscripts and early printed books (organized by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Handschriften und Alte Drucke des Deutschen Bibliotheksverbandes e. V. in cooperation with the Universitätsbibliothek Tübingen and the Verein deutscher Bibliothekare) will be held as usual in Blaubeuren. The programme can be found on <http://www.bibliotheksverband.de/fachgruppen/arbeitsgruppen/handschriften-und-alte-drucke.html>.

Projects

Helsinki, National Library of Finland



Mikhail Lomonosov's Library

The purpose of this joint project is to search for the books having belonged to Mikhail Vasilyevich Lomonosov (1711–1765) in the holdings of the National Library of Finland. The parties of this project, developed within the framework of preparations for 300-years anniversary of Mikhail Lomonosov, are the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences (BAN), the National Library of Finland and Lomonosov Publishing House (Moscow).

The large part of Lomonosov's library came to Finland included in the donation of Paul Alexandroff (1808–1857), the natural son of Constantine Pavlovich. Paul Alexandroff inherited part of his father's book collections and with the consent of the Emperor Nicolas I, he donated most of the books he had inherited from two libraries – Constantine Pavlovich's Great Library and the Marble Palace Library of Count Orlov – to the University of Helsinki in 1832. The Marble Palace Library was particularly interesting; it contained portions of the important private libraries, among others, the library of Mikhail Lomonosov. These collections are now in the National Library of Finland, the former Helsinki University Library.



Leiden University Library



Universiteit Leiden

Clusius Project: 'Flowers of passion and distinction: practice, expertise and identity in Clusius' world'. Leiden, 16-17 December 2010

The Clusius Project of the Scaliger Institute (Leiden University Library) and the Faculty of Humanities started in 2004, with an international conference in Leiden. Several international scholars involved in research on Clusius and the sixteenth-century network of natural history attended this conference. The papers of the conference were published in the volume *Carolus Clusius. Towards a cultural history of a Renaissance naturalist*, edited by Florike Egmond, Paul Hoftijzer and Robert Visser (KNAW-Edita, Amsterdam, 2007).

In 2010 the Clusius project will officially come to an end with the completion of the dissertation by Esther van Gelder and the publication of a study on Clusius by Florike Egmond. In the 2010 conference young scholars are invited to participate in the

research of the international network of Clusius and other natural historians. The conference will also be a *trait d'union* between the Clusius Project and the NWO-project, directed by professor Paul Smith (LUICD), *Rereading the Book of Nature. Cultural Representations of Living Nature: Dynamics of Intermedial Recording in Text and Image (ca. 1550-1670)*.

The conference 'Flowers of passion and distinction: practice, expertise and identity in Clusius' world' will have two parts:

1. Lectures, debate and book presentation in Museum Boerhaave Leiden

This session is open for the public and is the celebration of the end of the Clusius project. There will be two book presentations: Esther van Gelder will present her dissertation *Tussen hof en keizerskroon. Carolus Clusius en de ontwikkeling van de botanie aan Midden-Europese hoven (1573-1593)* and Florike Egmond will present her new book *The World of Carolus Clusius: natural history in the making, 1550-1610* (London 2010). Brian W. Olgilvie (University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA) and author of the study *The science of describing. Natural history in Renaissance Europe* (Chicago and London 2006) will give a lecture at this evening.

2. International workshop with papers and discussion: The Next Generation (Friday 17 December, Grote Vergaderzaal, Leiden University Library)

This (private/closed) workshop is on Friday 17 December in Leiden University Library University. Ten young international scholars will give papers on their current research and projects on the history of culture and natural history. The central theme is cooperation and distinction in networks of naturalists and humanists, courtiers and artists in the seventeenth century.

Speakers include:

- Angela Fischel (Berlin): Gesner's visual epistemology and philosophy of nature
- Svenja Gröne (Würzburg): Joachim Camerarius: Botany and medicine
- Nell Riviere-Pratt (Tours): Botany and French court culture
- Margherita Zalum Cardon (Florence-Pisa): Gardens, research and images of nature in Italy
- Valentina Pugliano (Oxford): Pharmacist and natural history in Venice and England
- Esther van Gelder (Leiden): Introduction
- Sylvia van Zanen (Leiden): Exchange of information between Jacques Plateau-Clusius
- Marrigje Rikken (Leiden): Images of nature by Joris Hoefnagel a.o.
- Saskia Klerk (Utrecht): Dodonaeus/Lobelius, Southern-Netherlandish natural history

Chairs:

- Brian W. Olgilvie (University of Amherst)
- Sven Dupré (Universiteit Gent)

- Nicolas Robin (Universiteit Freiburg/Jena/Leiden)
- Bert Theunissen (Universiteit Utrecht)
- Lissa Roberts (Universiteit Twente)
- Dirk van Miert, Eric Jorink (Huygens Instituut Den Haag)
- Paul Hoftijzer, Paul Smith, Kasper van Ommen, Florike Egmond (Universiteit Leiden)

**München,
Bayerische
Staatsbibliothek**

450 Jahre **BSB** Bayerische
StaatsBibliothek

In May 2010 a focus point page on Regensburg was opened in the context of the Bayerische Landesbibliothek online (BLO), a long-term project of the library. Among other materials, digitized versions of Aventinus' manuscripts and manuscripts from the monastery of St. Emmeram are presented.

The work carried out for the 'Einbanddatenbank' (book binding database) by the Bavarian State Library since 2004 in the course of a DFG-funded project was completed in April 2010.

In the context of a project for the cataloguing and digitization of blockbooks in Bavarian collections digital photographs of watermarks were taken using thermography (infra-red photography); the equipment is now fully operational. Short records of all 20,000 incunabula held by the Bavarian State Library have been entered into the library's general catalogue. Records contain hyperlinks to digitized incunabula and references to the in-depth descriptions in the catalogue of incunabula (BSB-Ink). The online database of BSB-Ink has been substantially updated with new records and holdings as well as hyperlinks to digitized copies and to the Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke (Berlin), Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (London) and the Einbanddatenbank (EBDB).

Publications

Madrid, Biblioteca Histórica Universidad Complutense



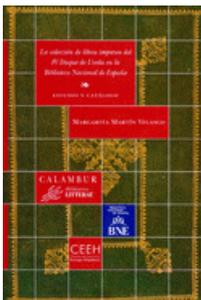
Places of memory: Research on the ancient book in the [Archives E-Prints Complutense](#)

The creation and maintenance of [Institutional Archives](#) for public access to keep documents generated by researchers is already an established reality around the world. Despite the difficulties on the part of the scientific publishing, the repositories of digital publications are growing and increasing every day. The Complutense University Library was one of the first institutions in Spain to create an open access institutional repository, the E-Prints Complutense Archives. This Open Archive has, as its main objective, the handling digital documents resulting from the activities of its teachers and researchers. With this institutional archive, the Library intends to disseminate and preserve research and to improve their organization, access and distribution. At this point, the Archive of E-Prints Complutense is located in the World Ranking of 92 institutional repositories.

In this context, the Biblioteca Histórica has been aware of the need to disseminate and preserve all the documentation on its funds that have been published. Consequently, all articles published in Peca Complutense, Working Papers of the BH, Conference Papers, scientific articles, technical reports, are being incorporated successively to the section of the Library Historical Archive E-Prints Complutense. This repository also includes University Departments whose teachers are investigating different aspects of the History of the Book. In addition, to providing open access full text, you can see statistics for ensuring access and digital preservation. There are over one hundred publications, thus the Biblioteca Histórica is gathering a retrospective collection of some publications of great importance for a better understanding of its collections.



Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional de España



La colección de libros impresos del IV Duque de Uceda en la Biblioteca Nacional de España / Margarita Martín Velasco. Madrid: Calambur, 2009. The Biblioteca Nacional de España has co-published this work which makes a detailed study of the Library of the Duke of Uceda and which analyzes the figure of the collector and rebuilding from the inventory of his library of works from the Biblioteca Nacional de España



Bella figura : italienische Buchmalerei in der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek = le miniature italiane alla Biblioteca Statale Bavarese ; [Schatzkammerausstellung 10. Juni bis 18. August 2010] / [Ausstellung und Katalog: Ulrike Bauer-Eberhardt]. - Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, 2010. - 78 S. Zahlreiche farbige Illustrationen. Price: EUR 15,00.

Die Fugger im Bild : Selbstdarstellung einer Familiendynastie der Renaissance; Begleitbuch zur Schatzkammerausstellung anlässlich der Erwerbung des Ehrenbuchs der Fugger (Cgm 9460) und der Fuggerorum et Fuggerarum ... imagines (Cod.icon. 380) / [Red.: Claudia Bubenik]. - Luzern : Quaternio-Verl., 2010. – 215 S. : zahlreiche farbige Illustrationen. – (Patrimonia ; 346)(Ausstellungskataloge / Bayerische Staatsbibliothek ; 82). Price: EUR 24,90. See: <http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/Ausstellungskataloge.1821.0.html>

In autumn 2010 two facsimile editions will be presented to the public, both published by Faksimile Verlag Luzern: the Sakramentar Heinrichs II. (Clm 4456), a counterpart of the famous Codex aureus of St Emmeram (Clm 14000), but of Regensburg origin and Bamberg provenance, and the Glockendon Gebetbuch (Clm 10013). Both publications will contain an extensive commentary.

Oslo, University of Oslo Library



Elisabeth Eide, *Reading Societies and Lending Libraries in Nineteenth Century Norway*. Library & Information History 26 (2010).

The history of reading in nineteenth century Norway is placed in a societal and cultural context, with the focus on the development of Norwegian reading societies and lending libraries. Other scholars (Horstbøll, Appel, Byberg, Björkman, Ancarcrona, Grönroos, Mosolff) have already outlined how Nordic reading habits evolved throughout the eighteenth century, establishing a horizon of expectations for further research. The main question is to what extent Norwegian reading habits, as they are recorded in the catalogues of reading societies and lending libraries, mirrored other societal developments and how interwoven the reading trends were with the evolution of an indigenous Norwegian culture? The concern is not with the producers of literature, be they authors or printers, but with one branch of distributors: those of the private reading clubs and of the privately run, commercially financed lending libraries – in other words on the borrowers of books, i.e. the readers.

Because of the bifurcation of this part of the public sphere in Norway - private clubs on the one hand, and commercial lending libraries on the other - first is examined like to see to what extent the composition of libraries in male clubs and private reading societies may be said to have mirrored the mentality and cultural interests within Norwegian society. Can one say that these clubs constituted or were representative

for the public sphere in nineteenth century Norway? Secondly the composition of the private libraries is compared with those of the commercial lending libraries in order to see what differences, if any, there were between the Norwegian bourgeoisie and the Norwegian commoner at the time. It is argued that commercial lending libraries also constituted part of the public sphere in Norway, albeit perhaps only in the cities. Was there a significant difference or was there more social equality in Norway than in our neighbouring countries? Here the Norwegian history of reading is situated within a wider Nordic context, comparing Norway with conclusions Björkman has drawn for Sweden in the 18th century and Mosolff for Denmark in the 19th century.

This study is mainly based on printed catalogues. However, in a few instances also had the 'frozen' libraries of a couple of reading societies and the remnants of some other libraries are studied. Statistical data is presented in order to show in what language books were available in and what the most popular topics were. This figures will also reflect a growing focus on fiction and recreational reading.

Web news

Amsterdam, Universiteitsbibliotheek Vrije Universiteit



Enriched Captured Lectures, the next level

Teachers are willing to give mandate to capture their lectures with increasing frequency, these captured lectures can be used as reference material for students. Students do certainly appreciate the possibility to view these lectures on demand. Results show as that students attend lectures in a different way. Where previously many notes were taken from the teacher, including the sources referred to during the lectures, there is now more focus on content and time for more interaction. The latter is especially true when teachers choose to share their lecture in the form of "knowledge clips" prior to the actual attendance of a lecture by students.

There is also another line of development, following the period that the technology is sufficiently developed and widely integrated in the higher education institutions. Namely, the development of teaching scenarios in captured lectures. Thus, for example these lectures are divided into chapters, and linked to test questions, to increase the further participation of the students. Slidecasts are made by teachers in the form of knowledge clips, to increase the success rate for obstacle courses such as statistics. But there are also effects measurements when it comes to various forms of captured lectures and applications. A concrete example of this is that we investigate the value of interactive whiteboards in the teaching process, and how they can best express their added value in a captured lecture.

Enriched Captured Lectures

Following these developments, VU University Amsterdam has build a conceptual model that is considered the next step in the development of captured lectures, namely of the *enriched* captured lectures. As mentioned earlier, during their lectures teachers refer to sources and literature. Until now these example references are listed in the online learning environment. Adverse consequence is that the student must leave the environment of the captured lecture to consult these sources. With current technology, among other Mediasite it is already possible to add URLs beneath a captured lecture. But when a teacher makes more than 20 references in a captured lecture of 1.5 hours and chooses this method of enrichment, we lose ground in areas of present accountability and traceability. Moreover, this structure doesn't provide a good starting point for further development when it comes to subjects like "semantic applications". Another important argument to uphold the quality of present accessibility for students with disabilities, including visual impairment and impaired



concentration, but also with auditory problems. It is recommended to provide captured lectures with subtitles, so hearing impaired student can follow these captured lectures as well. Another advantage is that these subtitles are full text searchable, and the results of this search refers directly to the sequences in the captured lectures.

The roadmap to reach the next level

From the creation of the conceptual model we are now working on an application that enables teachers to enrich their own captured lectures. Once a teacher logs on to the application, the registered captured lectures appear into the application, and sources that the teacher considers important can be added. These sources are classified into groups as: required reading, recommended literature and related content. Completion of this application is due December 1, 2010. Parallel to this process, preparations are made for partnership on European level in the form of a European project. In this partnership, we would like work on developments on topics like:

- semantic applications
- notification services to teachers regarding content on captured lectures
- co-creation
- realization of plug ins to test and learning environments

Based on this development we want to cooperate with the following experts. If you:

- work in an institution that already registers captured lectures and would want to disclose the material from your faculties in this way
- are a content supplier who recognizes the added value in working with us
- know of any policy programs by subsidizing bodies which may be relevant to the developments described above

then please contact us: Sylvia Moes, Project Manager and Innovation Manager Media, Scientific Information Department, University Library, VU University Amsterdam, tel. +31 20 59 89164. E-mail: s.moes@ubvu.vu.nl.

Madrid, Biblioteca Histórica Universidad Complutense



Hebrew manuscripts Web page

As part of the library web site, a [portal devoted to Hebrew manuscripts](#) held at the Biblioteca Histórica was launched recently. In this web page, the researchers may find information about this special manuscripts, some of which were used for the drafting of the Complutense Polyglot Bible. Scholars interested may also find the full list of Hebrew manuscripts, as well as bibliographic references on them. They belonged to the Colegio Mayor de San Ildefonso de la Universidad de Alcalá when it was founded, and since then have been part of the collection of the Universidad Complutense.



[BH MSS 1] Biblia. A. T. Hebreo. 1280.

[BH MSS 18] Gramática Hebrea S. XIV

[BH MSS 11] Biblia A. T. Hebreo. Latín 1527-38

Conservation and Restoration Department Web page

The homepage of the Biblioteca Histórica de la UCM has a new "guest": The [Department of Conservation and Restoration](#) has more presence, introducing a significant amount of information on themselves, which makes it a handy reference portal on conservation and preservation. These pages are intended to help libraries in the awareness of the importance of conservation, in addition to its theoretical and practical aspects.

Each menu leads to secondary pages with specific information on: **Preventive measures:**

The importance of preventive conservation in the Complutense bibliographic heritage preservation. **Disaster management:** The series of handbooks for developing plans for disasters in libraries. **Use and protection of collections:** Methods to reduce physical deterioration in Complutense's collections.

Minor repairs in loan collections: Here we

can find practical information for restoring the damage done by the librarians themselves.

Restoration of valuable books: More sensitive treatments to be applied by specialized staff. **Binding:** Related information about new bindings

Three different options are reserved to collect and classify specialized information on this subject:

- Publications and own resources with specific searches in the blog of Biblioteca Histórica, in the repository of E-prints Complutense and in the Library OPAC.
- Literature online with direct links to manuals, reference materials, tutorials and on-line journals.
- External links to libraries and institutions related to preservation.



Presentation of digital platform "Escritores Complutenses 2.0"

On April 23rd of 2010, in order to celebrate the Book Day, a literary digital platform called "Escritores Complutenses 2.0" was presented at the Biblioteca Histórica. It is a

software tool designed to spread the rich literary heritage of the Complutense University. Its purpose is to display the literary works of writers related to this University.

Each writer will manage the information provided on his literary work, and they will be able to share all kinds of resources: text, graphics, videos, etc. The aim is that “Escritores Complutenses 2.0” is to become one of the most complete literary repositories at the moment.

Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional de España



The Biblioteca Nacional de España is present in different social networks, such as [Facebook](#), and provides tools to publicize their services, facilities, or cultural activities through video, as [BNE Channel on Youtube](#). Similarly, already has its own Blog, as a tool of contact with their users and since last June, has a new online training service which offers video tutorials dedicated to the tools of access to electronic resources available on the BNE: The Buscón and SFX Locator electronic journals from the BNE. (More information: [Http://www.bne.es/es/Servicios/FormacionUsuarios/formacionlinea/](http://www.bne.es/es/Servicios/FormacionUsuarios/formacionlinea/))
Hemeroteca Digital

The Digital Periodical and Newspaper Library began in April 2007 with 143 titles of newspapers and magazines and 448,414 pages. It has now reached a figure of 4,006,474 pages for 729 titles in the extensive collection housed in the Biblioteca Nacional de España.

Biblioteca Digital Hispánica

New works are accessible in digital version, including highlights:

- *Exhibition of Engravings of Spanish Authors, catalog of the exhibition of prints held by the Barcelonesa Artistic Association and Archaeology in January 1880* It consists on 50 prints made since the fifteenth century until the late nineteenth century, accompanied by a careful chronology of Spanish engravers. The book traces the history of engraving Spanish with examples of very high quality, among other no less important, has works by authors of the size of Bayeu, Ametller, Tramullas, Carmona, Masferrer, Ribera and Goya himself.
- *Prayer* illuminated manuscript of the fifteenth century Hispano-Flemish decor and decorated with gold sections
- *Drawings of Federico Madrazo* formed by seven original pencil drawings made in the nineteenth century
- *Letter handwritten by Martin Rico to Francisco Asenjo Barbieri* dated June 4, 1890 at Venice
- *Letter to the Kings of Aragon, Castilla and Portugal* of Fernando Bolea y Galloz, illuminated manuscript dating from 1480

Sede electrónica

Since May 2010, is available the electronic headquarters of the Biblioteca Nacional de España. This new application allows electronic access to the formalities and procedures for which it is responsible, 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Through this Office may be request fast and secure various services provided by the

BNE, such as copying documents or interlibrary loans and lodge complaints or make suggestions. <https://sede.bne.gob.es/en/SedeElectronica/>)

Virtual Exhibitions

The BNE provides a gateway to all its virtual exhibitions. You can see the exhibitions held at the headquarters of the BNE since 2005, the rooms in which were presented and the works that were shown at the following link:

<http://www.bne.es/es/Actividades/Expovirtual/index.html>

Cooperation

ACRL / Rare Books & Manuscripts Section



Exhibition awards

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) [Rare Books and Manuscripts Section](#) (RBMS) has selected five winners and one honorable mention for the 2010 Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab “American Book Prices Current” Exhibition Awards.

The Division One (expensive) winner is “Liberty and the American Revolution: Selections from the Collection of Sid Lapidus, Class of 1959,” submitted by the [Rare Books and Special Collections Department](#) at the Princeton University Firestone Library.

The Division One honorable mention winner is awarded to the [Poetry Collection](#) at the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York for “Discovering James Joyce: The University at Buffalo Collection.”

The Division Two (moderately expensive) winner is the Princeton University Library’s [Department of Rare Books and Special Collections](#) for “Beauty & Bravado in Japanese Woodblock Prints: Highlights from the Gilbert G. Griffin Collection.”

The Division Three (inexpensive) winner is “The Lion and the Fox: Art and Literary Works by Wyndham Lewis from the C.J. Fox Collection,” submitted by the [Special Collections Department](#) at the University of Victoria Libraries.

The Division Four (brochures) winner is the [Harry Ransom Center](#) at The University of Texas at Austin for its brochure entitled “The Mystique of the Archive.”

The Division Five (electronic exhibition) winner is the University of Maryland Libraries’ Special Collections department for “Nancy Drew and Friends: Girls’ Series Books Rediscovered,” available online at <http://www.lib.umd.edu/RARE/SpecialCollection/nancy/index.html>.

Draft guidelines available

RBMS (U.S.) is currently revising its guidelines for loaning special collection materials for research use and exhibition. The first draft of this document was issued June 8, 2010 and is available for comment. For more information visit the [Task Force website](#).

Your Old Books

RBMS (U.S.) recently reissued its brochure entitled “[Your Old Books](#)”. This guide addresses some of the frequently asked questions about rare and older books and their values. The website also lists online and print resources with more information on old or rare books, book collecting, and appraisals.



The LIBER Manuscript Librarians Group

In 2001 manuscript librarians from Europe formed an expert group under the auspices of [LIBER](#), to discuss recent developments in the field and exchange information. The LIBER Manuscript Librarians Group recognises the unique significance of manuscript and archive collections, not only for the world of research and learning, but also for a wider audience of people interested in history and cultural heritage. The primary aims of the group are to act as a forum for curatorial concerns, and to enhance understanding and practical cooperation among curators across Europe, taking account of the differences in approach which have occurred historically.

On the [website](#) of the group you can find (a.o.):

National Backgrounds: updated information about (and links to) the major manuscripts and archives collections in 19 countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Lands, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Vatican City.

Progress Reports: concise information about (and links to) the major developments, activities and projects in a given period.

- In May 2010 17 countries published their progress report on the years 2007-2009 (using a corresponding chapter division): Austria, Belgium, Czech Lands, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Vatican City.
- A cumulative version ordered by chapters is also available (1. Acquisitions. - 2. Cataloguing projects. - 3. Digital acces. - 4. Conservation. - 5. Exhibitions. - 6. Other research. - 7. Selected literature. - 8. Education. - 9. Varia.).

The [Fourth Conference](#) "Meeting with manuscripts, today and tomorrow" was held at the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale in Rome, May 26-28, 2010, and attracted more than 80 participants.

Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional de España



Collaboration agreement between the Biblioteca Nacional de España and Dialnet (April 2010)

Dialnet is a library cooperation project that started at the University of La Rioja. It is like a portal that collects and provides access primarily to documents published in Spain in all languages, published in Spanish in any country or that deal with Hispanic issues. Their content includes journal articles, chapters in collective monographs, dissertations, books, etc. Its broad coverage makes Dialnet the largest database of Hispanic scientific articles accessible free of charge online.

Following to the signing of a cooperation agreement with Dialnet Foundation, the Biblioteca Nacional de España adds to the important challenge of providing to the audience with the task of recovering scientific research content, providing retrospective content in order to complete collections. Users of the BNE will be able to access certain functions of added value of this database, such as advanced search options, ability to mark and select documents, send the selections to one email account, import into bibliographic management, etc.

Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France



Gallica

Wikimedia France and the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) have signed an agreement for the collaborative transcription of books in Gallica, the BnF online library of digitized texts. Each reader of this newsletter knows how useful a full-text access to ancient books is but how poorly effective OCR are on ancient typographies. To improve the quality of the text they provide on its digital library - Gallica - the BnF has decided to enter a partnership with Wikimedia France, the French chapter of the Wikimedia Foundation, in charge of Wikipedia. Some 1.400 French texts have been integrated into Wikisource.

These texts, digitized by the BnF, have been automatically transcribed to allow full text search but the optical character recognition often introduces errors. This partnership will let users participate in the proofreading of texts so that these texts will be in perfect accordance with the original version.

Through this partnership, Wikimedia France emphasize the value of the work done by Internet users on Wikisource and demonstrates that collaboration between volunteer-driven projects, such as Wikipedia and Wikisource, and public institutions such as the BnF, allows literary resources to reach as many people as possible. It is considered an experimentation and the first results are to be analysed within a year. Also see <http://www.wikimedia.fr/wikim%C3%A9dia-france-and-french-national-library-enter-partnership-wikisource>.