Abstract
At the end of the 19th century, the Belgians Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine created the International Institute of Bibliography, which, as well as providing a great source of universal information, pioneered new ways of processing documentary collections, thus ushering in design documentation. Between 1900 and 1924, the Brazilian National Library was headed by Manoel Cícero Peregrino da Silva, who brought about several changes to the institution, including the inauguration of a new building, reorganization of its collection, the creation of new services and, to some extent, the adoption of Otlet and La Fontaine’s ideas. This article aims to take stock of the contribution made by Manoel Cícero Peregrino da Silva and determine to what extent his actions contributed to documentation in Brazil and its engagement in the ideals of Paul Otlet and La Fontaine. This is a qualitative and quantitative study, of a historical-documentary nature, based on documentation from different Brazilian archives and from the Mundaneum archive in Belgium. It concludes that the role of Peregrino da Silva as director of the National Library made the institution a center where contemporary intellectual discussions converged. Moreover, several of Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine’s ideas were embraced by the National Library and it was the first institution to adopt documentalist practices in the treatment of its collection and the development of its products and services.

1. Introduction
In 1934, Paul Otlet published the “Traité de documentation le livre sur le livre, théorie et pratique”. Considered internationally to be the founding treatise in documentation studies, this publication was the culmination of ideals that the Belgian jurist had been formulating since the end of the 19th century. It was the result of reflections made when Otlet worked at the International Institute of Bibliography (IIB), as well as the ideals behind the construction of the Universal Bibliographic Repertory (UBR) and his contact with institutions around the globe (López Yepez 1995).

The Institute’s aim, as a scientific association, was to develop an inventory, with systematic classification and description of the products of human spirit, that is, documents – understood here in their broadest sense. It thus sought to adopt a uniform and international classification system in order to assist the serious efforts of those wishing to publish, collect, analyze or consult books or any other products of human spirit, whether in the form of publications or whatever other possible means of documentation, (Institut International de Bibliographie 1895, 12-14).

Therefore, the creation of the Universal Bibliographic Repertory was in line with the missions of the institution, and was set up under guidelines that would allow it to be consulted and updated quickly, serving as a grand guide for those in search of information produced by people from all corners of the world, regardless of its origin or the format in which it was presented (Otlet and La Fontaine 1895, 16-17).
In 1911, the National Library (BN) of Brazil, under the directorship of Manoel Cícero Peregrino da Silva, embraced the universal ideal that lay behind construction of the UBR, by commissioning 600,000 index cards. However, the ideals of Otlet and Fontaine adopted by the National were not merely limited to the acquisition of index cards and Peregrino da Silva’s vision of the Belgian project was much greater than one may have thought.

From this perspective, we can point to the creation of the Bibliography and Documentation Service in correspondence with the International Bibliography Institute – responsible for the purchase of index cards; the centralization of exchange between national institutions and foreign institutions through the International Exchange Service; the approval of the National Deposit Law; the implementation of a series of conferences seeking to discuss matters of national interest; the reform of the institution’s regulations; and, finally, the inauguration of a new building, specially designed to house the National Library. We can also point out the adoption of documentalist ideals in the reorganization of its collection, as indicated by Peregrino da Silva in some of his reports and official correspondence.

This paper, which results from doctoral research in Information Science undertaken at the University of Brasília, makes an inventory of Peregrino da Silva’s actions and seeks to understand to what extent these actions contributed to the origins of documentation in Brazil and its engagement in the ideals of Paul Otlet and La Fontaine. Using a historical-documentary method, of a qualitative nature, the study is based on documentation in various Brazilian archives and in the Mundaneum archives in Belgium. Throughout this article, we aim to throw light on Otlet and La Fontaine’s ideals and how they influenced the origins of documentation in Brazil at the beginning of the 20th century, in the National Library under the intellectual leadership of Manoel Cícero Peregrino da Silva.

2. Documentation according to Manoel Cícero Peregrino da Silva

Manoel Cícero Peregrino da Silva was born on September 7th, 1866, in Recife (Pernambuco, Brazil), and died on October 3rd, 1956 in Rio de Janeiro. Graduated in Law, he acted in several fields during more than 50 years of professional activity, although, his most prominent role was as director of the Brazilian National Library, which he headed for 24 years, between 1900 and 1924 (Bittencourt, 1955).

Thus, we can identify the turning point that led to the complete reformulation of the National Library as being the “Project of the Regulation for the National Library of Rio de Janeiro”, elaborated in 1902 by Peregrino da Silva, which aimed to reorganize the services offered by the institution, as well as its spaces. A second landmark moment was the laying of the cornerstone of the institution's new building in 1905, which represented the first concrete step towards the library’s total reconstruction by which it
would undertake to better serve its users as well as accommodate its collection. This event initiated Peregrino da Silva’s planning of how to best occupy and use the new space, and, above all, how it could become the reference for all other libraries in the country, reflecting the modern ideals of reform underway in the then federal capital. A third important step was Peregrino da Silva's trip to Europe and the United States, with a view to seeing how librarianship and librarians were being developed there in the modern age.

A fourth notable marker can be identified in the inauguration of the new building in 1910, followed in 1911 by a crucial fifth milestone, namely the launch of the Library's new regulation, which, as promised in 1902, totally reformulated the institution and its services, seeking to honor that “magnificent palace” (Silva 1911). This scenario thus provided fertile ground for the adoption of new ideas and ideals, as Peregrino da Silva applied the thinking of Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine.

In fact, Peregrino da Silva had also improved and approved the Law of Legal Deposit established by Decree No. 1825, of December 20th, 1907 (Brasil 1907), requiring that typographies from all over the country send the institution a copy of each work that they published. What was most significant about this decree was the fact that it was the first time that a law of this nature was extended throughout Brazil, obligation to comply with such a law having previously been restricted only to the publishers of the then Federal District (Rio de Janeiro) (Fonseca 1973). This regulatory improvement was most likely a direct consequence of the Library's mission to safeguard national memory, as well as a response to another institutional goal: to make the Library honor its reputation as the greatest repository of knowledge in the country, and to offer its consultants a wider and up-to-date collection.

Another reason for the establishment of the Law of Legal Deposit is related to the fact that Brazil was one of the first signatories of the Berne Convention in 1886 to protect the rights of authors about their literary and artistic works.

In addition, adherence to the Berne Convention enabled the broader implementation of another service in the National Library, the International Exchange, because, in the reformulation put into practice by Peregrino da Silva, it would be the BN responsible for all the exchange of Brazilian institution’s with foreign counterparts, which means that the Library would become the center of distribution and reception of the most varied types of works, a fact that the Convention encouraged, now that the works were protected by an international agreement.

Another outstanding contribution was the Information Service, which once again characterized BN as a point of convergence for information, a stopping point (Costa, 2003) in the search for what one wanted.

The same regulation established the Bibliography and Documentation Service, which aimed to be the Brazilian base of the UBR, acting as one of its collaborators and
using the information listed there. Of course, the initiative to create the Bibliography and Documentation Service dates back to 1902, when in the “Project of the Regulation for the National Library of Rio de Janeiro”, Peregrino da Silva proposed the creation of an independent institution, attached to the Library.

As the driving force behind the plan to move the National Library to its new building, Peregrino da Silva wrote to the Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs, seven years after creating the prototype for the new regulation, to report on the events of the International Conference on Bibliography Documentation, held in Brussels. It was then that the National Library planned its move to a new space, while its techniques for treatment of the collection and the regulation of its documentation were revised. The director’s pronouncement to the minister, declaring his responsibility for the management and organization of all the production of human intelligence (Silva April 19th, 1909), clearly indicated the actions that he was subsequently to put into practice, and it thus is very probable that the desire for modernization, coupled with the institutionalization of the institution, prompted Peregrino da Silva to be part of the global integration project proposed by Otlet and La Fontaine.

The mission of the project, according to the then director, was to make all information available in an organized way, according to universal precepts and available to all people around the world, regardless of where such materials or persons were. As a partner in the initiative, the Library would no doubt consolidate itself as an information center, seeking to meet the wishes of its users, as well as the government's intentions to show that the country had modern institutions that left nothing to be desired by its European counterparts.

Thus, in the “New Regulation” of the National Library, the creation of the Bibliography and Documentation Service, by which it was the responsibility of the organization “[...] according to the system of decimal classification and by means of records, of the Brazilian bibliographic repertoire as a contribution to the universal bibliographic repertoire”, as well as “[...] the printing of these sheets to be displayed for sale or exchanged for foreign repertoire cards” and “[...] the organization of the collective catalog of Brazilian libraries” (Brasil 1911).

However, by our calculations, of the 600,000 index cards ordered for the IIB in 1911 (Rayward 1975; Juvêncio 2014), a little less than 330,000 reached the National Library, that is, 55% of the total number, which does not detract from the BN's commitment to the ideals of IIB.

It is undeniable, then, how the ideas and ideals spread by Otlet, La Fontaine and IIB had a strong influence on BN, a fact that can be explained by Peregrino da Silva's inspiration in the “modern”, as well as the fact that the institution was founded in an age that encouraged openness to new ideas. Therefore, with the IIB proposals as goals, the wide-ranging services implemented in the BN appear to finally legitimize the
contact that was being established between the two institutions. It also confirms Brazilian participation in the internationalist ideal of Otlet and La Fontaine. The greatest exponent of this interaction was the Bibliography and Documentation Service, together with the construction of an information network in Brazil, particularly through the initiative of creating collective catalogs and UBR records.

The Belgian partners’ aspiration to organize, treat and make all the fruits of human spirit available for consultation was, indeed, embraced by Peregrino da Silva, in order for information contained in the most varied types of support to be used for the development of education and research, as well as for promoting scholarship, something he always promoted.

We can thus readily perceive that the ideals of the universal Otletian project were made explicit and completely adhered to by the director of the BN. Acclaim was given to the idea of forming a network for the exchange and sharing of information, present in the restructuring process of the institution, with the objective of organizing documents of all shapes and sizes, and covering all their typologies. Its products – catalogs, bibliographies, index cards etc. – were to be constructed in accordance with an international standard in order to standardize descriptions, classifications and other representations. In fact, the great ideal behind these actions was to contribute to the organization of the UBR and the Universal Encyclopaedia.

Finally, Peregrino da Silva, envisioned that the project would only continue with the support of various sectors of society, from governments, publishers, researchers, working with the widest range of global institutions, as well as the construction and maintenance of collaborative networks and international agreements. The then director of the BN thus evidenced all his affinity with the ideals of Paul Otlet, Henri La Fontaine and IIB; after all, what he constructed was like a mirror of the initiatives the Belgians were carrying out.

Supported by a theoretical and legal framework allowing him to make changes that, in his view, were necessary for the BN, Peregrino da Silva put into practice a revolution in the way contemporaries viewed and conceived the National Library, or the "Palace" as he referred to the installations that the institution came to occupy.

Thus, at the time, Peregrino da Silva developed the BN into one of the largest ever projects for the organization and dissemination of information. The reforms he directed aimed at establishing BN among the most modern institutions of his age, for it to play a lead role nationally and internationally.

3. Final considerations

The ideal of creating a world-wide source of information encompassing all human knowledge was the basis of the philosophical conception of international cooperation advocated by Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine. In seeking to build a vast universal
catalog of human knowledge, the two jurists called on countries and organizations to work towards the goal of unifying all knowledge produced and recorded: to build the Universal Bibliographic Repertory.

The UBR, by itself, was already a daring proposal, since seeking to represent all the knowledge produced or to be produced by mankind was clearly not a simple task. One of the proposals of the Belgian partners was thus initially to standardize standards, adopting similar methods in all regions of the world, and to promote the use of the Dewey Decimal Classification (CDD) adapted for this purpose, the CDU.

In Brazil, Manoel Cícero Peregrino da Silva was the driving intellectual force behind the great transformation that the National Library underwent at the beginning of the 20th century. As we have seen, inspired essentially by the ideals of Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine, he promoted a series of changes, undertaken between 1900 and 1924, in the methods of organization and diffusion of information in the institution.

At that time, the BN was already the largest Brazilian library, but suffered from neglect and shortage of space, with its collection having been disregarded by the state for years. Although it was a symbol, its role was secondary and even unknown. Upon becoming a director, Peregrino da Silva adopted contemporary modern ideals and placed the institution at the service of the State, seeking to make it fulfill its mission of representing the country with the largest repository of the fruits of human spirit in Latin America, thus applying Otlet’s ideas to the maximum.

Moreover, institutions such as the Federal Senate, the Chamber of Deputies and the Royal Portuguese Reading Office were also to adopt the ideals of documentation, if not in their entirety, at least in part, when they began to organize their catalogs according to the guidelines of the IIB, and sought to disseminate them broadly, in alignment with the principles of the UBR.

However, the discontinuity of projects in our country is a striking feature that remains until the present day, with actions being in a constant state of deconstruction, remodeling or finalization at the whim of the latest intentions and personalities. As Fonseca (1957) confirms, the Bibliographical and Documentation Service did not escape this rule, being discontinued shortly after Peregrino da Silva left charge of the administration of the National Library and with him the integral interaction with the ideals of Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine.

In fact, the two world wars were crucial for the IIB project not to go ahead. Its collection had been damaged several times over the course of the two combats, and it perished also due to lack of resources and governmental disinterest, especially, as Rayward (1975) observes, after the appointment of Switzerland as neutral territory, with which Belgium competed. Subsequently, internationalist projects located in Belgian territory lost prestige despite the attempts of jurists.
However, this situation did not lead to Brazil’s complete abandonment of documentary ideals, since, despite having the IIB as a partner, Brazilian initiatives were firmly committed to creating a network of national catalogs, for example, and publishing the Brazilian Bibliography, as well, of course, as to maintaining constant exchange with diverse institutions.

"Refounded" 40 years later under the name of the Brazilian Institute of Bibliography and Documentation (IBBD), as Sambaquy (1956) tells us, the IBBD arose from the UNESCO initiative to promote the organization of information, especially scientific information, through the installation of institutes, a position which Otlet had promoted and encouraged since the late 1890s.

We can thus see that Manoel Cícero Peregrino da Silva, despite being an almost forgotten figure in the eyes of researchers on Information Science, Documentation and Library Science in Brazil, contributed greatly to developing these areas in the country. A product of his age, Peregrino da Silva was an intellectual who served the national interest, a man of visionary ideas who sought to promote the organization and dissemination of the BN collection, as well as adopting techniques that would be remembered again only 40 years after the founding of IBBD. This fact is demonstrated through the various documents recovered throughout our research. Guided by clues and traces left by other researchers into the origins of documentation in Brazil, we were able to unveil the influence of Peregrino da Silva and the key role he played in the origins of information science in Brazil – specifically, his contribution to documentation. In fact, we must pay attention to the significant addition to research provided through access to these still unpublished documentary sources, and we should be determined to use them to elucidate or at least shed new light on characters whose role cannot be denied in our understanding of how information science first unfolded in Brazil.

References
Brasil (1907). Decreto nº 1.825, de 20 de dezembro de 1907. Diário Oficial da União, 21 dec.


