Abstract: The main objective of this paper is to study and compile the information and facilities provided by Spanish university libraries in relation to library patrimony. By patrimony we understand old, historic works. The methodology consisted of an initial analysis of the websites of the various Spanish university libraries, focusing on those areas of knowledge and resources of interest to us; we then proceeded to study the data collected.

1. Introduction

The university library patrimony, both quantitatively and qualitatively, is no doubt an important part of the Spanish library patrimony.1

New advances in technology are revolutionising the library panorama. In Spain, University libraries have taken the lead in making use of the possibilities provided by the Web. In this paper, we first conducted a tour of the websites of Spanish universities, collecting the information and facilities relating to library patrimony available on the Internet.2

Secondly, we classified and quantified the data obtained, and added some considerations.

2. Review of the patrimony of Spanish university libraries on the Internet

2.1 Barcelona University Library.
http://www.bib.ub.es/bub/bub.htm

This library has a section dedicated to Reserve Stock <http://www.bib.ub.es/www7/7res1.htm> which contains information from the old stock of this University. It includes references with data on the different sections of the old title collection, and other sections such as: “Historic Archives”; “Showcase” (“Vitrina”), a periodical display of works from the collection; “Recently Found Works of Value”; “Restoration and Conservation”; “Digitisation Projects” (internal and external); Virtual Expositions and Museums (internal and external); “Bibliophilia” (related addresses on the Net); “Special Collections” (a record of modern and old titles of BU, the Botanic Institute of Barcelona, Ramón Llul in the BUL, Old Book Networks); and “Other Useful Ways of Finding Information on Old Titles”.

The following expositions were organised by the BUL, and are listed under “Virtual Expositions” http://www.bib.ub.es/www7/7res2.htm Exposition of Old Titles: Dermatology in the Library Reserve Collection; Gynaecology and Obstetrics in the Library Reserve Collection; and Bibliographic Treasures in the Barcelona University Library.
The website of this Library also gives access to its own catalogue of old titles: *Catalogue of old titles: documents published before 1820* [http://eclips.biblub.es/virhta2/catalan/index.html](http://eclips.biblub.es/virhta2/catalan/index.html)

Other projects of note are the *Makes of printing presses* data base [http://eclipse.bib.ub.es/imp/impcat.htm](http://eclipse.bib.ub.es/imp/impcat.htm), which permits the visualisation of images of some of the makes of printing presses included in the catalogue of old stock, and the digitisation project called *Fons grewe (The Grewe titles)* [http://www.bib.ub.es/grewe/grewe.htm](http://www.bib.ub.es/grewe/grewe.htm), which is a selection of digitised books from the collection on cookery and gastronomy. Access can be gained to the images through the catalogue on old stock or through the BUL website. For access to the digitised books through the catalogue, a specific label is included in the bibliographic register; the second option – access through the website – includes a list of digitised books in alphabetical order of authors, separated by century of publication, and with a brief bibliographical description.

### 2.2 Castilla-La Mancha University Library

This library has a virtual exposition called *The Quixote Library* [http://www.biblioteca.uclm.es/cervantes/cervantes.htm](http://www.biblioteca.uclm.es/cervantes/cervantes.htm) which comprises 47 editions and studies on the Quixote and Cervantes, and 14 printed illustrations from the Cumplido and Gregorio Prieto editions of the Quixote. The main aim is to provide a small representation of specialised titles on the Quixote and Cervantes from the libraries of the four campuses of the University (Albacete, Ciudad Real, Cuenca and Toledo), and to present the latest acquisition on this subject, i.e. the private collection of José Esteban.

As from 27 October 2000 the Carmen Bravo-Villasante Bibliographic Collection [http://www.biblioteca.uclm.es/Cep-lib/biblioteca.htm](http://www.biblioteca.uclm.es/Cep-lib/biblioteca.htm) can be viewed in the General Library of the Cuenca Campus. This collection includes, amongst others, works edited between 1728 and 1939.

### 2.3 Madrid Complutense University Library
[http://www.ucm.es/UCM/](http://www.ucm.es/UCM/)

In addition to the *Historic Collection Catalogue* [http://cisne.sim.ucm.es/screens/opacmenu_spi_sl.html](http://cisne.sim.ucm.es/screens/opacmenu_spi_sl.html), found in the automated catalogue "Cisne" of the MCU, the facilities available relating to old stock are centralised in the recently opened "Marqués de Valdecilla" Historical Library. It can be accessed through the innovations section [http://www.ucm.es/UCM/frames09.htm](http://www.ucm.es/UCM/frames09.htm) of the MCUL website and contains information on stock, services and specialised information; access is also provided to virtual expositions (organised by the Library), sale of publications and the Dioscórides Digital Library.

By entering the information section of the general index of this website, we can also gain access to the above-mentioned virtual expositions, which include the following:

- *Athanasius Kircher and 17th Century Science; History of the Book Through the Complutense University Collections; Old Mathematics Books; The Year 2000, World Mathematics Year; Geography Books of the Complutense University: from Ancient Times to the 18th Century; Three Centuries of Medical Knowledge in Madrid Complutense University, 15th to 18th Centuries; and The Complutense University Through its Books: 500 years of the Cisnerian Bull.*

A digitisation project remarkable for its ambitious objectives is the *Dioscórides Digital Library*, related to the Project of the same name [http://www.ucm.es/UCM/diosc/00.htm](http://www.ucm.es/UCM/diosc/00.htm). This is a digital library on Health
Sciences, which came into being as a result of a project to digitise and store on optical-magnetic file the historical biomedical collection of titles from the 15th to the 18th centuries contained in the "Marqués de Valdecilla" Historical Library. The digitised catalogue of old titles contains a bibliographical description of the digitised books together with an image of the cover or some representative pages of each work.

2.4 Córdoba University Library
http://www.uco.es/webuco/buc/

The Córdoba University website, in the section on the Rabanales Campus Library, contains a subsection on old and historic titles from this University <http://www.uco.es/webuco/buc/bcr/fondoa.htm>. Under the epigraph "Organisation" of this website, as an annex to the Library Regulations, one can find Rules of Use and Conservation of Old and Historic Titles of the Córdoba University Library
http://www.uco.es/webuco/buc/buco/reglamen.htm#ANEXO.

2.5 Granada University Library
http://www.ugr.es/%7Ebiblio/

From the website of this Library access can be gained to a catalogue specifically dedicated to old titles http://fondant.ugr.es/aljibe/consulta.html. This catalogue is linked to the Aljibe database, which contains at present 13,038 entries. Included are: a catalogue of the rare incunable manuscripts which are kept in the Library safe, works printed in Latin from the 16th and 17th centuries, works printed in Granada from the 16th to the 19th centuries, and an undetermined number of old printed works which do not belong to either of the above categories and which have been included for other reasons (microfilming...). One of the most interesting qualities of the Aljibe database is that it allows the visualisation of 5,545 images in JPG format corresponding to covers, colophons and representative illustrations of the catalogued documents.

The information on old stock of this Library is completed with "Historical Review"
http://fondant.ugr.es/aljibe/historia.html which includes sections on the history of the Library, the composition of the historic collection, the Aljibe database, and manuscripts and printed works of special interest.

2.6 Huelva University Library
http://www2.uhu.es/biblioteca/

Available in this website are Rules for the Old Titles Room http://www2.uhu.es/biblioteca/norma2.html which provide guidelines for consulting and handling the collection of old books, facsimiles, legacies, theses and publication stock of Huelva University.

2.7 Jaén University Library
http://www.ujaen.es/serv/biblio/

Under the normal entry for catalogues, http://www.ujaen.es/serv/biblio/catalogos/catalogos.html in the section devoted to subcatalogues, all the special collections can be found, among them the old title collection.
2.8 La Laguna University Library http://papyrus.bbtk.ull.es/index.htm

Facilities related to library patrimony offered by this Centre on the Internet consist of an informative text on old titles from the General and Humanities Library of the University of La Laguna
http://www.bbtk.ull.es/Centros/BibliotecaGeneral/FAntiguo/Index.htm, Rules of consultation and access to the Historic and Bibliographic Patrimony of the University of La Laguna

2.9 Málaga University Library
http://www.uma.es/servicios/biblioteca/default.htm

Information on old titles from the Málaga University General Library is available on:

2.10 Oviedo University Library
http://librivision.uniovo.es/web/

From the website of this library we selected “General Information” and then the heading “About the OUL”, which contains information on the old stock collection of the Oviedo University Central Library.

Another section under the General Information entry provided us with links to the different University libraries, one of which is the library of the Feijoo Institute of 18th Century Studies. Here we found a rich collection of monographs and specialised periodicals from the 18th century, and a remarkable collection of old printed works and manuscripts.

2.11 Catalunya Polytechnic University Library http://bibliotecana.upc.es/

This University provides general information on its Historic Science and Technology Collection

2.12 Pontificia de Comillas University Library
http://130.206.67.16/portales/Biblioteca/default.htm

The website of this University, under the entry “History of the Library”, contains data on the old collections preserved in this Centre, of which the collection of scholastic works is worthy of note.
2.13 Pompeu Fabra University Library <http://www.upf.es/>

Information on “Reserve Stock” is available on: http://www.upf.es/bib/cont4.htm?d=/bib/actualit/visita.htm. Worthy of note are the important collection of the works of Pompeu Fabra, and the incunabulum *Constitutions* (1495).


In the website of the Library of the Reserve Collection of Jurisprudence Titles

http://www.urv.es/sgenerals/biblioteca/Bib_Juridiques/index.html, under the section dedicated to documentary and bibliographic titles, there is an entry for “reserve stock titles” (libros del fondo de reserva) which contains a list of the bibliographical references of these works linked to catalographic records.

The website of the Education and Psychology Library http://www.urv.es/sgenerals/biblioteca/Bib_Educa/index.html has an entry in its index for “stock” which is linked to a section on old titles and information about this collection.

2.15 Salamanca University Library

http://sabus.usal.es/bibliotecas.htm

This library provides online access to *Catalogue of historic titles*

http://sabus.usal.es/catalogo.htm

2.16. Seville University Library

http://bib.us.es/bibliotecas/bgus.asp

The Webster of the General Library is linked, under the heading “Old stock” http://bib.us.es/bgus/fondoant.asp to an informative text on the history and content of the collections of manuscripts, incunabula, printed works from the 16th to the 18th centuries, the palatine library within the General Library, and related bibliography.

The website also contains an index with access to a text on *Rules for the Use and Conservation of the Old Stock Collection* <http://bib.us.es/bgus/normafondo.asp>, a *Request for reproduction of old titles* application form <http://bib.us.es/bgus/formulario.asp> which can be used to request information on the cost of acquiring reproductions of works from the old stock collection, and to *Internet Resources* <http://bib.us.es/recumate/fondoant.asp>, a list of subject-classified addresses related to old titles.

In addition, the Library offers, under the entry *Fame Catalogue*, http://www.us.es/include.frameador.php?url=http://bib.us.es/ access to several catalogues, one of which is on works published before 1801. Also included here are automated records of publications from the 15th to the 18th centuries with digitised images.

2.17 Valladolid University Library

http://cigales.cpd.uva.es/biblioteca/principal.htm

The libraries section of the website of the University Library gives access to the Santa Cruz Historic Library. This is the General Section of the Old Stock Collection of the University, containing all the works published before 1835 as well as the Santa Cruz Library’s own collection.

2.18 Valencia-Estudi General University Library http://www.uv.es/~infobib/

In this University the old titles collection is in the Historic Library, which has its own website <http://www.uv.es/~bibhi/bibhistorica/> with information on human resources, stock, services, links of interest and news.
2.19 Zaragoza (Saragossa) University Library
http://wzar.unizar.es/doc/buzlbibliotecas/centros.html

This library has designed an exposition entitled *Exposition of Americanist Book Collections of the Zaragoza University General Library*
http://wzar.unizar.es/doc/buzlbiblioam/catalogo.html

2.20 REBIUN (Spanish initials for University Libraries Network)

This library network has a working group dedicated to library patrimony
http://www.uma.es/rebiun/partimonioBibliografico.html with information on its main objectives. It includes a report on activities carried out in the year 2000, one of which is the exposition *Ex-Libris Universitatis*
http://busc.usc.es/exlibris/Paginas/segund.htm, providing details of Spain’s important library patrimony. The exhibits consist of 209 works from the 10th to the 18th centuries.

3. Results and conclusions

We analysed the websites of a total of 66 Spanish university libraries. Of these, 19 have their own facilities related to library patrimony. The overall number of facilities compiled is 53. For purposes of classification, we propose the following scheme, in which the number of facilities found for each type is indicated:

- Specialised libraries: 4
- Catalogues: 10
- Virtual expositions: 17
- General information on old book collections: 11
- Digitisation and reproduction projects: 5
- Specific rules for the use of old books: 4
- Compilation and access to external resources: 2

The libraries with most facilities are Madrid Complutense University (10 facilities), Barcelona University (8 facilities) and Seville University (6 facilities).

These data reveal that Spanish university libraries are making use of the Web to inform, diffuse and offer access to library patrimony.

Within these facilities, a distinction can be made between those focused exclusively on information and diffusion, and those giving access to the works by means of digitisation techniques. Outstanding examples are the Dioscórides Library (Madrid Complutense U.), the Aljibe databases (Granada U.) and the makes of printing presses (Barcelona U.), together with the wide range of virtual expositions. We consider that these facilities are of great interest because they cater for both preservation and access: “the two objectives that in the age of paper were at loggerheads, can now be in consonance in the digital era”.

The virtual expositions are the most numerous among the types of facility established, and of those compiled here the following are outstanding for their volume and coverage: *Ex–Libris Universitatis, Exposition of Americanist Book Collections of the Zaragoza University General Library* and *The Complutense University Through its Books: 500 years of the Cisnerian Bull*. The majority of these expositions are similar in structure: an introduction, a catalogue with images, a description of the documents and, in some cases, other elements such as bibliography, links to related facilities, credits, etc.

The most notable projects have been carried out by those libraries with the longest tradition and the richest collections of old books, i.e. Madrid Complutense,
Granada, Seville or Barcelona, which are "historic libraries in the forefront among the old university districts".

We believe that the principal importance of these initiatives is that collections of old works may now be released from their isolation and be made available not only to specialists but to all who wish to have access to them.

Notes
2. The data presented in this paper correspond to the most recent consultation of websites, carried out in February 2002.