

New developments:

B) Enhanced access to research and public sector information. A new growth driver?

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*The Digital Library: Challenges and opportunities
in facing the Information society*

Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes: an approach

www.cervantesvirtual.com



*The Future Digital Economy: Digital content - creation, distribution and access
OECD - Rome, 30th January 2006*

Background

Started in 1999 as a tool for culture spread, building a virtual library of classic works in hispanic languages, arranged in a similar way as a traditional library and with free access.

The Foundation under the same name was constituted in 2001, and since then, it aims to convert the Library in the reference of hispanic literature in the Internet.

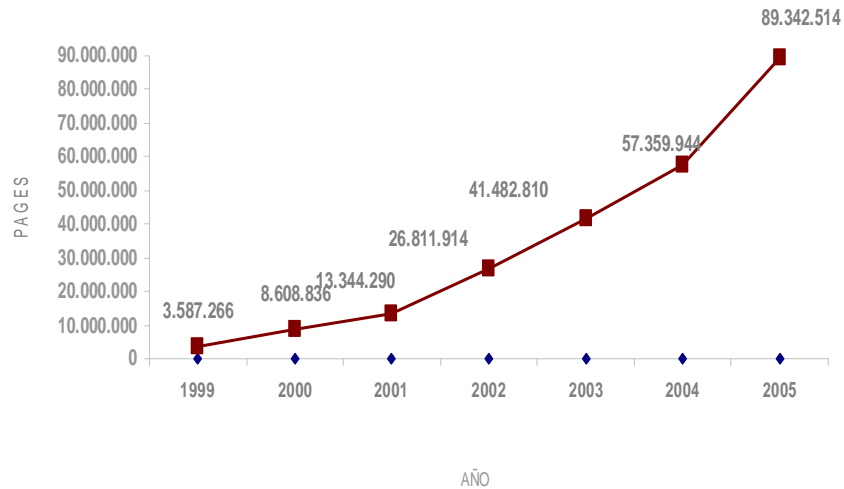
Our Commitment

- ✓ Empower the **worldwide knowledge** of hispanic cultures.
- ✓ **Educate** based on culture, information and leisure.
- ✓ **Preserve** the cultural heritage.
- ✓ **Integrate** the Latin American community, favouring a common cultural and educative space.
- ✓ **R & D & I**, focused in improving our services and to make our contents more accessible.

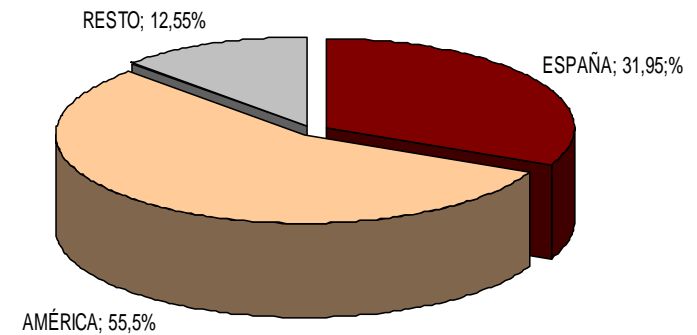


www.cervantesvirtual in figures

DELIVERED PAGES: YEARLY CUM.



SOURCE OF VISITS



www.cervantesvirtual in figures

A growth of **56%** in 2005

More than **188.000.000** pages downloaded

More than **18.000** digitized docs.

More than **41.000** users subscribed to its bulletins

The most visited literary Web page in
Spanish, all over the world



A private initiative with public service intent

Chairman: Mario Vargas Llosa



The Digital Libraries and the Society

www.cervantesvirtual.com **Digital libraries:** a place to compile/ preserve / organize / and spread knowledge, taking advantage of the new technologies to offer value-added products and to make them more accessible.

Internet: affordable technology and a powerful platform of communication and information diffusion. Some risks to take into consideration: the so called "Infochaos", aspirations of monopolistic organizations that could attempt to limit access to knowledge...

Internet and **knowledge share within the society:** Information, culture and leisure are the pillars of education. Thus, they require a responsible commitment to the civil society and the implementation of mechanisms that facilitate worldwide access without discrimination.

Digital libraries "**open temple of knowledge**": Based on their characteristics, they are the most convenient spaces to transmit knowledge to the society, favouring the so called *multiplier effect*.



Towards the Universal Digital Library

Requirements and supports that this initiative needs:

At national level, support of the public institutions to local initiatives:

- To empower their development and growth
- To facilitate diffusion and promotion through researchers and education and cultural community
- To improve R & D & I as applied to digital libraries, taking advantage of technological standards, enabling to share/integrate its resources with other libraries
- To improve the institutional cooperation and the coordination and integration of the different local initiatives of digitization archives.

At supranational level, focusing and supporting the integration and coordination of the different national projects.



Towards the Universal Digital Library

Its main characteristics should be

- ✓ High quality contents and user-oriented services under democratic criteria and a high degree of responsibility with the society.
- ✓ Respecting intellectual property regulations in each country.
- ✓ With no barriers that limit access to the Library for reasons of:
 - Technology – platforms and formats that allow to share and make these resources accessible to all.
 - Language – all the languages, including minority ones.
 - Economy – free access allowing knowledge socialization.



Towards the Universal Digital Library

Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes fulfills the stated requirements.

According to those characteristics, the European Digital Library must be considered as a good initiative taking advantage of the support of some EU countries.

