CSIC archival collections: scientific records from the “past” to today science for the “future”

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SCOPE

- About CSIC
- ¿Does CSIC has archives?
- Archives situation
- Archives and records typology
- What has been done
- Some results achieved
- Challenges and problems
- Conclusions
What’s CSIC?

- founded in 1939, over the National Science Research Foundation facilities Heritage from Council for the Extension of Studies and Scientific Research 1907 (JAE)
- Research State Agency (2007)
  - 116 institutes
  - 6% Spanish research community
  - 10,600 staff (5,000 scientists)
  - 899 M € budget 2007 (2/3 MCIN, 1/3 other)
- Collaborates national and internationally with: university+industry for a technological and scientific policy
- Organisation based on 8 scientific areas
- CSIC scientific production represents 20% of ISI Spanish representation
Some legacies- records remain from

“Doctors, biologists, chemists, historians, philologists... men and women of science and the arts who were trained at the institutions created by the JAE and who were given the task of implementing the programme to breathe new life into Spanish science and culture”

Santiago Ramón y Cajal, Ignacio Bolívar, José Castillejo, Luis Simarro, Juan Negrín, Pío del Río-Hortega, Antonio de Zulueta, Severo Ochoa, Julio Rey Pastor, Francisco Durán i Reinals, Blas Cabrera, Leonardo Torres Quevedo, José Casares Gil, José Fernández-Nonídez, Cruz Gallastegui, Federico de Onís, Ramón Menéndez Pidal, María de Maeztu, Tomás Navarro Tomás, Américo Castro, Antonio García Solalinde, Samuel Gili Gaya, Rafael Altamira,... are just some of the people who took part in this enterprise.
¿Do ARCHIVES exists at CSIC?

- Only 3 “formal archives” have some “oficial visibility
- **A) Formal Archives:**
  - CSIC Central Archive (administrative documentation from CSIC central organization)
  - MNCN ARCHIVE+ RBJ Archive (records from Scientific expeditions XVIII-XIX)
- **B) Archival collections within CSIC libraries** (personal+institutional)
CSIC Archives situation “heterogenous”

- “ANY formal-institutional rule concerning ordinary transfers from CSIC institutes to General CSIC archive”
- Archival collections exists under different and multiple dependencies-situations.
- No specialised staff, lack of space, technological tools …etc.
- No big concerns regarding preservation and scientific dissemination. We still have hidden collections (Research Departments)
- No institutional archival politics exist before 1999
General Characteristics

- Results from an internal survey (2000)
- “26 archival collections in CSIC libraries network”

- **Location**: mainly in libraries
- **Contents**:
  - 27% administrative
  - 58% research output
  - 15% other content
- **Temporal coverage**
  - 30% before 1940
  - 60% 1940-1975
  - 10% from 1975
- **Organization-Treatment Level**
  - 31% organised
  - 69% not treated
- **Responsibility up to**:
  - 44% research departments
  - 39% under scientists
  - 17% any
Archival collections “Tipologies”

- Administrative-Scientific records
- From Historical records- to Digital documents for the Future
- Institutional collections: records of general and specific functions of each research centre.
- Personal collections: scientific documents produced through research work.
Manuscripts (XVIII-XX)
Photographs (XIX-XX)
Drawings, plates and maps (XVII-XX)
Spanish Scientific expeditions
General conditions-Installation-Technical

- **Physical location**: under different irregular conditions (except for: RJB, MNCN, TNT Library)
- **Conservation**: regular, critical in some cases specially with fragile photographic plates
- **Documentary treatment**: in some cases inventory tools, no cataloguing, no standards compliance
- **Automation and Digitation**: any, prior 1999
- **Legal situation**: strongly confused-unclear
- **Accessibility and dissemination**: rare and restrictive
Some work has been done

● Since 1998…

● By the CSIC Libraries Network side
  ● composed by 78 research libraries

Its mission: “support the scientific excellence by giving access to scientific information ressources”

● Main goal: “act as an horizontal system within CSIC for scientific information to guarantee selection, organisation, promotion, access and preservation of information ressources”
What we did?

- Improvements:
  - Renew some facilities
  - Improve Installation
  - Follow up conservation and preservation measures
  - Set up digitation and microfilm reproduction
  - Implement workflow protocols
  - Introduce archive standards
  - Start automation
From old Archival installations
To new facilities
Installation conditions
Conservation-Preservation treatments
¿When and why we started the archival collections Project?

- In 1995 we discover what we later call “the Marcos Jimenez de la Espada treasure” in one of our libraries. Pictures from the Spanish Expedition to Pacific
- Later on 1997 we started up a preliminary automation project with Marcos Jiménez de la Espada Collection (http://www.csic.es/cbic/BGH/espada/pagina.htm)
- In 1998 we designed a specific catalog for archives using ALEPH (ILS) (http://aleph.csic.es), immediately the MNCN and the Aranguren Archive adhere
- Some professional aid tools were put in place:
  - Workflow protocol
  - Cataloguing Manuals
  - Standards to be followed (ISAD-G, ISBD, MARC, Indexation and Authorities control)
  - Archives cataloguing templates
Some Results achieved

- Archives catalog (25,267 items)
- Virtual visit CSIC archives
- Description-Cataloging tools
- Archives working Group-Distribution List
- Microfilm process
- Digitation process (5,458 FT or images)
Visita virtual por los archivos de la Red de Bibliotecas del CSIC
BUT we also care about “Today” Science records

- Institutional Repository (OA) since 2008
- Dspace based
- OAI compliant
- DIGITAL.CSIC
- 74 world IR ranking
- >10,700 csic scientific outputs
- Collections (scientific areas)
Challenges: “set up a real cooperative task force”

- To:
  - **Consolidate the work** done within the Institution in order to get new funds and resources “build up-consolidate a CSIC archival policy”
  - Try to “**put in the surface**” the hidden heritage legacies following the information of 2000 Survey.
  - **Increase the number of catalogued, automated and digitized funds/archives.**
  - **Improve the installation-conservation conditions**
  - Work for a proper compatibility between technology-dissemination-legal access-privacy
  - Uniform the **accessibility policy**
    - Regulate the user’s rights and reproduction policy
  - **Promote a “Spanish scientific live memory” versus a “locked memory”**
  - **Collaborate with other scientific institutions for a “Digital Heritage Memory”**
Problems

- Poor Institutional vision regarding the importance of keep-organize-disseminate scientific heritage.
- When archives are not located in the Library but in Departments or Institutes some resistance to let professionals work with.
- Lack of human resources with archivist profile
- Few technical resources for a better-correct preservation and conservation
CONCLUSIONS

- “Each day is more accepted the idea that the importance of one archive, depends not only on the content it holds but, specially on its diffusion and accessibility”

- We need to improve the dissemination process
  - Stop the existence of “black archives” just for “someone eyes”

- It’s crucial to joint forces and initiatives within CSIC and with other institutions
- We have to work with “past heritage” and “future” to guarantee access for CSIC’s tomorrow science (DIGITAL.CSIC)
- Create a “unique, well know archives policy, improve technical and human ressources”