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What is Simurg and when was it born?

The CSIC Unit of Information Resources for Research from 2009 has been promoting:

- A digitization policy defined through several documents that establish technical criteria to ensure the sustainability and interoperability of several digitization projects.
- Digitization projects for the dissemination and enhancement of the heritage kept in the CSIC Libraries Network.

Thanks to the work done by the Unit of Information Resources for Research and by CSIC libraries **the Libraries Network has set up a digitized collection of a remarkable size.**

For this reason and because we would like to see our Collection flying, we branded it with a name that identifies it properly and is hopefully appealing to all.

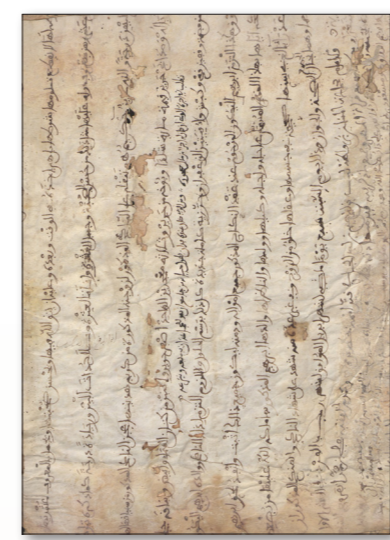
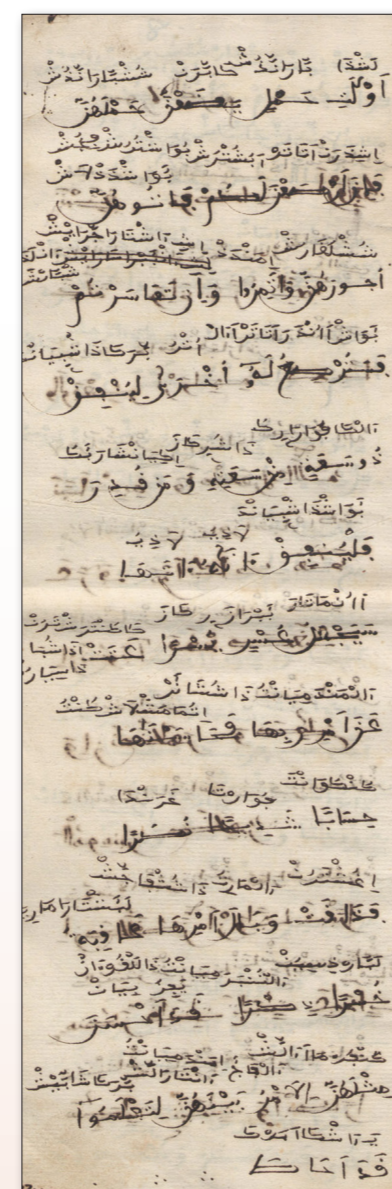
Thus, "Simurg, CSIC Digitized Collection" was born.

Simurg is the name of the immortal bird that according to the Persian mythology nests in the branches of the Knowledge Tree.

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What does Simurg mean?

We felt that this name was well-suited to **represent the knowledge that is preserved in the scientific branches within the CSIC Libraries Network and thanks to digital evolution this knowledge somehow flies through the web** to different places and users to disseminate science.



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What kind of works makes up for Simurg?

Mainly the Simurg collection is built with **digitized heritage works** in the public domain and housed at CSIC Libraries Network.

More than 20 digitization projects are included in the Simurg Collection, which totaling about 1 million master images.

We hope that this number will continue to grow since we have many more ideas and improvements on how to turn it into **one of the best collections of ancient science books in Spain.**

Manuscripta
<http://manuscripta.bibliotecas.csic.es/>
and **Chemistry and Alchemy Ancient Works**
(<http://bibliotecas.csic.es/poq/index.html>)
are our highlight digitization project.

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TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- High resolution master images for preservation in Tiff format preferably in color.
- Specific CSIC Values embedded in the Baselines Tiff tags.
- Defined and controlled File Names for images are based on catalog numbers.
- Master Image border falls within CSIC specifications.
- The Tiff master should always be a simple image.
- If a plate is a double page, the master will be also double.
- Books are entirely digitized: spine, cover, white pages...
- Master images are moved into a centralized preservation system.
- Use of specifications for derivative images.
- Master images have a METS file associated.
- The METS metadata are built according to CSIC METS profile with PREMIS embedded.
- The CSIC METS profile store descriptive metadata as a Marcxml extension, technical metadata as a PREMIS Object and MIX extension, MetsRight for the copyrights metadata and PREMIS Event for the digital provenance metadata.
- Established workflow for the digitization project.

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GOALS AND POLICIES

- New Digital Object management system.
- Enable researchers access to the CSIC Scientific Heritage.
- Add value to new research areas.
- Facilitate new insights into CSIC content by new audiences.
- Offer a friendly way to discover our content.
- Make CSIC content more visible and increase its usage.
- Preserve unique, rare and fragile heritage items through digital reproduction and protect vulnerable documents.
- Search for new funding to sustain our long-term digitization Programme.

The digitized works are accessible through **the CSIC Libraries Network Catalogue**
<http://aleph.csic.es>
and **Hispana, the Spanish national harvester**
<http://roai.mcu.es/en/estaticos/contenido.cmd?pagina=estaticos/presentacion>



<http://bibliotecas.csic.es/servicios/simurg.html>