Mujeres, Damas y Señoritas: el Mundo de las Revistas Femeninas Españolas del Siglo XIX al Alcance de la Mano

The Women’s Magazine Digital Collection at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center

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Spanish Periodicals and Newspapers Collection: a brief history

- Acquired by the University of Connecticut’s Special Collections in 1970s through HP Kraus Periodicals
  - Part of the vast collection of materials amassed by Juan Pérez de Guzmán y Boza, Duque de T’ Serclaes (1852-1934). It was considered one of the finest collections of Andalusian newspapers in Spain.
  - The collection is housed today at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center’s Archives and Special Collections
Rationale of the digital project

• High volume of requests but inability to fulfill these requests due to condition of material and/or the amount requested (between a 100-1,000 pages)
  • One of the most requested titles, *Correo de las Damas, o, Poliantea Instructiva, Curiosa y Agradable de Literatura, Ciencias y Artes*. Cádiz, has 15 volumes (1804-1807).
  • The Center does not have the staff or infrastructure to digitize this material.
Rationale (cont.)

• Desire to find a way to make available the cultural heritage of Spain
  ◦ As a cultural memory institution that holds materials that originated outside the United States that are so unique that the country of origin itself does not have copies, it is my belief that it behooves us to find ways to make such material more accessible—it should be a moral obligation that we should strive for this when possible.
Rationale (cont.)

- New strategic goals in the library that are geared toward providing more online content to our users:
  - “The Libraries’ path is clear: enhance the research process through direct support via our liaisons and collections and take on new roles of digital preservation, organization, and access.”
Rationale (cont.)

- Why, women magazines?
  - Concentrating on a specific subject area of a vast collection of periodicals, allows us to target more than one particular audience (faculty, Spanish scholars, general public) or topic (women studies, literature, etc.)
    - Providing access to this collection set hopefully will allow other users to discover these materials for their own research.
Collaboration

- The UConn Libraries' Digital Project Team (DPT) offers grants for digital projects for library and archives staff members. It is one of the many tools that allow for the achievement of the library’s strategic goals.
  - The team, through the grant, foments collaboration among library and archives personnel and/or with other institutions.
- A beneficial partnership that encourages knowledge, skills, and expertise sharing.
Collaboration between libraries and archives is a natural one.

- Archives hold unique materials not found in other institutions in the United States or abroad.
- Libraries have the resources and the technological know-how that can make digitization possible.
  - Partnering with the DPT was a logical step to work toward the strategic goals of our institution, and they offer a welcoming environment to collaborate within.
Initial Project Hurdles

1) Condition & Nature of Materials (i.e. brittle, tightly bound, enormous foldouts, uniquely held by UConn so we didn’t want to outsource digital capture)

2) Initial Limitations of existing Equipment (e.g. flatbed scanners would break bindings, scanners also not appropriate for foldout capture)
Digital Project Workflow

- A workflow was created to support the specific needs and challenges of using this archival collection.
  - **In-house digitization**: Provided a secure location for fragile materials. After material was digitized it was uploaded into the Internet Archive for access.
  - **Selection**: Only unique materials that had never been digitized or that we were the only holder were selected.
    - We searched Google Books, Internet Archive and the National Library of Spain Hemeroteca Digital and Hispana before selection.
  - **Cataloging**: Created new records for periodicals; uploaded them to local catalog and WorldCat; added links to newly formed digital objects into new library records.
Decisions That Went Into Initial Technical Planning

1) Purchased new Capture Equipment

2) Decided on Still Image File Formats

3) Developed Capture & Batch Image File Optimization Workflows for bound monographs

4) Decided on method of Online Use & General Access Points
Capture Equipment

ATIZ BookDrive DIY & Canon 5D II DSLR Cameras
Copy Table, Canon 5D II DSLR Camera on mono-stand, Elinchrom D-Lite-2 studio lights
Capture Equipment (Cont.)
Capture Equipment (Cont.)
Capture Equipment (Cont.)
Capture Equipment (Cont.)
Capture Equipment (Cont.)

For a complete equipment list, see http://digitalcollections.uconn.edu/equipment/equipment.html
File Formats

The University of Connecticut Libraries uses published standards and best practices for digital capture benchmarking purposes. These benchmarks are based primarily on published NARA, Library of Congress, and BCR/CDP recommendations.

Please note that depending on the specific objectives of particular projects, higher resolutions and different archival file formats (e.g., JPEG 2000) may be desirable for some materials.

**Master Archival Files**

- Pixel dimensions: dependent on size of original
- Resolution: 400 dpi
- File format: lossless JPEG 2000
- Bit depth: 24-bit color

Camera RAW > Lossless JPEG 2000 archivals > Lossy JPEG 2000 processed masters > Processed masters uploaded to Internet Archive

(from UConn Libraries' Digital Collection Site, http://digitalcollections.uconn.edu/standards/standards.html)
Online Access

Spanish Periodicals and Newspapers: Women's Magazine Digital Collection

In the early 1970s, the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut acquired an incredible collection of Spanish Periodicals and Newspapers collected by the famous bibliophile, Juan Pérez de Guzmán y Boza, the Duque de T'Serclaes. Now housed in Archives & Special Collections at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, this rich collection reflects the complex history of Spain through periodicals and newspapers dating from the 18th-20th centuries, with the bulk of the collection dating from the 19th century.

Of significant interest is the wide selection of women's magazines written for men to appeal to an elite female audience. The collection is full of things such as short historical stories, poems, good advice for both men and women about the proper behavior of ladies at any age, beautiful colored and engraved images with the latest news of Paris fashion, music sheets of polkas and other music specifically composed for the magazines, and patterns for needlework, to name only a few. These magazines are an amazing window to understand the social dimensions of women in 19th century Spain.

Because of their significance to international researchers unable to travel to the University, the Dodd Research Center, in collaboration with the UConn Libraries, digitized 18 titles from the collection. Thanks to the support and funding of the UConn Libraries' Digital Project Team (DPT) and its members (Dave Lowe, Michael Bennett) and cataloger Tom Koenig, the Libraries have created in-house this digital collection, to provide electronic access to researchers around the world.

The digital copies are available through the Internet Archive and the UConn Digital Collections site and are available in several different formats and the text is searchable. This webpage grouped all the digitized titles already available. We hope to complete the project by May 2010. Please come back and see the new additions to this new digital collection.

For more information about this collection, visit our previous Item of the Month feature from August 2008

Go to Titles/Titulos

Spanish Women’s Magazines Portal
(from http://doddcenter.uconn.edu/collections/spanwomen.htm)
Digitized Text Tab Search from Library’s Digital Collection Portal is coded to farm keyword searches out across only UConn-contributed materials that have been uploaded to Internet Archive
(from http://digitalcollections.uconn.edu)
Online Access & Use

An example of Internet Archive’s “Read Online” flip book
Measures of Success

• User Feedback
  ◦ Emails from online users
  ◦ Feedback from UConn faculty and students
  ◦ Reviewer request for info regarding portal
    • To be published by academic journal *Hispania*

• IA Downloads

• Portal Hits
Measures of Success—IA Downloads (cont.)

592 Downloads!!!
A Google Analytics statistical monthly report from the Spanish Women’s Magazines Portal here identifies where in the world users are coming from; how often they arrive, etc…
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