Chapter XXXVIII

BIVALDI the Digital Library of the Valencian Bibliographic Inheritance

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ABSTRACT

The Biblioteca Valenciana was created by the decree 5/1985 of the 8th of January and is presented primarily as “upper library centre of the Generalitat Valenciana and basic bibliographic deposit” which depends on the Conselleria for Culture, Education, and Sport. For this reason, it is the head of the library system of the Comunidad Valenciana, Conselleria, and as such, it has established objectives in the eighth article of the Law 10/1986 of 30th of December of Organización Bibliotecaria de la Comunidad Valenciana between which are emphasised “to meet, to conserve and divulge the Valencian bibliographic inheritance and all the printed, sound and visual production, about the Comunidad Valenciana.” It is also made up as “receiver of one of the examples proceeding from the offices of the Depósito Legal “and it is attributed the obligation of fulfilling the collective catalogue of the Valencian bibliographic and cultural inheritance. Furthermore, the Valencian library must insert itself into the denominated National Libraries, and for this reason, in the Comunidad Valenciana, it is in charge of uniting history, tradition, and in the future of the obtaining of political libraries, because it is defined
as “central expert of the carefully worked political library in the Valencian library system” and, for this reason, must be in charge of “elaborating and divulging the bibliographic information about the Valencian editorial production and of maintaining the cooperation with the library services of different scopes.” In fulfilment of its responsibilities and with the intention of obtaining the maximum spread of the bibliographic and cultural inheritance, the Biblioteca Valenciana, in the setting of its Digitization policy, has dedicated and dedicates many resources in four lines or different solutions. In the first place, it coedits with different publishers, monographs, or titles of magazines which permit the recuperation and spreading of the Valencian inheritance. Some examples are Ruedo Ibérico, L’Espíll, or La República de les Lletres. In the second place, it digitalizes different resources which can be consulted from the catalogue. This solution is especially oriented to the preservation and conservation of the collections, and enables the users to be able to see from their computers the supplies to which the descriptions belong, and can decide if they are useful or not for their consultation, instead of indiscriminately asking for them, thus reducing the moving and manipulation of the original copies. The library is also working on the digitalization of material, especially all personal files, which do not belong to them, but which are of great importance. Finally, the Biblioteca Valenciana has begun the Biblioteca Valenciana Digital, (BIVALDI), which is the object of the present project, and which we are going to describe in detail in the following sections.

BIVALDI: Biblioteca Valenciana Digital

In the month of May in 2002, the Biblioteca Valenciana starts a project of digitalization denominated Biblioteca Valenciana Digital (BIVALDI). It refers to a digital library in which it is able to consult relevant and significant Valencian scientific and literary works, apart from works which are considered to be of interest for the development and improvement of scientific investigation about the historic, bibliographic, and cultural inheritance.

This deals with an ambitious project which is not created as a repository of any determined theme or as a reflection of the resources which are taken care of in the Biblioteca Valenciana. The Biblioteca Valenciana Digital intends to recuperate the Valencian bibliographic inheritance, which means it intends to be the meeting place of works that form part of said inheritance irrespective of its location. For this reason, we find in BIVALDI works which are not property of the Biblioteca Valenciana and which cannot be acquired, or because they are unique examples or because they are not on the market. But this is not the only objective of BIVALDI; it is also created for the necessity to offer more information, which means it is intended to incorporate, together with the work, informative elements of added value about the authors, the works, the printers, and so on.

All investigators and the general public who consult BIVALDI will be able to enjoy the works thanks to an easily manageable informatics platform which permits simple surfing. One of the outstanding attractions of this library platform is that the user can surf, not only in an individual way through the original digitalized text or through its transcription and/or translation when they are necessary, but also in a simultaneous way on the same screen, with the original work together with its transcription and translation. Also the user, as has already been mentioned, counts on wide information about the author and his work. This deals with bibliographies and specialised studies about the works, the printers, biographies of the writers, and so on.

Logically, to be able to begin this project, the Biblioteca Valenciana needs the collaboration with other institutions for the obtaining and
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