Abstract

This paper introduces the Spanish Defence Library Network that was created in 2005 and that authorizes the organization and coordination of the Ministry of Defence libraries.

To manage this coordinating function, it was considered necessary the creation a functional Library Coordination Unit.

The mission of the Library Coordination Unit is to evaluate and to coordinate the libraries that constitute the Spanish Defence Library Network and as well, to formulate the rules for the processing of the collection of the library.

Of the proposed targets, three were the pillars that would allow the creation and operation of The Spanish Defence Library Network: the Law of Libraries of the Ministry of Defence, the Census and the Union Catalogue of Defence.

Keywords:

Library network, the Ministry of Defence, union catalogue, census, government libraries, Law of Libraries,
THE SPANISH DEFENCE LIBRARY NETWORK (SDLN)

The Royal Decree 1551/2004 of 25th June, from which developed the basic structure of the Ministry of Defence putting an end the situation of uncertainty and uncoordinated functions that existed in the libraries of the Department.

Act 1551/2004 of 25th June 2004, on operating of the Ministry of Defence of Spain, permits the organization and coordination of the Ministry of Defence libraries.

To manage this coordinating function, it was considered necessary the creation a functional Library Coordination Unit. Said Unit would be attached to the General Deputy of Documentation and Publications, in order to carry out the main lines of activity of the Ministry of Defence.

From the outset, it was considered appropriate that libraries and documentation centres would have a greater presence as support units to the various agencies and institutions of the Ministry in carrying out and updating their tasks.

The following actions were identified as necessary:

- To update the different rules and regulations on libraries in the Ministry of Defence.
- To mix and adjust the treatment of bibliographic and documentary resources specific to the guidelines and standards, both national and international.
- To contemplate a course of action regarding new issues that were not controlled in time to facilitate further dissemination of the bibliographic defence heritage.

It was also understood from the outset that the libraries of defence had to adapt to changing times, changing substantially, in many cases: processes and traditional services, developing new ones and, most importantly, cooperating and creating an interconnected network that allows optimization of resources and improved services.

Finally, the fundamental objective was considered the need to promote and facilitate knowledgeable access and dissemination of the bibliographic and documentary defence heritage, both in schools and agencies of the department and in addition among the community of researchers, scholars and the society in general.

In order to obtain all these targets the Ministry of Defence founded the Library Coordination Unit (LCU).

The mission of the Library Coordination Unit is to evaluate and to coordinate the libraries that constitute the Spanish Defence Library Network and as well, to formulate the rules for the processing of the collection of the library.

This Unit is responsible for all the libraries of the Ministry of Defence. It has to carry out the progressive and balanced development of the Network of the Libraries of the Ministry and promote the cooperation and collaboration with other public organisms and private entities through agreements.
Since its inception in September 2005, the Library Coordination Unit’s principal targets have been the foundation of the Ministry of Defence Library Network. The Spanish Defence Library Network (SDLN) is constituted by all libraries and documentation centres of the Ministry of Defence, its autonomous organisms.

The Network of Libraries of the Ministry of Defence has to assure the preservation, access and best use of all the libraries and documentation centres through the cooperation and coordination of their tasks. Also it has to upgrade the utilization of the libraries.

**Basic objectives of The Spanish Defence Library Network (LND)**

The Law of Libraries of Ministry of Defence in Article 6 says:

"The Spanish Defence Library Network is:

a) The group of libraries and organized collections of publications and documents that meet the requirements and specifications defined in this law.

b) The competent organisms of management, administration and advice in developing this law.

c) Human and material resources, facilities and buildings that allow its operation, as established in this law.

With this in mind, the Library Coordination Unit assumed the role of initiating various projects and initiatives with some specific objectives:

- Contribute to the legal framework for the development of the Spanish Defence Library Network.

- Set goals for the analytical tools, planning and control of the Spanish Defence Library Network.

- Promote and to facilitate the preservation, access and promotion of the bibliographic heritage of the Ministry of Defence.

- Upgrade the use of libraries of the Spanish Defence Library Network in the field of the Ministry of Defence.

- Support the needs of professional development and training of librarians of the Ministry of Defence.

- Assure the best use of libraries and documentary means through the cooperation and coordination and their actions."
• Facilitate the exchange of experiences and the communication between the libraries.

• Represent the common interests of the libraries of the Ministry of Defence.

• Maintain and promote institutional relations and plans for the dissemination of activities and services of the libraries of The Spanish Defence Library Network.

**Actions Undertaken**

Of the proposed targets, three were the pillars that would allow the creation and operation of The Spanish Defence Library Network:

• The Law of Libraries of the Ministry of Defence
• The Census
• The Union Catalogue of Defence

**The Law of Libraries of the Ministry of Defence**

The Law of Libraries of the Ministry of Defence aims to structure the Library Network of Defence whereby it is given the proper legal framework within which to develop its full potential.

Through this law, the Ministry of Defence of Spain intends that the Spanish Defence Library Network has the rules from which to grow.

To elaborate this law, the Ministry created a discussion panel whose members were formed from people that belonged to several of its departments.

The Law states: the Spanish Defence Library Network is the union of the libraries whose main goal is the preservation, promotion and access to the bibliographic heritage of the Spanish Defence Preservation and also guarantees the best use of libraries and documentation centres through the coordination and cooperation between its members.

The Law of Libraries of the Defence Preservation is designed as the instrument that defines a new regulatory framework that clarifies on the one hand, who comprises the Spanish Defence Library Network and on the other hand who coordinates the distinct actions to achieve greater effectiveness and suitability to the new demands posed by the internal users of the Preservation and the society in general.

The framework of the Law of Libraries of the Preservation of Defence is the following:
Chapter I: General Provisions

Article 1. Purpose of the Law.

Article 2. Definitions.
   a) Library
   b) Specialized library
   c) Documentation centre
   d) Reading Room
   e) Depository centres for books
   f) Bibliographic Defence Heritage


Chapter II: The Spanish Defence Library Network

Article 4. Concept of The Spanish Defence Library Network.

Article 5. Principles and purposes.

Article 6. Constituent elements.

Chapter III: Organizational and Functional Structure

Article 7. Types of libraries.
   a) General and historical libraries
   b) Specialized libraries and documentation centres
   c) Academic libraries


Article 9. Managerial responsibility.

Article 10. Creation, abolition or reorganization of the libraries.

Chapter IV: Competent Departments

Article 11. Departments of management.
Article 15. Advisory and consultative departments.
Article 17. Technical Commissions.
Chapter V: Human Resources

Article 18. Staff librarians.
Article 19. Directors of the library.
Article 20. Responsibilities and duties of the Director.
Article 21. Technical Director.
Article 22. Responsibilities and tasks of the Technical Director.
Article 23. Technical Library Staff.
Article 24. Staff for administrative, auxiliary and subordinate tasks.
Article 25. Outsourcing.

Chapter VI: Planning, Management and Operation

Article 26. Planning and monitoring instruments.
Article 27. Multi-annual strategic plans.
Article 28. Annual programs of action.
Article 29. Yearly Statistical Reports.
Article 30. Common instrumental and operational resources.
Article 31. The Census of the Spanish Defence Library Network.
Article 32. The Union Catalogue of Defence.
Article 33. Technical procedures.
Article 34. Functions of The Spanish Defence Library Network.
Article 35. Provision of services.
Article 36. Development of technical tasks.
Article 37. Rules of operation.
Article 38. Promotional activities for cultural and scientific development.
Article 39. Facilities, equipment, visual identification.


The Census of the Spanish Defence Library Network

The Census is the tool to identify all libraries of the Preservation of Defence. It is an action designed to define what is in the Spanish Defence Library Network, the
methodology of statistical data collection that should continue and how to exploit such data.

The Census of the Spanish Defence Library Network objectives are:

- Serve as objective tools for analysis, planning and control of the libraries of the Preservation of Defence.
- Collect data on funding, staffing, and facilities for taking decisions in the management of the Spanish Defence Library Network.
- Provide the libraries with the information required for making statistical reports to the various institutions that produce them (National Institute of Statistics, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Culture).
- Promote the use of the libraries of the Spanish Defence Library Network. This survey is similar to the one used by the Spanish Statistical Institute and the Ministry of Culture to elaborate the national statistics of Spanish Libraries. To collect the data, we designed a very detailed questionnaire (designed according to ISO 2789). With the information obtained from the surveys we plan the elaboration an the update census/inventory of the Network of the Ministry of Defence Libraries.

The Spanish Defence Library Network Census Application in Lotus-Notes enables access, maintenance and updating of data in real time and facilitates the libraries consultation and preservation of historical census forms.

The Library Coordination Unit (LCU) will update the census and will incorporate the new data immediately.

Questionnaire structure

The Spanish Defence Library Network Census Implementation is divided into ten categories that include the data of the libraries.

The data are structured as follows:

1. General Data
2. Facilities
3. Economic Management
4. Staff
5. Services
6. Collections
7. Acquisitions
8. Computerization
9. Internet
10. Cultural Activities

The Spanish Defence Library Network Census is currently processing the statistical data for the year 2009. The data collection period was opened on 21\textsuperscript{st} December 2009 and ended on 26\textsuperscript{th} February 2010.

The number of libraries surveyed for the year 2009 was 284.

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For the Armed Forces:

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The Spanish Defence Library Network Census Web Presentation

In September 2008 the Spanish Defence Library Network Census developed a web site, currently published on the intranet of the Ministry of Defence.

To achieve a correct interpretation of the collected data, the information from the Spanish Defence Library Network Census web has been structured in three main sections:

- Statistical Yearbook: Includes tables and graphs representing the principal indicators for the census of the last year.
- Evolution of indicators: including tables and graphs of key indicators.
Both entries are divided into the following headings:

- General Data
- Facilities
- Economic management
- Staff
- Services
- Collections
- Acquisitions
- Computerization
- Internet
- Cultural Activities

- Directory: allows access to the library survey belonging to the Spanish Defence Library Network in last year’s census.

**The Defence Union Catalogue (DUC)**

From the first, the Spanish Defence Library Network was aware of the need to create a union catalogue to facilitate preservation, access and dissemination of the bibliographic defence heritage and ensure the best use of library resources. The implementation of the Spanish Defence Library Network and the Defence Union Catalogue also coincided with a time of change in new technologies and their application in the library world.

Therefore, the implementation of an integrated library management system was decided upon that would be in effect, a modern union catalogue that would be accessible to all.

To realize this Union Catalogue three lines of action was established:

- The purchase of an integrated library management system called the Bibliodef Project.
- The provision of computers to libraries participating in the DUC.
- The professional development and continuing education for staff of these libraries to ensure sufficient knowledge of the Bibliodef application, in order to enable the staff to develop theirs tasks as well as possible.

**Bibliodef Project**

For acquisition of an Integrated Library Management, a working group composed of various librarians was created.

The main task of the group was to conduct a market study of integrated library management by addressing the needs of the future Defence Union Catalogue,
establishing the goals to be met, not only from a functional and technical standpoint, but also an organizational one as outlined below.

To serve the needs of the libraries, the Integrated Library Management should:

- Facilitate the library management to potential users.
- Promote that the personnel of the Armed Forces and Ministry of Defence be more involved in the new information technologies through the library services.
- Facilitate the integration of library management in all departments.
- Allow and facilitate communication, coordination and cooperation of the libraries of the Spanish Defence Library Network.
- Provide computer support for the execution of tasks to manage the libraries.
- Incorporate the latest advances in IT in library management.
- Modernize the Ministry’s libraries and as well to facilitate the development of the library system.
- Coordinate the libraries in a network of integrated services that allow users easy access to resources and greater use of them.
- Facilitate the dissemination of knowledge, cultural services of the Ministry of Defence to society.
- Extend library services to all professionals of the Ministry of Defence.
- Publish the Union Catalogue of the Ministry of Defence in the Intranet so that it is accessible to all users in the Ministry.

With the objectives and needs defined, the project was framed within the "Plan for Information Systems and Telecommunications” of the Ministry of Defence.

The purchase of services for the development and implementation of the library management system of the Ministry of Defence, dated 26th July 2007, was awarded to the company Baratz, S.A. for its Integrated Library Management Absysnet.

There were several criteria for deciding which libraries should join the Union Catalogue at its early stage of creation. Finally, it was established that a total of fifty-two libraries would participate in the new program.

The Defence Union Catalogue should administrate approximately nine hundred thousand records which correspond to:

- Books.
- Periodicals and serials.
- Electronic Resources.
- Ancient manuscripts, incunabula.
In order to constitute the Union Catalogue, we had to establish a series of processes and distinct phases.

To carry out this project it was essential to provide some of the libraries with the necessary hardware; as well as contributing to the achievement one of the basic objectives of the Spanish Defence Library Network: equal access to information in the library.

Once the libraries began working with Bibliodef, 29th April 2009, we had to write procedural manuals, working papers of the various modules, rules on its use and description of collections.

At present, the Defence Union Catalogue has over six hundred thousand records.

Training Projects

Among the various activities promoted for the development of the Spanish Defence Library Network, there have been numerous projects organized to achieve the objectives of training the staff of the Spanish Defence Library Network.

The Law of Libraries of the Ministry of Defence states in Chapter II, Article 5 - as two of the specific purposes of the Spanish Defence Library Network: "support the needs of professional development and training of staff of the Ministry of Defence" and "facilitate the exchange of experiences and communication among different libraries of the Ministry".

In this regard, training for staff of the Spanish Defence Library Network has been developed through the Library Coordination Unit, originating in 2006 and continues presently.

The courses and other training initiatives offer are adapted to the needs of the Spanish Defence Library Network staff and the update of the knowledge required for the new professional of the libraries.
Conferences on Defence Libraries

The objective of these training sessions is twofold: firstly, it serves as an opportunity for the dissemination and discussion of initiatives in relation to the Spanish Defence Library Network; and secondly, provides a forum for the specific and necessary development of knowledge and professional information for all those who work in libraries of the Ministry of Defence.

In order to facilitate the sharing of professional experiences, each edition of the conference has sought the participation of representatives of military establishments of other countries or other Ministry libraries.

I Conference on Defence Libraries

In July 2006, the Conference on Defence Libraries was held at the headquarters of CESEDEN in Madrid.

The main objective of this first conference was the presentation of action plans and projects for the establishment and development of the Spanish Defence Library Network.

Among the eleven speakers of these sessions was included the participation of the Director General of Books, Archives and Libraries of the Ministry of Culture offering a presentation on the standardization and coordination of the libraries of the General State Administration. International representation of Defence libraries was directed by Mr. Heinz Hage, German librarian who described the situation of European Defence Libraries, referring to the situation of Germany.

Mr. Robert O. Ellet, librarian of the library Joint Forces College (Norfolk Virginia) part of the National Defence University, America's most prestigious university in security and defence also participated at the invitation of the United States Embassy in Spain.

This first conference was attended by over one hundred forty library professionals from different libraries of the Spanish Defence Library Network and more than twenty professionals from other libraries or cultural institutions.

II Conference on Defence Libraries

The II Conference held at the headquarters of the Royal Institute and Observatory of the Navy (San Fernando, Cádiz, Spain) took place in October 2007.

On this occasion the speakers developed more than 17 items relating to three basic themes:

- Management experience in the Spanish Defence Library Network
- Heritage preservation and promotion.
- New Information Technologies.
To encourage participation in these meetings of other countries, on this occasion, representatives of the Ministries of Defence of Portugal and France offered an overview of libraries in their respective countries and on the preservation and dissemination of the bibliographic military heritage. Participants representing Portugal, Ms. Isabel Coutinho, Coordinator of the Centre for Documentation and Information of the Ministry of Defence of Portugal and Ms. Ana Tavares from the Central Navy Library (Lisbon).

From France, Mr. Jean-Philippe Lamy, Head of Services for the National Maritime Museum (Paris). Ms. María Jesús García del Olmo, Director of the Information Resource Centre of the United States Embassy in Spain represented the United States.

This edition of the Conference was attended by over one hundred and fifty six professional librarians from different institutions of both the Spanish Defence Library Network and other libraries.

III Conference on Defence Libraries

The III Meeting held in the headquarters of the Infantry Academy in Toledo was held in June 2008.

The presentations focused on the following topics:

- The role of the library in General Academies and Special Education Training Centres of Defence.
- The needs of new military training

This sessions for the first time incorporated working groups involving all participants. The topic of discussion was: Proposed Accessibility and Visibility of Libraries in the Spanish Defence Library Network.

As before, it was attended by international representatives. In this case, the United States was represented by the library director of the U.S. Army War College, Mr. Bohdan Kohutiak.

Attendance at these sessions was a success for both participants and librarians. One hundred and fifty librarians attended this conference.

Other training courses

Online Training

The proceedings of the Sub-General Direction Office of Documentation and Publications aimed at improving the training of persons working in the libraries of the Spanish Defence Library Network culminated in 2009 with the convening of the first "on line" course: "Basic Course on Librarianship and Documentation".
The course objective is to contribute to the professional development of staff working in libraries of the Spanish Defence Library Network.

The course began on 17th December 2009. Its duration is for one hundred forty hours and is divided into three modules, which establish teaching units that are divided into learning units. The first module is on general library concepts, the second includes all issues relating to the dissemination and services for users and finally the third module is related to the cataloguing and to documentary languages.

Students enrolled can access course content from their jobs. They also have received documentation relating to content, user manuals and documentation.

This course has been well received. Two hundred four applications were received from civilian and military personnel from different libraries.

Finally, 63 students were selected, all employed in libraries of The Spanish Defence Library Network.

Statistics

The Library Coordination Unit is responsible for providing statistical data from the libraries of the Spanish Defence Library Network to the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Defence. The LCU’s assigned mission is receiving, processing, publishing and disseminating statistical information.

Also, the National Statistics Institute (INE) conducts biennial library statistics, which includes all the libraries in Spain, with the exception of school and private libraries and which do not support external users.

The Ministry of Culture has requested the statistical data from SDLN since 2006.

Publications

The Spanish Defence Library Network Directory

Due to geographical dispersion and its various organizational units it became very necessary to articulate a working tool in which librarians could consult all libraries that comprise the Spanish Defence Library Network and that provided easy consultation and permitted one obtain all data about them.

The directory elaborated by the Library Coordination Unit, collects all the libraries of The Spanish Defence Library Network according to the definitions and classifications established by the Law of Libraries of Defence.
The Directory can access the list of libraries in two different ways.

- Grouped according to their organizational unit.
- Grouped by type of library:
  - General and historical libraries.
  - Specialized libraries and documentation centres.
  - Academic libraries.
  - Reading Rooms.
  - Depository centres for books

Conference Papers

These collect the speeches, working groups, list of attendees and the graphic displays of each of these professional meetings.

Dissemination of these publications provides the knowledge of the activity and development of the culture of Defence in professional forums. In this way, it supports the publication in magazines and on library mailing lists in order to bring to the professional world network activities.

Institutional Relations

The collaboration between various institutions and departments is essential for progress in the development and improvement of library services of the Spanish Defence Library Network. The collaborative projects and work with professionals from other libraries, both from the Ministry of Defence as well as other institutions, have always been very positive and enriching.

We discuss the most significant initiatives and projects carried out in collaborating with individuals and departments of the Ministry of Defence and other institutions.
The Culture Portal

The Ministry of Defence has put together a Culture Portal aimed at disseminating over the Internet information and data about old books, documents and the artistic heritage of the Ministry of Defence.

Its purpose is to constitute an information system as a single point for all information related to the Defence Culture in order to promote and disseminate cultural activities and facilitate access for all citizens through the Internet, concentrating on diverse cultural information content.

The information contained in the Portal of Culture is divided into the following general areas.

1. Cultural Area.
2. Teaching and Research Area.
3. Institutional Events and Activities Area.
4. Publications Area.

In more detail, the Cultural Area is divided into the following facets: Archives, Libraries, Historical Cartography and Historical Photographs, Historical Buildings, Castles and Fortresses, and Museums and Music Scores. The pattern for presentation of information for these cultural treasures is organized on a geographic basis so that the treasures can be searched by autonomous communities.

Ministry of Culture

The relationship and cooperation with the Ministry of Culture have been constant and very fruitful. This is evidenced by active participation in the following projects:

The Bibliographical Heritage Union Catalogue

The Spanish Bibliographic Heritage Union Catalogue is a nationwide project whose aim is to describe and locate all library holdings and collections belonging to both public and private Spanish libraries which are part of our historical heritage.

The purpose of this catalogue is to collect the bibliographic records of all edited publications before 1900, and a description and location of library collections deposited in libraries and public and private Spanish institutions that by their age, uniqueness or richness are part of Spanish Historic Heritage.

Around 2,200,000 copies of documents from more than 700 libraries of all different types throughout Spain have been catalogued to date. The Union Catalogue is an ongoing project and is being updated regularly. New collections are being added from libraries which are already part of the project as well as from new libraries.
The Ministry of Culture and in some cases, the respective autonomous communities have established agreements with the Ministry of Defence for the bibliographic cataloguing of ancient books of the libraries of the Spanish Defence Library Network.

During the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 under these agreements were catalogued a total of 67,804 bibliographic records, including 97,161 bibliographic copies.

In 2008, 1,500 records were catalogued and in 2009 were catalogued 8,000 bibliographic records.

In 2007 the Ministry of Defence established a framework agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Defence.

The objective of this program is to ensure access for as many citizens as possible to these cultural treasures, contribute to effective preservation and cataloguing of heritage documents and facilitate the appropriate use of digitalised assets by the scientific, research and the academic communities.

To achieve this goal, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Defence have developed a plan for the digitisation and dissemination of elements of the Spanish Historical Heritage, which is implemented through a collaboration agreement between the two Ministries.

This initiative provides access to information and knowledge for citizens through:

- Web accessibility as a precondition for maximizing the benefits so that citizens and researchers can obtain the information.
- Digitisation of collections for widespread use in the web.
- Preservation of these collections to ensure access to this material and avoid possible loss.

The digitalised images of these funds are part of the following projects of the Ministry of Culture: the Virtual Library of Bibliographical Heritage and Hispana.

Also the Ministry of Defence is a participant in the General Coordinating Committee for the Libraries of the General State Administration through the Library Coordination Unit that participated as a member in this project.

Visits to other libraries in foreign countries.

Since the creation of Library Coordination Unit, its staff has visited several libraries in United States and Belgium and has established collaboration relationships with these colleagues.

The objective of these trips were linked to all of the projects being carried out from the Library Coordination Unit, with the interest to learn among other topics: library networks and their organizing, sharing information resources, computer systems and use of technology and library services offered to its users.
Objectives achieved

In summary, the Spanish Defence Library Network has achieved the following objectives in these past four years:

- Creation of the legal framework for the development of The Spanish Defence Library Network.

- Establishment and consolidation of the instruments for analysis, and the planning and control of the Spanish Defence Library Network.
  - The Census of the Spanish Defence Library Network.
  - The Directory of the Spanish Defence Library Network.
  - Compilation of Statistics.

- Implementation of the new Library Management System.
  - Bibliodef.

- Ensure the best use of the resources of books and documents through cooperation and coordination of actions.
  - Defence Union Catalogue (DUC).

- Promote and facilitate the preservation, access and dissemination of the bibliographic heritage of the Ministry of Defence.
  - Defence Union Catalogue (DUC).

- Digitalisation of documents.

- Support the needs of professional development and training of the library staff of the Ministry of Defence.
  - Conferences on Defence Libraries.
  - Training Courses and online.

- Enhance the use of library facilities of the Spanish Defence Library Network for the employees of the Ministry of Defence.
  - Procure renewed funding.
  - Outsourcing.

- Maintain and promote institutional relationships.
  - With other departments of the Ministry of Defence.
  - With other ministries and institutions.

- Dissemination of activities and projects of The Spanish Defence Library Network.
  - Publication of Conference Papers.
  - New Intranet System
  - Participation in bibliographical projects of the Ministry of Culture.