Managing Parliamentary documents and data: challenge to improve transparency in the parliamentary information context

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I. About Document Management Department functions
Functions

- Definition, planning and integrated management of parliamentary documentation
- Providing access to all parliamentary information for citizens and other organizations through the website
- Coordination of the thesaurus used by all the units (Directorate of Documentation) (topics)
- Parliamentary initiatives and records at the core (Archive)
- Videos, official publications, documents management
Interconnection of both Houses through parliamentary information

- The Spanish Parliament is composed of two Chambers: the Congress of Deputies and the Senate and the information is in both webpages.
- The Senate’s website tries to make more familiar the approval of bills to the citizen bringing the corresponding data referred to the passing of bills from the Congress of Deputies, to complete the specific information about the Senate’s law-making process. e.g.: Shared data of both Houses to explain the adoption of the bill:
III. Official publications: from digitisation to Dublin Core

- Same structure maintained from 1977 to 2016: Official Bulletin and Journal of Sittings (Hansard)
- 2001: Digitisation of official publications (coordinated with Archives of Congress of Deputies) to be published on both webs
- 2009: The Senate considers that the institutional website is now an effective tool to provide transparency.
- Webpage and Official Bulletin coexistence means that some parliamentary procedures are only published on the web (written questions)
- 2010: Official publications become digital: PDF, XML
- 2014: Dublin Core metadata and thesaurus information are included
- 2017: Speech considered as a data can be reused in other formats
IV. Open data: Ballots in plenary sittings

- The presentation of the voting results is done within the plenary through the voting panel, where the aggregate is reflected.
- Data output from outside headquarters are counted on the panel itself through the electronic system.
- So far, this information was transferred to the web in a table presenting a summary of what happened in the hemicycle, with a link to Journal of Sittings in pdf.
- An example of the new system: **Votes of 2 amendments to a bill**
Data are organized into different categories:

- Initiative that is voted: title, file number, committee.
- Session data: date, time, and type of vote, President.
- General result: number of Yes, No, abstentions and NO votes.
- List of Senators that are present or absent at the time of the vote.
- Votes on the floor (those reflected in voting panel) and those collected through the telematic system.
Some functionalities

- The user also can view the result by clicking through different means (video of the vote with possibility to download, Journal of Sittings) and share all the content of the page on the social network Twitter.
- Dynamic graphics show the general results.
- Data from previous Legislatures are expected.
V. Conclusions

- Institutional website is memory, present and future of Parliament
- New challenges for information specialists in Parliament: proactivity and data management
- External documentation must be directly relied in the web to specific work of MPs (LOD)
- Change needs a different way to describe the parliamentary process according to the different users needs: customized needs (citizens, MPs, press)
- Information specialists have to go further databases management and work in information architecture in the web
- The parliamentary administration needs a change to be adequate to the new challenges through new functions assumed: Content and context