Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries

Application from the National Library of Spain for

The Digital Library of Ibero-American Heritage

iberoamericadigital.net
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Nominators’ statement ........................................................................................................ 3
Description of the project ................................................................................................... 5

1. Background and history: why BDPI
2. Building BDPI: the project today
   a. Mission
   b. Partners
   c. The site
      i. Some technical insights: architecture and ingestion
      ii. The interface: search and discovery tools
      iii. Showcasing content for real integration: collections
3. Dissemination and impact
4. Envisaging BDPI tomorrow: the long way ahead

Publications and references ............................................................................................... 26
Main players’ biographies ................................................................................................. 28
Letters of support ............................................................................................................. 31

- World Digital Library
- Instituto Cervantes
- Real Academia Española
- Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando
- Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes
- Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)
- Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura
- Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB)
- Asociación de Estados Iberoamericanos para el desarrollo de las Bibliotecas Nacionales de Iberoamérica (ABINIA)
- National Library of Bolivia
- National Library of Chile
- National Library of Colombia
- National Library of El Salvador
- National Library of Mexico
- National Library of Uruguay
NOMINATOR'S STATEMENT

It is with immense pride that the National Library of Spain (BNE) proposes the Digital Library of Latin American Heritage (Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano, BDPI) for the Stanford Research Prize for Innovation in Libraries. We do so with the conviction that it is a solid and innovative project, inspired by cooperation as the main driving force and with an interest, to the library community and the world of culture in general, which over the last year has proved to be outstanding.

Launched just a year and a half ago (September 2012), BDPI is today a great project for cooperation within the area of Ibero-American cultural heritage and the most significant for libraries in the region, both in terms of volume and content quality. On these solid and successful bases, we believe BDPI has a long way ahead until it takes up the outstanding place of reference in digital culture that it may eventually reach.

The project was financially supported by ABINIA and led by the BNE, and its founding goal of creating a single access point to digital collections from the National Libraries members of ABINIA, is actually in itself innovative. In this sense, the current BDPI is an initial attempt to fill in Ibero-America the space that Europeana and the Digital Public Library of America have in Europe and North America respectively. The portal offers the research community a new space where the Ibero-American heritage is gathered and presented in its own context.

BDPI was developed on the basis of the experience achieved by the BNE through its participation in major cooperative projects such as TEL or Europeana and the implementation of its project for systematic digitization, Biblioteca Digital Hispánica (BDH). Built on open source technologies, the expertise gained allowed to carry out the BDPI project in a remarkably efficient way. The project is also a call to use international standards in librarianship and make the most of the open technologies available nowadays.

As a great joint project, BDPI can also afford to become a reference for innovation in digital culture, and thus we envisage its participation in the current and future trends and related technologies (reuse of digital content, new products, new users' communities, further standardization, study of legislation on copyright, etc.).
All above said, we are dealing with a young project, driven by the enthusiasm arisen from a project of such nature, and our best-endeavour undertakings. But as mentioned above there is a long way ahead. This proposal is also raised with the belief that a recognized and prestigious prize such as SPIRL would definitely contribute to reinforce the consolidation and growth of BDPI.

We would like to finish this nominator’s statement pointing out that only the preparation of this nomination has meant a success for us. The exceptionally enthusiastic and encouraging response we have received from each and every organization whose support we have solicited only backs up the idea that this project brings about nothing but appreciation. And not only because of its quality and future possibilities, but also considering its value as a cooperative and inclusive space within a community of nations bonded by common and extraordinarily important historical, economic, social and cultural assets.

Ana SANTOS ARAMBURO  
Director of the National Library of Spain  
[ana.santos@bne.es]  

Marina JIMÉNEZ PIANO  
Digital Library and Information Systems Director, National Library of Spain  
[marina.jimenez@bne.es]  

José Luis BUEREN GÓMEZ-ACEBO  
Head of the Digital Library Area, National Library of Spain  
[joseluis.bueren@bne.es]
BACKGROUND AND HISTORY: WHY BDPI

The idea of promoting a single point for access and discovery of Ibero-American digital heritage brought together dates back to the very beginning of the major digitization projects in Europe and America. But it was in 2009 when the Digital Library of Ibero-American Libraries was set to be born thanks to the support of ABINIA, the Association of National Libraries of Ibero-America.

The context certainly allowed for it, as the previous years had helped to set an excellent prologue: El Dorado project, developed by ABINIA and UNESCO from 2001 to 2003, supported the adoption of common standards for information exchange (z39.50 protocol) and fostered programmes to digitize collections at the Latin-American National Libraries and make them available online. This, together with some other initiatives and a shared idea that only cooperation would really bring the final and successful outcome of all these efforts, set the scene to the birth of a project like BDPI, as a single and inclusive point of access to this heritage made digital.

Then back in 2009, and once ABINIA confirmed their support to the project, the National Library of Spain (BNE) offered to coordinate activities and develop the portal. The major systematic digitization project of the BNE, Biblioteca Digital Hispánica, was already underway, and so was participation on the major cooperative programmes in Europe (The European Library or Europeana, for instance). It was therefore decided to use the momentum and start the new project in parallel, applying the experience achieved on information exchange and digital standards.

Contacts were made along 2010 to gather information and analyse the status of digital collections at the different Latin-American National Libraries. In parallel, evaluations on the best software option for the future portal were conducted. After testing a prototype developed for the National Library of New Zealand which offered interesting functionalities, it was finally agreed that the same open source technologies used to build the portal of Biblioteca Digital Hispánica, and which had proved to be versatile and robust enough, were perfectly convenient for BDPI as well.

Once the technology was put in place, the integration process started. Collections from the National Libraries ready for integration were progressively aggregated, while the portal interface was designed and main functionalities developed.

BDPI was finally made public in September 2012, within the XXIII Meeting of ABINIA. It was presented as an ongoing project, with a promising present and a brilliant future. And as a long-waited initiative to bring together a cultural heritage with so many possibilities of mutual enrichment, discovery, research and knowledge building.

In this document we will go through some of the present features, impact and future possibilities of BDPI. The road is there to walk along, but only with the support of the libraries and research communities will BDPI be able to keep its promising way ahead.

BUILDING BDPI: THE PROJECT TODAY

The mission of BDPI is clear: it aims at disseminating the cultural heritage of each and every library involved in the project, and the new values arising from their integration, thus enabling the largest possible number of people to approach their collections, discover and use them for knowledge creation and sharing.

At the same time, BDPI is meant to become an example of international cooperation amongst Latin American countries, while also encouraging all library members of ABINIA to give a firm impulse to the digitization of their collections, as well as to the automation and normalization of their catalogues - adapting them to international standards for description and interchange and thus allowing interoperability, required for the development and growth of the project.

Built on open source technologies, the portal iberoamericadigital.net integrates the bibliographic descriptions for the digital objects from the collections of each participating library. This constitutes a unique high-quality and cross-national collection with no equivalent in the Ibero-American context.

At the moment of writing this document (January 2013), eight libraries have been incorporated into the portal, meaning a total of 182,605 resources.

- Drawings, engravings, photographs: 44,561 titles
- Books: 65,450
- Manuscripts: 8,946
- Cartographic material (printed and manuscript): 7,587
- Scores (printed and manuscript): 26,986
- Newspapers and magazines: 9,369
- Electronic resources: 89
- Sound recordings (musical and non-musical): 18,489
- Web sites: 660

Partners

When it was launched in September 2012, BDPI integrated the digital collections from the National Libraries of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Panama and Spain, meaning almost 136,000 digital resources of all types of materials.

The National Library of Portugal was incorporated shortly after, and their digital collection of almost 11,000 became part of the portal in October 2012.

The year 2013 saw the integration of two new members, El Salvador and Uruguay, while more libraries showed their interest in participating, and/or are already in the process of arranging their metadata and being integrated in the project in the coming months, namely Costa Rica, Cuba, Argentina, Bolivia or Perú.

---

2 Mission statement published at http://www.iberoamericadigital.net/BDPI/About.do?idxTab=1
Although the project was offhand oriented to the collections of National Libraries members of ABINIA, it was soon clear that its possibilities and impact, present and future, on research and academic environments called for an extension of the project scope to university and academic libraries. And such is certainly one of the goals for the very near future.

**THE SITE**

iberoamericadigital.net was built with limited resources but based on the experience achieved with Biblioteca Digital Hispánica. The result today is an easy-to-use, robust, multilingual and effective platform, developed with open source technologies that have proved to be sustainable and consistent (not to say affordable in times of restrictive budgets), to integrate the largest repository and access point to the digital resources of Ibero-American National Libraries.

There is of course room for improvement both in terms of design and tools, but the results so far show that the project is sustainable and scalable.
Some technical insights:
architecture and ingestion process

As mentioned above, the development of the BDPI portal was based on open-source standards, extensively widespread in the library domain, such as:

✓ Lucene/Solr as search engine (indexes the content from all the sources, and processes queries made at the interface).

✓ A web search application complying with J2EE standards, Java-based and displayed on an Apache Tomcat app, with all the pages implemented in HTML format.

✓ Indexing process based on the source data (Dublin Core or MARC formats) being obtained either via OAI-PMH as preferred way of data exchange, or through an XML file containing the descriptive metadata.

Once these metadata from the different providers are captured, XSLT templates are applied to enable conversion and integration of the original metadata into the fields set-up within the Solr structure. This conversion process generates IDX files, which are new XML files in the format accepted by Solr to perform the indexing process, which will eventually feed the search engine.

✓ OCR (Optical Characters Recognition): the portal allows full-text searches for those records with such data included in their descriptive content.

✓ **API for external search**: one of the milestones in the development of BDPI was the launching of a web service which allows performing queries directly from external search interfaces. Similarly to the Europeana API, this tool may be integrated in any website, thus making it possible to launch the search performed on BDPI as well, and show, directly and simultaneously, the results obtained. The aim is to attract visitors from other services, which in return also increase and enhance the functionalities offered to their users.
The process of ingestion and indexing consists of a first phase of in-depth analysis of the metadata provided: amount and quality of data, fields or format descriptive elements used, identifiers, categorization of structural content such as type of material, and actual access to the digital objects. The aim is to extract the highest amount of information, while homogenizing and clustering data together as much as possible.
In connection with this, an important aspect in the development of the entire project, with heavy implications beyond metadata readiness, comes from the wide range of technological development levels among the participating libraries. While some libraries are in a position to offer and share tens of thousands of digital objects, structured and standards-compliant metadata, and long implemented communication protocols, others are still at an early stage of the process, and have a small part of their collection digitally available, with descriptions not fully subject to cataloguing standards and protocols such as OAI-PMH not in place yet.

In a second phase, records are indexed according to a data schema which is quite straightforward but essentially allows searching and retrieving information from the basic data fields, to help describe, identify and discover the resource:

- Author
- Title
- Date
- Subject(s)
- Edition
- Identifier
- Resource type
- PID (Persistent Internal Identifier)
- Description
- Related information
- Thumbnail
- Institution/Provider

 Obviously, a higher complexity and granularity in the level of bibliographic description means a more complex mapping, along with an eventually better identified and retrievable resource. Such was, for instance, the case of Portugal.
Special efforts are usually deployed specifically for the fields of Date, Type of resource and Subject, which are heterogeneously formatted and particularly sensitive as long as they are offered and presented as facets that had to keep a unified format, to enable users to filter within a cohesive categorization. The case of Brazil furthermore posed duplication problems due to multilinguism, as subjects were given both in Portuguese and English with no possibility of automatic sorting from the xml. This forced to in some cases manually carry out the equivalence and matching between Portuguese/English subjects, in order to present as facets only one of the two versions (Portuguese).

The interface

Functionalities displayed in the BDPI portal intend, on one side, to facilitate information search and retrieval for users with specific needs, and, on the other side, to provide with tools for discovery and navigation through suggested themes and collections.

With that in mind, search functionalities available in BDPI offer different ways to search and find materials:

- The **Simple search** box allows to search all record fields quickly and intuitively. By default, the search is restricted to specific bibliographic record fields from the catalogue (namely title, author, subject, description or all of these). Furthermore it is possible to select in which index the search should be done. Finally, it is possible to indicate whether the query should be executed in the full text (OCR) field or not.

- An **Advanced search** enables to search in more than one field at a time, indicating which indexes should be used to restrict the search results. In addition to the options already included in the simple search, the query can be done on these other fields: "Place of publication", "Publication data", "Date" of publication, “ISBN/ISSN”, “Call number”, “Universal Decimal Classification (CDU)” and “Geographic location”.

  It is also possible to set limits or filters to the search under the following criteria: Institution, Type of document and Language.

- The portal offers different ways of **navigating and further searching through the results**.
If the search retrieves more than one result, a list with **abbreviated** information (thumbnail, title, and author) will be displayed identifying the records obtained. By default, the records are sorted according to relevance criteria calculated internally by the BDPI search engine. The order can be changed using a dropdown menu; the possible order options are title, author and date.

The **detailed** view shows as much information as possible and available about the work described, along with the URL to access the digital object.

- From the results list, **facets** on the left provide a valuable way of refining, further exploring and navigating through the works obtained from the initial query. It is possible to filter by Institution, Subject and Type of document.
Last but not least, the **Europeana API** very recently integrated into the portal shows the results of our queries in BDPI as searched also in Europeana, providing direct access for further discovery in this portal, the most outstanding initiative for preservation and dissemination of European cultural heritage.

Thus, both Europeana and BDPI APIs, brought together as a true bridge between the two continents, become the most distinct evidence on how technologies available today may foster discovery and research worldwide, definitely overcoming the limits imposed in the past by borders, distance or languages.
Showcasing content: Collections

And then, the collections: not only do they offer additional means of accessing documents, but they truly are the most distinct evidence of the inclusive, integrating and enriching final purpose of the BDPI project.

They showcase the valuable content of each library, and the value of of all of them brought together, as cross-thematic tours which help discover all those assets which unite and at the same time distinguish each of the national collections. They inspire new lines for research and knowledge creation and sharing, in cooperation with users communities and other institutions (academic, specialists, etc.). And they definitely open one of the most interesting areas for improvement and innovation in the current phase of the project.

Resources made available along the first year of existence of the site have been thus grouped into cross-linked collections based on different criteria: common characteristics related to the type of document, theme, or their particular relevance,
interest, appeal or importance within the documents contained in BDPI. They are meant to be an inviting and attractive way of discovering some of the usually 'hidden' treasures of our heritage.

From the navigation bar on the homepage it is already possible to access the collections of Manuscripts; Pictures, engravings and photographs; and Maps. Furthermore there is a "Collections" page with more featured collections and suggestions for accessing common or relevant content from all the collections in the BDPI. At the time the portal was launched, these were: Geography and travel, Music, Music scores and Literature and literary studies. More collections recently incorporated were Periodicals and Tales and legends. And new ones, as thematic guides for discovery and learning on such a rich and varied heritage, are being already prepared for soon publishing.

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

The launch of BDPI received an exceptionally positive welcome from users and communities of librarians, researchers, educators and many other professionals and institutions interested in or related to cultural heritage.

Reactions in social networks over the first days of existence of BDPI proved the enthusiasm with which users received the portal, perceived as a necessary and valuable tool, long-awaited within the Ibero-American context.
Usage of the portal has since then been constant and stable with around 300-400 users per day, and visits coming from all around the globe:
... meaning a total of nearly 140,000 visits by 103,000 users from 132 different countries, who went through almost 667,000 content pages.

Facebook, Twitter, the web of the National Library of Spain and its usual communication channels are used to spread news related to BDPI and give the project as much visibility as possible, and the viral effect is immediate and certainly encouraging. The main communication media, professional blogs, networks, cultural institutions and academic organizations instantly echo every piece of news on latest collections, incorporations, functionalities or public presentations and activities.

---

3 According to Google Analytics reports from September, 2012 to January, 2013.
4 The BNE is the national library with the highest number of Facebook followers: currently close to 140,000
Some recent news and mentions of BDPI in Twitter
 (@BNE_biblioteca and @BNE_directora)
Facebook album with highlighted resources from BDPI
Video on the NCI news channel (by the Asociación de las Televisiones Educativas y Culturales Iberoamericanas - Association of Ibero-American Educational and Cultural Television) about the incorporation of El Salvador (July, 2013)\(^6\)

José Luis Bueren, Head of the Digital Library Area, was very recently interviewed about BDPI in Cadena Ser, one of the major Spanish radio channels

Every opportunity to share our experience and visions about the present and future of BDPI is likewise taken, and different organizations have offered to include a presentation of the project in their conferences programmes: lately at the REDIAL\(^7\) meeting (Red Europea de Información y Documentación sobre América Latina, European Network of Information and Documentation on Latin America) and the V Congreso Iberoamericano de Cultura\(^8\) in November, 2013.

In August 2012, a paper was presented at the IFLA annual conference in Singapore: “Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano: open source technology in the service of a major cooperative project”\(^9\), with again very positive reactions and interest from professional communities.

Some mentions about the presentation of BDPI at the IFLA, by the University of Salamanca and University of Zaragoza

As a result of the dissemination activities and the feedback received, along with the support from partners and sister projects like The European Library, we may say that an excellent road has been laid for a brilliant future.

\(^{8}\) http://www.culturaiberoamerica.org/conoce-el-programa/
And... what’s in it for participant libraries?

First of all, BDPI members have seen their collections showcased at an international level, given a fantastic visibility and directly connected to European vast projects such as The European Library or Europeana.

In some libraries, the efforts and actions undertaken to be integrated into BDPI have led to a revision of their data and processes (case of Costa Rica, for instance) and the adoption of international standards for their bibliographic descriptions and access to their digital resources, while opening up a future of possibilities for enrichment and re-use of their content, for example within the Open Linked Data universe.

What’s in it for researchers?

The idea of a single point of access to Ibero-American cultural heritage through its primary sources, and with extended search functionalities, cannot be anything but a firm impulse to American studies, a catalyst for new lines of research and generation of knowledge.
The big maritime expeditions, the impact of the European presence in America (in both sides of the ocean); explorations and scientific voyages along the 18th and 19th centuries; the colonial age and events leading to the independence movements – with all the social, political and cultural aspects derived along the process; native culture manifestations and mutual influences after colonialism; migrations, political prosecutions and exile... The possible study lines from the materials available in BDPI are endless and indeed fascinating.

New forms of cooperation with specialists may well derive in a close future in thematic collections and virtual exhibitions, curated and enriched with deeper content descriptions. To help us better know and understand, in this changing world, about the historic, social, cultural events and phenomena that featured our common past and determined our present.

ENVISAGING BDPI TOMORROW: THE LONG WAY AHEAD

One year after launching BDPI, a project born from a modest budget and based on open source technologies, we may say that one of the bottom-line points learnt is that only with a constant push for innovation and attention to users’ needs can we deal with a project of this nature.

After the initial ingestion of materials and development of main portal functionalities, we looked at worldwide connections with sister projects through the gateways offered by APIs; then at improving content quality and forging new partnerships.

At this point of the project, we see the future of BDPI firmly founded on these key milestones and actions:

**More participants and new partnerships**

Incorporating as many libraries as possible to the portal will keep mean the full consolidation of the project. The goal is the integration of all the National Libraries members of ABINIA. But based on the feedback received from other institutions, at this point there is actually no reason why the project should not be opened to university and research libraries, cultural networks or sister projects also aiming at gathering and disseminating digital heritage in Ibero-America.

Forging new partnerships is definitely one of the key objectives in the short run, and in fact is already underway.

**More participation**

Enrichment of the portal calls for a close cooperation and involvement from the participants. BDPI can only benefit from the the knowledge of the national collections from the main players (librarians and researchers) in each country.
Looking at new means of involvement – creating new collections and selections, content curation and forms of cooperation at a national level - will only bring new and richer ways of enjoying such treasures.

**Content enrichment, new collections**

As mentioned above, it is at a cross-national and cross-domain level where the most important and fascinating improvement lines for the future of BDPI are. Establishing contact with researchers and users communities specialized in specific thematic areas, will open doors for new ways of enrichment and upgrading the interest of the BDPI as a high-quality tool for discovery and learning.

**Enhanced tools and innovative services**

... And, from such enrichment, content (re)use by educators, information professionals or technology partners will surely reveal possibilities for creating further innovative tools and applications for specific users' needs or interests, and new targetted audiences. While exploring the potentials offered by semantic and linked data technologies, in cooperation with and benefiting from the experience achieved from the European initiatives in place.

**More dissemination activities and channels**

Enriching the portal with a blog, creating own social profiles (Facebook, Twitter) or distribution lists for a widened and closer contact with all main players... are actions that could and will foster visibility of BDPI.

While we keep on closely following-up on awareness, visibility, usage, sources and impact of dissemination actions and how BDPI is perceived at all levels. And promoting the use of the BDPI API, which since integrated in the Biblioteca Digital Hispánica has proved to be an extremelly appreciated tool for an extensive search experience, leading to truly connected knowledge databases.

**Sustainability**

BDPI was born out of a limited budget (granted by ABINIA) and with no exclusively dedicated staff. The consolidation and expansion of the project needs financial support and strategic planning in the mid and long term, based on a sustained funding.

This, together with the creation of its own administrative and management structure (until now integrated in the BNE), is obviously a pre-condition for a robust forceful growth.

---

10 datos.bne.es is the ongoing Linked Data project by the National Library of Spain
The creation of BDPI is so far a success story with a fascinating future. No Latin-American cooperative project for digital heritage has ever gathered such amount of data and obtained this level of use and impact. And it has been possible thanks to the existing standards and open source technologies, and the enthusiasm and conviction that a project of this nature had an outstanding place in society nowadays.

The mere existence of this portal should indeed contribute to foster digitization, standardization and the use of open technologies. Beyond its political relevance, BDPI’s success may serve as an evidence, particularly for cultural policy makers, on the importance of digitization and digital access to cultural heritage for societies. Free access to quality cultural content promotes education and learning, research and discovery.

Because a society without memory has no present nor future. And Ibero-America deserves its own space in the universe of culture made digital, where BDPI is an excellent example of fertile cooperation, as well as an evidence on the value of everything that unites and at the same time distinguishes each nation, through this unique bridge between continents and cultures.
BNE news and blog entries

- Presentation of BDPI (September 2012):
  
  http://www.bne.es/es/AreaPrensa/noticias2013/0822_PresentacionBDPIenLaIFLA.html


  http://blog.bne.es/blog/a-proposito-de-la-presentacion-de-la-biblioteca-digital-del-patrimonio-iberoamericano/

- Reactions to BDPI presentation (October 2012):

  http://www.bne.es/es/AreaPrensa/noticias2012/docs/PortaBDPIacogida.pdf

- Incorporation of the National Library of Portugal (October 2012):


- New collection: Press and magazines (December 2012):

  http://www.bne.es/es/Inicio/Perfiles/Bibliotecarios/NoticiasBibliotecarias/BDPIPeriodicas.html

- Presentation of the BDPI API, integrated in Biblioteca Digital Hispánica (April 2013):

  http://blog.bne.es/blog/conoces-las-funcionalidades-de-la-biblioteca-digital-hispánica/

- New collection: Tales and Legends (April 2013):


- Incorporation of the National Library of El Salvador (June 2013):


- Presentation of BDPI at IFLA Conference (Singapore, August 2013):

  http://www.bne.es/es/AreaPrensa/noticias2013/0822_PresentacionBDPIenLaIFLA.html
- BDPI, one year after launch (October 2013):
  http://www.bne.es/es/AreaPrensa/noticias2013/1002_BDPIprimerAniversario.html

- Presentation at REDIAL meeting (November 2013):
  http://www.bne.es/es/AreaPrensa/noticias2013/1023_REDIAL.html

- Presentation at the 5th Ibero-American Culture Congress (November 2013):
  http://www.bne.es/es/AreaPrensa/noticias2013/1126_VCongresoIberoamericanoCultura.html

- Incorporation of the National Library of Uruguay (December 2013):
  http://www.bne.es/es/AreaPrensa/noticias2013/1204_UruguayEnLaBDPI.html

**Articles and papers**

- Technical details on BDPI API:

- Paper presented at the IFLA Conference:

MAIN PLAYERS’ BIOGRAPHIES

Ana SANTOS ARAMBURO,
Director of the National Library of Spain
ana.santos@bne.es

With a Degree in Geography and History from Zaragoza University and an advanced diploma in Library Science and Documentation, she has worked for most of her professional career at the library of the Complutense University of Madrid, and was responsible for introducing the computerized library management system, as well as for incorporating new services for accessing scientific information online. In 2007, she was appointed Director of Cultural Action of the National Library of Spain, and she played a decisive role in the strategic design and planning of the Library's cultural activity, aimed at improving public awareness of the institution's services and its openness to society. She also led the launch of the Museum of the National Library of Spain.

In 2012 she was appointed Director of Libraries and Archives in Madrid, and she returned to the National Library in 2013, as Director.

Marina JIMÉNEZ PIANO,
Digital Library and Information Systems Director, National Library of Spain
marina.jimenez@bne.es

Marina Jiménez Piano has a Degree in Romance Philology from Málaga University and a PhD in Library Science and Documentation from Carlos III University of Madrid.

Her professional career is linked to the National Library of Spain since 1978, where she has undertaken many different functions in the Periodicals Department, Technical Process and in the Press and Magazines Reading Room. She belongs to the Corps of Faculty Archivists, Librarians and Museologists since 1995.

She was appointed Head of the Area of Automation and Processes in 2009. She led the migration process of the Library Catalogue. Since 2011 she has been the Head of Digital Libraries and Information Systems, covering the Automation, Web, Digital Library and Intranet Services of the National Library of Spain.

José Luis BUEREN GÓMEZ-ACEBO,
Head of the Digital Library Area, National Library of Spain
joseluis.bueren@bne.es
José Luis Bueren Gómez-Acebo has a Degree in Spanish Philology from Complutense University of Madrid. In 2006 he started working in the Database Department of the National Library. He participated in major international projects such as EDL Project, thanks to which the National Library of Spain became a member of The European Library. He has also participated in different cooperation projects such as ARROW, TEL Plus, OCLC, The World Digital Library (UNESCO), Europeana, or VIAF.

Since he became Head of the Digital Library Department in 2010, he has strengthened the Library’s participation in all major international initiatives on digitization and cultural access. He is part of the Member States expert group on digitisation & digital preservation (MSEG) of the European Commission, as well as a member of the Information Technology Section of IFLA.

He has played a key leading role in the development and consolidation of the BDPI project.

Isabel BORDES CABRERA,

Head of Service at the Digital Library Area

isabel.bordes@bne.es

She holds a Veterinary Science Degree and a Master in Library Science (with double specialization in bibliographic heritage and library management) both from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

She started to work at the Digital Library Service in 2009 where her main tasks have been: management and planning of massive digitization Project at the BNE; coordination and execution of digital and research diffusion projects such as Interactive Leonardo, computer assisted HTR in manuscripts; management and representation of National Library in international projects (Impact, Europeana...). She has also worked towards the implementation of digital preservation standards in digitization projects held at the library.

Elena SÁNCHEZ NOGALES,

Head of Section at the Digital Library Area

elena.sanchez@bne.es

Elena Sánchez has a Degree in Spanish Philology from the National Distance Education University. She became a librarian in 2008 and worked in the Cataloguing Department where she acquired a great expertise with metadata. She participated in the translation of the MARC 21 format into Spanish.
In 2011 she was appointed Head of Section at the Digital Library Area, where she has been involved in the definition of metadata schemes and collections for Biblioteca Digital Hispánica and Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano; the design and maintenance of the interface and functionalities for both portals; content and collections dissemination activities; statistics and evaluation.

She also participates in national and international cooperative digital projects like Europeana or The European Library - where she is a member of the Technical and Interoperability Working Group - as well as in different Linked Data initiatives such as the BNEscolar project.
LETTERS OF SUPPORT

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all the institutions and sister organizations who supported the nomination. It is a reason for pride an honour that we are able to work together for the preservation and dissemination of cultural heritage with such partners.

World Digital Library

Instituto Cervantes (Cervantes Institute)

Real Academia Española (Royal Spanish Academy)

Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando (Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando)

Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes, BVMC (Miguel de Cervantes Digital Library)

Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo, AECID (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation)

Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture)

Secretaría General Iberoamericana, SEGIB (Ibero-American General Secretary)

Asociación de Estados Iberoamericanos para el desarrollo de las Bibliotecas Nacionales de Iberoamérica, ABINIA (Association of Ibero-American States for the development of Ibero-American National Libraries)

National Library of Bolivia

National Library of Chile

National Library of Colombia

National Library of El Salvador

National Library of Mexico

National Library of Uruguay
January 10, 2014

Dear SPIRL Judges:

I am pleased to write this letter to support the candidacy of the project Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI), presented by the National Library of Spain (BNE), for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL).

The BDPI is an innovative project that creates a single access point for the digital collections of national libraries in Spain, Portugal, and many countries of Latin America. It is of great benefit to scholars working on the histories and cultures of the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries on both sides of the Atlantic. In view of the long history of political, cultural, economic, and personal ties linking all parts of the Ibero-American world, scholars often must have access to libraries and archives in several countries to successfully carry out their research. It thus makes eminent sense to create a single portal where scholars can find the works they need. The National Library of Spain and its partners are to be commended for taking the lead in creating this unique, high-quality resource.

As director of the World Digital Library, a UNESCO-supported project that also works with libraries in Spain, Portugal, and many countries in Latin America, I have had occasion to observe first-hand the value that scholars and librarians place on the BDPI for its cooperative and innovative nature and for the overall quality of the project. I strongly support the candidacy of the BDPI for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries.

Sincerely,

John Van Oudenaren
Director
Madrid, 10 de enero de 2014

Yo, Víctor García de la Concha, Director del Instituto Cervantes, quiero manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.

[Signature]
Yo, Darío Villanueva, secretario de la Real Academia Española, quiero manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.

Firmado: Darío Villanueva

Madrid, 8 de enero de 2014
REAL ACADEMIA de BELLAS ARTES
de SAN FERNANDO

Madrid, 13 de enero de 2014

Yo, Antonio Bonet Correa, Director de la Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, quiero manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.

[Signature]

Antonio Bonet Correa

Director de la Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando
I, Antonio Bonet Correa, Director de la Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, want to express my support to the candidacy of the project *Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano* (BDPI) presented by the National Library of Spain (BNE) for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organized by the Stanford University.

The importance of the participant institutions, the cooperative and innovative nature, the quality of the project and its interest for the international community lead me to show my recognition and support.

Antonio Bonet Correa

Director de la Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando
Madrid, 13 de enero de 2014

Desde la Fundación Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes queremos manifestar nuestro apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI), presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) al Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL) que organiza la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad de la iniciativa y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de nuestro reconocimiento y apoyo.

Firmado:

Manuel Bravo Lifante

Director General
9 de enero de 2014

Ana Santos Aramburo
Directora Biblioteca Nacional,

Como verás te adjunto la carta que me pedías para la universidad de Stanford apoyando la candidatura al premio para el cual, creo, hay merecimientos sobrados.

La Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano tiene un largo recorrido por delante pero las bases de su proyección son sanas y espero que el mundo de la cultura se beneficie de ello. Te recomiendo que no se olvide en esta digitalización a las lenguas autóctonas que no sean en español, de manera que el trabajo que se haga sea inclusivo.

Cuenta con todo mi apoyo en esta y en otras iniciativas que lleváis a cabo,

Un cordial saludo
Quiero manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.

Jesús Manuel Gracia Aldaz
Presidente de la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID),
Álvaro Marchesi, Secretario General de la Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura, manifiesta su apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.
Me complace en grado sumo, y considero mi deber manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford, Estados Unidos.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y aprecio.

Firmado: Enrique V. Iglesias

Secretario General Iberoamericano

Fecha: 9 de enero de 2014
Yo, Ramón Parra, Secretario General de ABINIA, quiero manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.

Firmado:

[Signature]

Fecha:
10 Enero 2014
Yo, Joaquín Loayza Valda, Subdirector de la Biblioteca Nacional de Bolivia, quiero manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la **Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano** (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del *Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries* (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.

Joaquín Loayza Valda  
**SUBDIRECTOR**  
ARCHIVO Y BIBLIOTECA NACIONALES DE BOLIVIA

Sucre, Bolivia, 7 de enero de 2014
Yo, Ana Tironi Barrios, Directora de la Biblioteca Nacional de Chile, quiero manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.

Firmado: 

Fecha: 7-01-2014
Señora
ANA SANTOS ARAMBURO
Directora
Biblioteca Nacional de España

Estimada Ana:

Yo, Consuelo Gaitán Gaitán, Directora de la Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia, quiero manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.

Firmado:

Fecha: Bogotá, D.C. Enero 07 de 2014
CONSTANCIA:

El Director de la Biblioteca Nacional “Francisco Gavidia” de El Salvador, Dr. H.C. Manlio Argueta y el Director Nacional de Bibliotecas y Plan Nacional de Lectura, Lic. Manuel Fernando Velasco, manifiestan su apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para que le sea concedida el Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de nuestro reconocimiento y apoyo.

Manlio Argueta
Director de la Biblioteca Nacional de El Salvador

Manuel Fernando Velasco
Director Nacional de Bibliotecas y Plan Nacional de la Lectura

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE EL SALVADOR “FRANCISCO GAVIDIA”
Av. Monseñor Oscar A. Romero y 4ª Calle Oriente No. 124, San Salvador
Teléfonos: 2221-8412 - 2281-2373 - 2221-6312 Telefax: 2221-8847
SECRETARIA DE CULTURA
Yo, Guadalupe Curiel Defosse, Directora de la Biblioteca Nacional de México, quiero manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.

Firmado: [Firma]

Fecha: 8 DE ENERO DE 2014
Yo, Carlos Liscano, Director de la Biblioteca Nacional de Uruguay, quiero manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.

Firmado: [Señalización de firma]

CARLOS LISCANO
Director de la Biblioteca Nacional

Fecha: 14-01-14
Panamá, 15 de enero de 2014

Yo, Rosa María Britton, Presidenta de la Fundación Biblioteca Nacional de Panamá, quiero manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.

Atentamente,

[Signature]

Rosa María Britton
Presidenta
Fundación Biblioteca Nacional de Panamá
I, Marian Lefferts, Executive Manager of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL), want to express CERL’s support to the candidacy of the project Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presented by the National Library of Spain (BNE) for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organized by the Stanford University.

The importance of the participant institutions, the cooperative and innovative nature, the quality of the project and its interest for the international community lead me to show my recognition and support.

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 15 January 2014
Ms. Anna Santos Aramburo  
Directora  
Biblioteca nacional de España  
Paseo de Recoletos  
28071 Madrid  
España

Paris, 31th January 2014

Dear Ms. Santos Aramburo,

In my capacity of Chair of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL), I would like to express my support to the candidacy of the project *Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano* (BDPI) presented by the National Library of Spain (BNE) for the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organized by the Stanford University.

The importance of the participating institution, the cooperative and innovative nature, the quality of the project and its interest for the international community lead me to bestow my recognition and support.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Bruno Racine  
CENL Chair

CENL Secretariat  
Bibliothèque nationale de France • quai François Mauriac • 75706 Paris cedex 13 • France  
Telephone +33 1 53 79 83 79 • Fax +33 1 53 79 47 37 • E-mail cenl@bnf.fr • www.cenl.org  
The CENL is registered at the Chamber of Commerce Haaglanden, NL, # 27177490
Yo, Vicent Climent Jordà, Rector de la Universitat Jaume I de Castellón y Presidente de REBIUN (Red de Bibliotecas Universitarias), quiero manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.

Sin otro particular, reciban un cordial saludo.

Vicent Climent Jordà
Presidente de la Red de Bibliotecas Universitarias
Rector de la Universitat Jaume I

Castellón de la Plana, 17 de enero de 2014
Yo, Eduardo Moisés Torres Cuevas, Director de la Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí, quiero manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.

Fraternalmente,

[Signature]

Eduardo Moisés Torres Cuevas
Director

Fecha: La Habana, 15 de enero del 2014
Yo, María Inés Cordeiro, Directora de la Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal, quiero manifestar mi apoyo a la candidatura del proyecto de la Biblioteca Digital del Patrimonio Iberoamericano (BDPI) presentado por la Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) para la concesión del Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries (SPIRL), organizado por la Universidad de Stanford.

La importancia de las instituciones participantes, el carácter cooperativo e innovador, la calidad del proyecto y su interés para la comunidad internacional hacen al proyecto merecedor de mi reconocimiento y apoyo.

Firmado:  

Fecha:  2014.01.23