Challenges facing the National Library Foundation of Brazil

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New building: In order to provide a space dedicated to serials, an off-site facility - about 3 kilometers from the main building - is being rebuilt. The building is nearby the Harbor and this area is being revitalized by the local government. One floor is already being occupied with microfilmed newspapers and other bibliographic material. The proposal is to finish the remodeling up to 2012 and transfer all serials collections and other activities such as preservation and microfilming labs.
Improvement of the project: This is the most important collaborative digitization Program with other Brazilian libraries and institutions. The network was created and is managed by the National Library and aims to disseminate digital information and contents of the collections of the Institutions that participate in the network. The goal is to broaden the amount of participants in order to provide access to a larger amount of information and collections specimens.
Artigos inéditos com cessão de direitos para publicação no site

Viagens científicas

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Publicou diversos trabalhos sobre viagens e cultura científica nos séculos XVIII e XIX.

Durante boa parte do período colonial, as viagens para conhecimento da natureza brasileira foram realizadas por pessoas com pouca ou nenhuma especialização propriamente científica. Militares, funcionários metropolitanos e eclesiásticos em missão coletavam informações, que muitas vezes permaneciam manuscritas e não chegavam até nós. A relativa escassez de relatos de viajantes sobre a América portuguesa se explica igualmente pelo zelo de Portugal em tentar conservar sua colônia longe da cobiça das potências rivais. Nada que pudesse contar informações úteis sobre o Brasil podia ser publicado. Por exemplo, a obra Cultura e opulência do Brasil por suas drogas e minas, de jesuíta João António Andreani (Antoni), publicada em 1711, foi recolhida e queimada no mesmo ano, pois as autoridades temiam que as informações do livro servissem às nações estrangeiras.

As obras publicadas durante o período colonial que consideramos científicas provêm fundamentalmente das experiências coloniais holandesas e francesas no Brasil, pois esses países, ao contrário da lógica do sigilo seguido por Portugal, apoiavam a publicação e a circulação de parte das informações sobre o mundo colonial, mesmo quando se tratava de suas próprias colônias. Assim, são conhecidas até hoje as descrições de flora, fauna e das indigéneas brasileiras feitas pelos franceses Andre Thevet e Jean de Lery no século XVI e as obras de história natural escritas a partir da ocupação holandesa no nordeste brasileiro, no século XVII.
Legal issues: The Brazilian legal deposit law is recent (2004) but it does not specify the deposit of electronic publications. The regulation of the law is in proposal stage at Brazilian Congress in order to establish what should be delivered to the National Library. It is also important to establish access regulations as the National Library is the Copyright Office in Brazil and should deal with copyright issues but should otherwise make electronic publications as widely available as possible.
Selection issues: About 600 academic e-journals are currently published in Brazil, other types of e-publications also published. It is necessary to decide what will be kept as heritage. Publications with no print equivalent are on the top of the list.

Bibliographic control issues: e-publications are part of the national publishing heritage and it is appropriate to include them in the national bibliography, and it will be necessary to provide bibliographic records with preservation metadata.
Technological issues: The National Library is building up the conditions to receive e-publications. An appropriate repository is in planning stage and a consortium with the National Education and Research Network (RNP) is already implemented to strength capacities on storage and bandwidth.

Staff training: In order to build a safe infrastructure to harvest, store and manage the e-publications, it will be necessary to provide the staff with appropriate skills.
The National Library Foundation is the head of the National System of Public Libraries. The Brazilian government challenge is to provide each municipality in Brazil with at least one public library with the minimal equipment and collection. This year more than 300 libraries will be inaugurated and next year the goal will be achieved and every municipality will have a library in working conditions.
In order to provide public libraries with information and communication technologies, a grant project is being prepared with several Brazilian Institutions to be presented to The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The goal is to upgrade the skills and attitudes of public librarians and library staff in Brazil in order for them to better meet the needs of users and advocate for supportive policies and funding. This project will have the participation of ca. 2500 librarians and will impact ca. 250,000 users per day or 5 million per month.
Thank you!

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