Developing Digital Scholarship in Spanish libraries

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Summary

1. Spanish academic libraries in context
   1. Evolution
   2. Research support services in REBIUN strategic plans

2. Services for researchers, today
84 universities in 343 campus

- Spanish public universities tend to be disperse. An average of 4-5 campus per university is normal, with large universities having more than 15 campus.
- 34 universities are private (private universities are in expansion)

Students

- (global) 1,500,000
- (average) 19,000 students / university
- 31.5% of people between 18-24 are attending to universities.

What do Spanish universities have in common?

- All universities do teach and research
- However, the majority of the private universities are only teaching oriented

Professors are evaluated, but universities are not

Research is basically developed in:

- University departments or institutes
- CSIC institutes and some Spanish large research centers
- Autonomous research institutes (more common in Catalonia)
### The situation in 1984

- **Universities centrally controlled by the government**
- **Library system**
  - Main library = library with old and rare books
  - Some faculty libraries and a lot of department libraries
  - No coordination at all
- **Resources**
  - Very poor budgets (and very decentralized)
  - No professional staff
  - Services were at the library level (not at the university level)

### The big change: 1985-1995

- **1983 new law for universities (LRU) gave autonomy to universities**
- **Library system**
  - All the university libraries = The Library of the University
  - New (and young) library directors
  - Creation of technical services and organization chart
- **Resources**
  - Central budgets
  - Library automation
  - First new buildings
  - Services modernization
From libraries to CRAI
“From the library to the Information Commons”

• CRAI = Resource centers for learning and research
  • Influenced by the UK's movement (Follet report, and convergence of services)
  • The library as a service point (for books, computers, information...)
  • New libraries are built under this conception
  • Libraries focused on users

• Library buildings
  • New (almost all) or renovated (the rest)
  • Modern
  • Big (6-8.000 m2)
  • Campus libraries

Evolution of square meters in Spanish academic library buildings
• 1988 - 229.093
• 1995 - 456.031
• 2000 - 736.572
• 2004 - 974.319
• 2007 - 1.009.978
Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC). Rector G. Ferraté Library
Pompeu Fabra University
- Ciutadella campus
- Poblenou campus
- Mar campus
Girona University. Montilibi library
Rebiun (Association of Spanish Academic Libraries) strategic plans

• 2003-2006
  • Research is present in 1/13 actions = 8%
  • Actions research related: OA

• 2007-2011
  • Research is present in 3/26 actions = 12%
  • Actions research related: IR & OA

• 2012-2020
  • Research is present in 6/28 actions = 21%
  • Actions research related: IR & OA
IR & OA in Spanish academic libraries

✓ Spanish Science and Technology law
  • Art. 35. (“Open-Access Publication”) mandate the creation and development of repositories and open-access dissemination of publicly-funded research outcomes

✓ Repositories
  • Almost all universities have their own IR (53 IR)
  • 340 FTE staff
  • 1,228,345 documents, but (only) 282,385 (23%) are journal articles and 79,665 (6.49%) are OA
  • DSpace (89%) is clearly the most predominant technology platform

✓ Recolecta, created together by REBIUN and FECYT in 2008, is an aggregator of the IR for the Spanish scientific publications.
  • http://www.recolecta.net

✓ Spanish OA journals aggregators
  • REDIB https://www.redib.org/
  • Dialnet https://dialnet.unirioja.es/
  • RACO http://www.raco.cat/index.php/raco
The key issue:

 ✓ The relations between Spanish academic libraries and researchers have always been weak

 • Spanish libraries are rich in heritage collections and academic libraries have been heritage oriented during a long period
 • Traditionally, professors have done the selection of new acquisitions
   – Libraries had a passive role building collections
 • We don't have the figures of the reference or the subject librarian
   – Recently, some libraries introduced the figure of the liaison librarian, a link between university departments (research) and libraries.
   – The students advisor function is not rooted in the library
 • University teaching methods are mostly based on exams (and not in essays)
   – The ratio between borrowed documents and student is lower than in other university systems
 • Licensing has been done by consortia at regional level
   – In the last years, consortia act together to negotiate licenses with big publishers
Evolution of Catalan university libraries activities and organization supporting research

• Traditional activities supporting research:
  – Collection buildings
    • Acquisitions, Journals collections, Special collections...
  – The big change of the networked digital information
    • The content is on your PC, tablet, mobile...
    • New tools and rules are completely strange to the majority of researchers
      – Identifiers, OA, mandates, altmetrics...
    • Open Science as the new landscape

• Our evolution supporting research
  – Since 2005 (approx.), Catalan university libraries made changes in their services and organization to adapt to the new situation
    • subject librarians, reference management tools, open access...
  – In 2013, CBUC had also changed and created a new strategic line for supporting research
    • repositories, Mendeley, portal for Catalan research, OA...
  – but Internet is disruptive, and in 2017 (Feb) we decided to be more radical and create a new (small) area devoted to 'Open Science’
    • open metadata (portal for Catalan research), open access, open data...
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Methodology

• Online survey to the 76 directors of the Spanish association of academic libraries (January – February 2018).

• 57 replies (75%).
Size of Spanish academic libraries (staff FTE)

- Average: 87 people
- Median: 78 people

- >100 people; 32.7%
- 1 to 50 people; 32.7%
- 51 to 100 people; 34.5%
The library in the structure of the University

- Research & Scientific Policy: 60%
- Technology: 9%
- Culture: 7%
- Academic Planning: 5%
- Students: 4%
- Services: 7%
- Other: 7%
Research support services

- Yes: 77%
- No: 23%

Chart showing libraries offering research support services by library size (staff FTE):
- 1 to 50 people: 10%
- 51 to 100 people: 90%
- > 100 people: 90%
Size of research support services (staff FTE)

Average: 6.4 people
Median: 3.0 people
Library size vs research support services size
Relationships with other services

- Technology Transfer Offices (OTRI)
- [European] research projects management
- Graduate / Doctoral schools
- Publications
- Bibliometric units
Respondents ranked 6 services in order of preference from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important).
Users of research support services

- Teaching and research staff: 100%
- PhD students: 90%
- University management: 50%
- Deans and Heads of Department: 40%
Many thanks

Questions?

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