

# The Miguel de Cervantes Digital Library: a wide range of multimedia services

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*(This demo is intended to be performed with a portable computer and if possible a small LCD projector (we would provide this resources)).*

This demo describes the philosophy behind what represents one of the most ambitious projects of its kind ever to have been undertaken in the Spanish-speaking world: The Miguel de Cervantes Digital Library (<http://cervantesvirtual.com/>). It explains the new ground being explored by its creators in terms of the wide variety of innovative services it offers to its audience worldwide and the application of digital methods. This services are meant to be used in serious research, as teaching aids, or just for cultural amusement and enjoyment.

We will also describe the technical underpinnings of this project at present and in the future, reporting ongoing research and development activities being done at the Miguel de Cervantes Digital Library.

Our library covers many different areas, from a "library of voices" up to academic thesis and it includes all kinds of multimedia material: text, images, audio and video. These are our 4000 digital books, public domain Hispanic classics, from the twelfth century up to these days, including narrative, theater, poetry, history and other subjects.

The actual contents of the demo will show the different sections of our project such as:

1. A **catalogue** with over 4000 digitized books from the 12th century up to contemporary works, plus links to external digital Hispanic resources and to other outstanding digital collections, libraries and technology-related resources. (<http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/catalogo.shtml>)
2. **Facsimile** versions of rare and old books. ([http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/bib\\_autor/Calderon/manuscrito/p1.html?mod](http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/bib_autor/Calderon/manuscrito/p1.html?mod))
3. **Concordances** of selected works based on TactWeb, meant for literary students and researchers. (<http://cervantesvirtual.com/FichaObra.html?portal=0&Ref=003603>)
4. A **library of voices** with quality recordings of top Hispanic voices who have volunteered to recite some of the library's most visited works. Well-known Hispanic poets and authors also take part in this section, reciting parts of their own works. ([http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/bib\\_voces/bibvoces.shtml](http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/bib_voces/bibvoces.shtml))
5. **Video recordings** of cultural events as authors reciting their own poems. ([http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/bib\\_autor/mbenedetti/video.shtml](http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/bib_autor/mbenedetti/video.shtml))
6. **Library of signs:** where videos of sign language facilitates the association of text and signs to hearing impaired people.

7. **Academic publications**, as the digital publication of **theses** from many universities all over the world, and DOXA, a magazine of the philosophy of law. The digital publication of theses, acts as a window to Hispanic research and a forum for academic debates.  
([http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/tesis/tesis\\_catalogo.shtml](http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/tesis/tesis_catalogo.shtml))
8. **Cultural Magazines** on social sciences, humanities, art, languages, theatre, etc., like "Young Art", "Hispania", "Luz".  
(<http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/hemeroteca/>)
9. **Authors' Libraries**: These are libraries within the main library, each one dedicated to an author, where personalized pages describe the life and works of chosen Hispanic writers with links to their digital books and to other interesting related sites on the WWW.  
([http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/biblioteca\\_autor.shtml](http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/biblioteca_autor.shtml))
10. **Communication facilities**, include **debate forums** (<http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/foros/foros.shtml>), our own **electronic news bulletin** named Dulcinea, ([http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/bol\\_noticias/noticias.shtml#Dulcinea](http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/bol_noticias/noticias.shtml#Dulcinea)) and **Trueque** (<http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/trueque/Trueque.shtml>) a service enabling readers, collectors, publishers, and booksellers to exchange information to help them locate rare and out-of-print editions of books.
11. A **virtual Librarian** provides a questions-and-answers service through the Internet (<http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/bibliotecario/>).
12. **Editorial**: Initiatives aimed at bringing together the old printed material and the new electronically produced works: the project envisages traditional publication of textbooks and critical studies accompanied by interactive electronic versions available in the Research section.  
(<http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/editorial/editorial.shtml>)
13. **Research**: A section where the Library encourages and publishes the results of research projects and collaborations related to educational software development undertaken in or considered to be of interest to the Hispanic world. With the help of Latin-American governments and universities, we aim to equip villages, schools and communities with educational, literary and cultural material, which, without modern technology, would be beyond their reach.  
(<http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/investigacion/investigacion.shtml>)
14. **Thematic portals**: another feature of this project is the use of technology to preserve and promote minority Hispanic-related languages, and to affirm different Hispanic cultures by way of specialized gateways and portals. The design of these sections does not only entail the use of new techniques, but also involves collaboration agreements whereby staff from the Miguel de Cervantes Digital Library travel to other centers, universities and institutions all around different areas of Spain and Latin America in order to digitize the documents, objects and works of art in situ.  
(<http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/portales/portales.shtml>)

Existing portals include: the Library of Catalunya and the Joan Luis Vives Institute, both in Catalan language, country specific collections as the National Library of Chile, The College of Mexico and the José A. Portuondo Valdor Institute of Literature and Linguistics of Cuba, and thematic portals such as DOXA, about the philosophy of law, Hispano-American Novel of the XIXth Century (Benito Varela Jácome fund), XIXth Century Spanish

Literary Society, Association of Spanish Theatre Authors, Hispano-American Constitutions, Geographic Research, and a portal on Industrial and Intellectual Property.

- [“Biblioteca de Catalunya”](#) (Catalan language)
- [“Institut Joan Lluís Vives”](#) (Catalan language)
- [“Biblioteca Nacional de Chile”](#)
- [“El Colegio de México”](#)
- [“Instituto de Literatura y Lingüística José A. Portuondo Valdor”](#) (Cuba)
- [“DOXA - Filosofía del Derecho”](#)
- [“Novela hispanoamericana del siglo XIX / Fondo Benito Varela Jácome”](#)
- [“Sociedad de Literatura Española del Siglo XIX”](#)
- [“Asociación de Autores de Teatro de España”](#)
- [“Constituciones hispanoamericanas”](#)
- [“Investigaciones Geográficas”](#)
- [“Biblioteca- Portal sobre Propiedad Intelectual, Industrial y Sociedad de la Información”](#)

New portals for the Basque and Galician languages, for key institutions of Argentina and Peru, and thematic portals about Mathematics, and Latin American Constitutions (ancient and current) are being developed:

- [“Archivo Nacional de Cuba”](#)
- [“Biblioteca Nacional de la República Argentina: Colección Foulché-Delbosc”](#)
- [“Biblioteca Nacional del Perú”](#)
- [“Casa de las Américas”](#)
- [“Rosalia de Castro”](#) (Galician Language)
- Mathematical analysis
- [“Germán Bernácer”](#) (economical analysis)
- [“Literatura Gauchesca”](#) (South American country-folk culture)

The Miguel de Cervantes Digital Library hopes to act as inspiration to other cultures, specially those with a minor presence on the WWW, to create their own novel digital tools which can be used by a worldwide multiracial and multilingual student and academic community of Internet users. Far from being a static collection of digitised books, the Library is envisaged as a vehicle for the Hispanic academy to promote their works, as a window to Hispanic literature and culture for scholars of Hispanic languages, and as a voice for the Hispanic university community worldwide.