1. The Mexican Digital Library

bdmx.mx

WDL Partner Meeting, November 15, 2011

Andrea Martinez Baracs, PhD

President, BDMX

Mexico was fortunate to contribute to the creation of the WDL, to its initial discussions on the all-important subject of Content, and with valuable and beautiful Mexican documents for its first collection.

Some countries´ s manuscripts archives and libraries are centralized; others are like Mexico, were diverse institutions hold important collections. Remembering that one of WDL stated missions is promoting in each country the protection of historical sources, their digital edition, and to a certain extent their reunion in one site, four important Mexican libraries and archives joined to create the Mexican Digital Library, BDMX, on November 23, 2010. These founding institutions are:

Archivo General de la Nación, AGN

Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia, BNAH

Centro de Estudios de Historia de México, CEHM CARSO

Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, CNCA.

We are celebrating our first anniversary, almost to the day. We have added in this year four more partners:

Biblioteca Cervantina, Tecnológico de Monterrey, ITESM

Biblioteca Lafragua, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, BUAP

Biblioteca Clavigero, Universidad Iberoamericana, UIA

Real Biblioteca, Palacio Real, Madrid (Patrimonio Nacional)

Besides collaborating with the WDL, the bdmx.mx is constituting a small, artisan library, constructed along theme lines suggested by the collections themselves. Thus we allow for a degree of aleatory spontaneity.

Today those theme lines are essencially three: Mexican indigenous codices; the Mid. 17 C. New Spain´s bishop-viceroy Juan de Palafox y Mendoza, and, in the same place and time, the basic documents of the life and works of an Irish soldier, rebel, mystic and poet: Wilhelm Lamport.

Our selection criterion is along the lines of Mexican 19 C. pioneer historiography: unpublished or rare documents of special interest.

For each chosen subject we strive to retrieve in different institutions some of its basic documents. In a way the BDMX is a continuous, although in a small scale, philologic edition of historical sources, of diverse genre and time periods.

We look for striking or evocative stories, rooted in cultural encounters, arts of the past, privileged mirrors of big and small moments in history. As our support is visual, we give priority to illustrated documents.

Congratulations, WDL, for promoting creative initiatives such as ours.