

Paper Babel: The Instituto Cervantes libraries as multicultural meeting spaces.

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Paper Babel

- ▶ Evolution of the concept of library.
- ▶ Instituto Cervantes Libraries Network (RBIC) multicultural character:
 - ▶ Bibliographical collections
 - ▶ Activities
 - ▶ Documentary products
 - ▶ Human factor



Evolution of the concept of a library. Before.



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- ▶ Book depositories. Study halls. Resource centers for formal education.

Evolution of the concept of a library.

Information. One of the most valuable resources possessed by man.

Communications. Exchange of information, goods and people.



Globalization.



Evolution of the concept of a library. Now.



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- ▶ Places to house, process, manage and exchange information.

Evolution of the concept of a library. Now.



► Social and cultural centers. Democratic, free and open spaces

Evolution of the concept of a library. Now.

- ▶ Getting to know someone new
- ▶ Discover different and exotic cultures
- ▶ Broadens one's horizons
- ▶ Learn a new language
- ▶ Grow as individuals
- ▶ Have fun



RBIC: Network of Instituto Cervantes libraries.



- ▶ Public, non-for-profit organization, founded in 1991 to promote the teaching, study and use of Spanish and disseminate the culture of the Spanish-speaking community.
- ▶ 73 centers in 30 countries and 5 continents.
- ▶ Spanish courses, cultural activities, libraries.
- ▶ Libraries with heterogeneous profiles, common goal.
- ▶ Born with a multicultural spirit.



RBIC: Network of Instituto Cervantes libraries. Mediterranean area



RBIC: Network of Instituto Cervantes libraries. Bibliographical content.

- ▶ More than one million volumes
- ▶ Art, history, music, literature, architecture
- ▶ Wide, up to date, objective and varied view of the Spanish culture.
- ▶ Spanish, Catalan, Galician and Basque, etc.



RBIC: Network of Instituto Cervantes libraries.

Bibliographical content

Lenguaje and literature.

Spanish language teaching materials. Support of teaching activity.

Local section. Link between Spain and the host country.

Encompassing works:

- about Spain into the local language
- about the country where the library is located in Spanish
- about the political, economical, cultural relationships between the two countries



RBIC: Network of Instituto Cervantes libraries. Bibliographical content.

Special collections:

- Africa and the Arab world.
- Sepharad. Jews and Judaism.
- **Don Quijote** Translations.
- Spanish fortifications in Oran.
- AISPI Collection.
- Image of Spain.
- One library, one author. Author who has a special relationship with the country or the city.

Electronic information resources. Give access to data and contents of rigorous and high quality. No physical limits.



Image of Spain



Broad our image

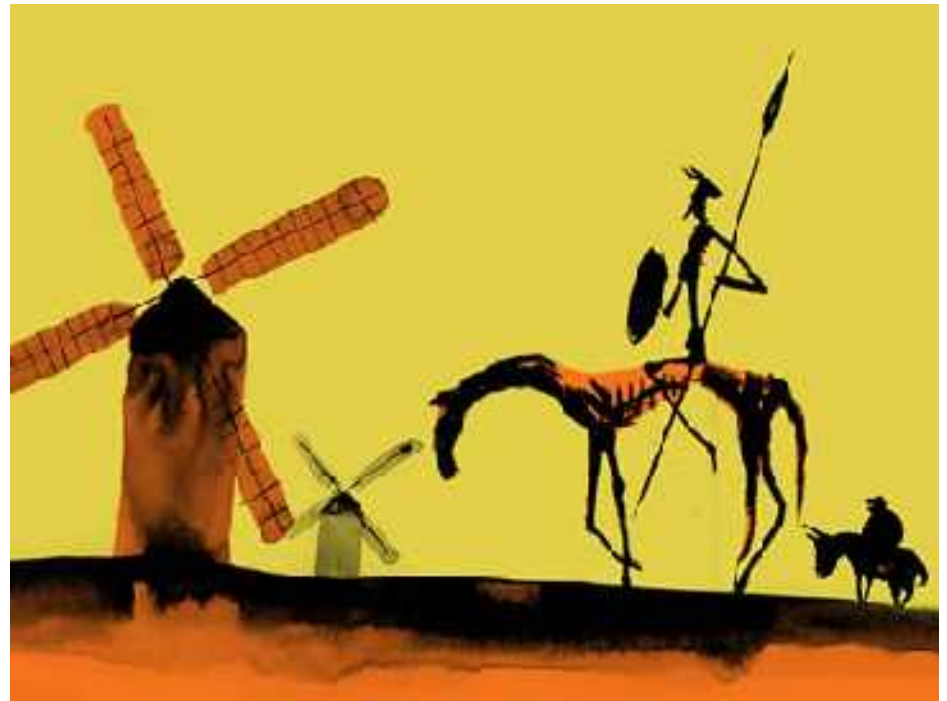
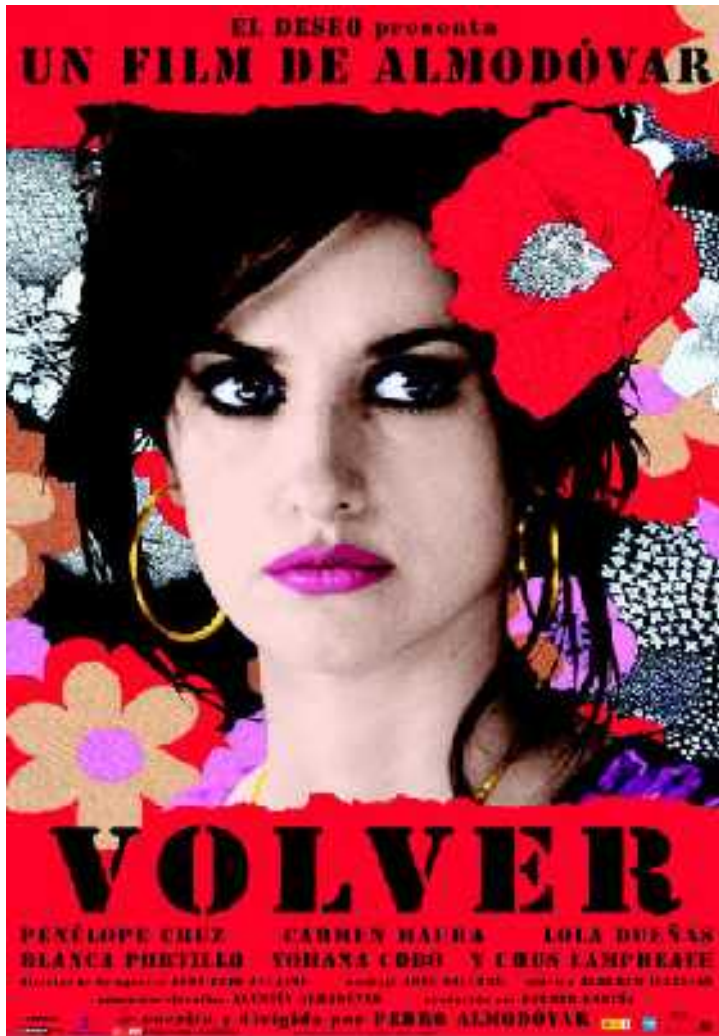


Image of Spain



Publicize new names



Activities. Participation, enjoyment and enrichment for everyone.

- ▶ End with cultural prejudices, stereotypes and ignorance
- ▶ Interaction place, exchange and communication of knowledge and experiences.
- ▶ Participative area.



Activities. Bibliographical expositions



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- ▶ Ex-libris. Network of the Instituto Cervantes libraries.

Activities. Literary social gatherings



Practice the language

contact with natives

forum for discussions

compare and generate new ideas



Activities. Literary competitions

Themes that symbolize cultural fusion and intermixing

Show the creativity and understanding of literature

Demonstrate linguistic knowledge



Activities. Contest



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- Show the creativity and imagination. Create new products

Activities. Much more.

Much more:

- ▶ Cinema
- ▶ Book fairs
- ▶ Guided tours
- ▶ Book readings
- ▶ Conferences

... all that our imagination let us.



Documentary works. The library on file.

- ▶ Paper guide

<http://tetuan.cervantes.es/imagenes/folleto%20biblioteca.pdf>

- ▶ Web page

http://telaviv.cervantes.es/il/library_spanish/library_spanish.htm

- ▶ Thematic guides

http://intranetpruebas.cervantes.es/imagenes/file/bibdoc/bibliotecarios/tablon/guias_lectura_arabe_dialectal.pdf

- ▶ Thematic dossier

http://www.cervantes.es/bibliotecas_documentacion_espanol/becas_extranjeros_espana/presentacion.htm



Documentary works. The library on file.

Social networks:

▶ Facebook



▶ Twitter



▶ De.li.ci.us



▶ Blogs



The human factor. Librarians.

- ▶ Adequately trained, technically and professionally
- ▶ Able to interact with users in their native language
- ▶ Break the ice with newcomers
- ▶ Hospitable
- ▶ Communicative
- ▶ Tolerant
- ▶ Facilitate communication
- ▶ Agents of change



The human factor. Cooperation

Link between libraries,
educational and cultural
centers

Exchange of information
between professionals

Creation of networks



- ▶ Committee for the Support of Libraries in Greece (CLS)
- ▶ Innovative Library Initiatives Promotion Group (ILIPG) in Istanbul
- ▶ The Egyptian Library Association International Committee (ELIA)



The human factor. Users

More than

700.000 visitors,

620.000 loans,

56.000 informational needs
adressed every year.

Professors, translators,
tour guides, journalists,
Jordanians, Italians, Syrians,
Egyptians...



Thank you!

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