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Argentina's national bibliography: an outstanding debt

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Abstract:

The essay provides a status report on Argentina's non-existent official and current national bibliography. It includes the following discussions: a brief explanation of the theoretical context, an analysis of the legislation in force, a presentation of the national bibliographic products compiled in the past and reference to the only current substitute available. The essay also looks at two interesting, but thwarted projects, as well as four proposals made between 1985 and 1986. It analyses the situation in Argentina's depository libraries and concludes with a review of the ideas presented and a proposal on how to begin to resolve the problem.

As the title of the paper indicates, Argentina's current national bibliography is an outstanding debt. Perhaps the first question would be to ask how it was incurred. What circumstances could have conspired to enable us to reach the 21st century, without even glimpsing the beginnings of an attempt to resolve the matter? What have been the positions of those involved or interested in the issue? Were there any attempts to compile one and if so, why did they fail? Is there anything which will serve in its stead and if so, what are the advantages and disadvantages of these substitutes?

Answering all these questions thoroughly and accurately is clearly no easy matter and can certainly not be done within the time permitted for a conference presentation. However, I shall try to provide a status report which reflects the situation as closely as possible. To start with, I would therefore like to provide a brief theoretical context to define what is understood by official and current national bibliography, to clarify the scope of the paper and to be able to draw some conclusions. I shall then analyse the legislation in force to determine the current statutory framework, considering its

loopholes and weaknesses. I shall then go on to list, describe and assess the general and current national bibliographic products which have been compiled in the past, and shall refer to the only substitute available at present. The above outline could give the mistaken impression that no thought was given or proposals made to resolve the issue of a national bibliography. However, there were at least two attempts which, although they failed, were grounded in very clear ideas with regard to the intention, significance, standardisation and need to have an official compilation of what was being published in Argentina. To these must be added a further four proposals which emerged between 1985 and 1986. This will be followed by an analysis of the situation of Argentina's depository libraries, depicting both their obligations and their potential. Finally, I shall conclude by reviewing the ideas considered and making a proposal on how to set about resolving the problem.

Basic concepts

An official and current national bibliography can be defined as a repertory that provides an exhaustive list of complete, authoritative citations of a country's national publications, in their different formats and media, which is published on a regular frequency and timely basis. An authoritative citation "is defined as being that which has been drawn up by a responsible institution, which, in the case of national bibliographies, is the national bibliographic agency" (Cordón García, 1997: 31).

In the preamble to the final recommendations of the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services, held in Copenhagen from November 25 to 27, 1998, the concept of Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) is endorsed as a long-term programme for the development of a worldwide system for the control and exchange of bibliographic information. It emphasises the need to strengthen national bibliographic control as a prerequisite for UBC. It recognises the importance of the national bibliography as a major instrument in ensuring a full record of the national published heritage and achieving effective bibliographic control. It affirms that national libraries and national bibliographic agencies may work co-operatively with other agencies, but that the overall responsibility for co-ordination and implementation of standards should rest with the national bibliographic agency. It reaffirms the value of legal deposit as a means of ensuring that the cultural and intellectual heritage and linguistic diversity of the State is preserved and made accessible for current and future users (International Conference on National Bibliographic Services, 1998).

This is the basis for the 23 recommendations the Conference makes on legal deposit, coverage of the national bibliography and its presentation and timeliness, the international standards used and future activities of the IFLA. We shall return to this last point in the conclusions.

With regard to the materials that should be included in national bibliographies, this is best summed up in the words of the recommendations 4 and 5:

"4. National bibliographies should include the current national output and where practicable they should also provide retrospective coverage. When necessary, selection criteria should be defined and published by the national bibliographic agency;

"5. The national bibliography should include records for materials in all the languages and/or scripts in which publications are produced within a state; and wherever possible these records should include the languages and/or scripts in which the publications originally appeared" (International Conference on National Bibliographic Services, 1998)

Experts acknowledge that an official and current national bibliography fulfils the following functions: it is a showcase and heritage record reflecting publishing output and is

consequently part of a country's cultural identity. It provides information on current output. It is a bibliographic reservoir, a product aimed at the foreign market and an official shop-window on publishing (Beaudiquez, 2001: 2-4). It provides all the necessary information for selection and acquisition, identification and reference and serves as a reference model of cataloguing (Cordón García, 1997: 31).

The fact that there are countries which do not compile their official and current national bibliography does not mean they reject the validity of the major principles defined by the IFLA: Universal Bibliographic Control and Universal Access to Information. Rather, this absence may be due essentially to two problems: budgetary restrictions which prevent its being produced (compiled and published) and structural deficiencies: poor published production, dispersion of national publishing or lack of compliance with legal deposit (Beaudiquez, 2001: 1-2).

Legal deposit in Argentina

Since 1933, legal deposit has been contemplated under Act 11.723 (*Legal Regime on Intellectual Property*), the regulations for which are set out in Decree 41.233/34, having subsequently been partially modified over the years. Article 1 of this Act defines the registration bodies and article 57 establishes the following: who is required to deposit printed works, i.e. publishers; where they are required to do so, i.e. the National Intellectual Property Registry, today the National Copyright Directorate; the number of copies, which is three; and the time allowed for deposit, which is three months from publication (Argentina. Leyes, etc. 1933). Article 17 of the regulatory decree for this act indicates the destination of the printed matter: the National Library, the Library of the Honourable National Congress and the National Copyright Directorate. The inclusion of the latter is a precautionary measure to guarantee the author's copyright, and consequently, article 59 requires it the list of works presented to be published in the Official Gazette (Argentina. Leyes, etc., 1934). Years later, Decree 3.079/57 required that an additional copy be sent to the General National Archive (Argentina. Leyes, etc., 1957). Finally, article 64 of the Intellectual Property Act, which has been the subject of relatively little attention, adds that, notwithstanding the provisions of article 57, all official departments and institutions, associations or people who receive any kind of subsidy from the National Treasury must provide the National Congress Library with a copy of any publication for which they are responsible, on the terms and within the deadline specified in that article. This last provision is an explicit attempt to safeguard official publications (Argentina. Leyes, etc., 1933).

As far as this legislation is concerned, it could be said that, strictly speaking, there is no legal deposit law *per se*, unconnected with the authors' individual rights regarding their works and, consequently geared to objectives other than the collection and preservation of national publishing and the subsequent creation of the official bibliographic records derived from it. It may be countered that, by stating the destination of the copies to be deposited, the regulations of Act 11.723 are an implicit recognition of these objectives, but in fact this is not the case. Moreover, as there is more than one depository institution, there is no categorical mention of which of these shall take charge of the compilation of the national bibliography or how this should be done. Nor does it create a national bibliographic agency or assign this function and site to any of the depository bodies.

The state of the current national bibliography

Before tackling the specificities of this subject, it is useful to distinguish two areas in the compilation of national bibliographies. One is the general area which pertains to any material that can be classified as a macro-bibliographic formats: books, periodicals, conference proceedings, theses, Web pages, etc., on any kind of medium (paper,

electronic, microfilm, etc.). A country's national bibliography is included in this category. The other area is more specialised and would include only one or a limited set of subjects, usually classified as a micro-bibliographic formats, and also on any kind of medium: the chapters of books, articles of periodicals, papers at a congress, etc. (Romanos de Tiratel, 2000). An instance of this would be the *Bibliografía argentina de Artes y Letras* [Argentine Bibliography of the Arts]. Now, the intentions, purposes, audiences at which they are directed and agencies compiling them may have some points in common, but generally speaking, they are different in both cases. Having made this distinction, despite the importance of specialised national repertories, it is both understandable and justifiable that they should be excluded here. The absence of retrospective national bibliographies is also comprehensible, since they would really deserve an article in their own right⁽¹⁾.

The first attempt to compile a general and current national bibliography dates back to the 19th century. This was the *Anuario bibliográfico de la República Argentina: críticas, noticias, catálogos* [Bibliographic yearbook of the Republic of Argentina: reviews, news and catalogues]. This repertory was created, maintained and directed by Alberto Navarro Viola up to he died in 1885, and by his brother Enrique from 1886 until it finally closed. It includes analytical and critical entries with a classification of its own. "The authors' primary intention was to organise the necessary elements for the compilation of the current Argentinean bibliography. This was to serve the purpose, firstly, of publicising national output in our country and abroad, and secondly, of producing comparative and statistical studies over long periods, regarding this output... The Yearbook includes books, pamphlets, theses in Law and Medicine, official publications, patents and periodicals published in Argentina" (Romanos de Tiratel, 1986). This bibliography is typical of the workmanship of the 19th century, and is a very valuable, but isolated venture with no follow-up, which was embarked upon and maintained by individuals. An admirable but fleeting initiative⁽²⁾.

It was not until 1937 that the *Boletín bibliográfico argentino* [Argentine Bibliographic Report] was published, initially by the National Commission for Intellectual Co-operation which was succeeded by the National Intellectuals Board in 1947. In 1950, it became the *Boletín bibliográfico nacional* [National Bibliographic Report], and its publisher changed yet again to become the Education Ministry's General Directorate of Culture. From 1955 onwards, the task ultimately fell to the National Library. A total of 33 fascicles have been published in 23 years, at varying intervals, both biannually and annually. It initially organised the records with a classification of its own, which was followed by CDU after 1951. Criticism of this repertory has been devastating: "The cataloguing is extremely poor and the standards used to determine authorship lack universal validity... the entries are often incomplete [and contain] numerous errors... It is not a comprehensive bibliography... It has no bibliographic value..." (Sabor, 1978: 206-207). The work started out as a semi-official initiative, later to become a state-sponsored venture and finish up in the National Library, which was probably unable to continue or improve the attempt due to a lack of funds.

Another compilation that deserves a mention is the *Boletín bibliográfico de obras inscriptas* [Bibliographic report of registered works], drawn up by the National Copyright Directorate (created by Decree 800/71 to replace the National Intellectual Property Registry). Issued quarterly, the report organises entries using its own classification system and records national bibliographic output registered with the Directorate: books, pamphlets, periodicals, dramatic works, musical compositions, musical theatre, scores and programmes (film, television and radio), drawings, maps, etc. The work has many technical defects, since it uses no standard either to describe the items or to classify them. These shortcomings are primarily due to the fact that those who planned and compiled the repertory were guided more by legal than by bibliographic concerns. Nonetheless, despite its many deficiencies, it is the only source available for the period⁽³⁾.

Article 1 of Act 22.399, which was enacted in 1981, requires all books published in Argentina to carry the ISBN or *International Standard Book Number*. Article 3 designates the Office of the Secretary for Culture in the Ministry for Culture and Education as being responsible for assigning this number (Argentina. Leyes, etc., 1981). Resolution 407/81 also designates it the "International ISBN Agency" or national group office for the entire country. One of its tasks is to produce the ISBN catalogue, including Argentine bibliographic output, classified by title, author, subject matter and publisher. The Resolution makes it clear that, in this enterprise, a book is considered to be any single printed publication not produced daily or on a regular basis⁽⁴⁾ (Argentina. Presidencia de la Nación. Ministerio de Cultura y Educación, 1981). On June 25, 1981, the Secretary's Office reached an agreement with CAL, the Argentine Book Chamber, according to which from that date onwards this organisation, which represents and defends the interests of a number of publishers⁽⁵⁾, would be responsible for assigning the ISBN number in Argentina (Goldstein, 1993: 75-77). As a result of this activity, since 1982, CAL has recorded and published, first on paper and subsequently on CD-ROM, cumulative listings identifying books published in Argentina which have received the ISBN. Since this is a commercial bibliography, CAL is under no obligation to provide official records or any of the elements required at the highest description level. However, at their basic level, the entries are complete, and permit retrieval by title, publisher, date, international subject code and with free text in any field. Last and current years, CAL has attempted to provide information through its Web site. So far it has done so with little success, but it continues to work towards this goal⁽⁶⁾ and is likely to be able to overcome its technical difficulties in the near future.

But although the legal deposit safety net still fails to catch many unidentified works, the same is also true of the ISBN. To this must be added the fact that not all formats on all media are recorded, since the system's strength is in printed books. If we wanted, for instance, to find information of the number of serials published in Argentina, we would have to resort to the *Bibliografía nacional de publicaciones periódicas argentinas registradas con ISSN* [National Bibliography of Argentine ISSN-registered Periodicals]. This is the first electronic version published by the Argentine National ISSN Centre of the CAICYT (Argentine Scientific and Technical Information Centre) which has registered 7,264 titles since 1974 up to now and contains information on periodicals published since 1858. It includes the complete bibliographic record, publisher's name and address, subject matter and description. For scientific journals, it includes repertories where are indexed and whether they have an arbitration system.

Failed projects and proposals

The picture I have just drawn would appear to highlight a number of problems, including, on the one hand, frequent carelessness, an alarming lack of continuity and a lack of clarity in official objectives. On the other hand, it also reveals a striking absence of ideas about what is usually referred to as "the national bibliographic topic". However, it would be unfair to neglect the efforts of some individuals who have indeed given thought to what was and existed and what should be and exist in Argentina. History is replete with examples dating back many years, and to name and sum up all of them would lengthen this presentation unnecessarily. Instead, I shall refer only to those who have made a theoretical contribution directly related to the current national bibliography or who were responsible for endeavours doomed to failure because publishing the repertories proved impossible.

The 20th century included two valuable projects, both of which failed, though for different reasons. First we shall consider that of a man who subscribed to the most modern ideas of his day in Argentina, Federico Birabén (1867-1929). At the end of 1908, in a presentation at the 4th Latin American and 1st Pan-American Scientific Congress in Santiago, Chile, this engineer and librarian proposed the creation of a National Bibliographic Office as a centre "dedicated to meet the urgent needs of our intellectual

progress...". He added that "The threefold nature of a congress that is scientific, international and American, appears to me to be sufficient reason to raise an issue which strongly affects scientific knowledge, is of international significance and entails a true desideratum for the progress of perhaps the majority of American countries". He declared himself an advocate of the guidelines and classification of the International Institute for Bibliography in Brussels and proposed their use to solve "the national bibliographic problem". Finally, he pronounced the project to be beyond the scope of the private sphere, claiming it should be supported by the state (Birabén, 1908). In short, the salient features of Birabén's ideas can be summed up as follows: the need to identify and publicise growing intellectual output, internationalism and pan-Americanism, the adoption of bibliographic description and classification standards which would permit co-operation between nations, and awareness that official involvement was required for a project of this kind to be able to bear fruit ⁽⁷⁾. Between March 1909 and May 1910, he created three bibliographic offices: in Chile, Argentina and Peru. In Argentina, the ideas of Birabén, who had hoped the project would be undertaken by the University of Buenos Aires, were ultimately undermined when the Executive Power decree of November 10, 1909, created an office that depended on the People's Libraries Protective Commission. Faced with subordination of this kind, Birabén's project was doomed to failure (Romanos de Tiratel, 1996: 62).

In contrast to this negative experience, another engineer from Cordoba, Raúl Cisneros Malbrán, who tried to set up a Bibliographic Office in the National University of Cordoba (UNC) at the end of the 1920s, successfully convinced the university authorities that this Institution should operate as part of the Rector's Office. Consequently, the preamble of the foundation resolution of 1928 emphasises the pernicious effects of a bibliographic unit depending on a library, even though such subordination may, at first sight, appear natural, because both institutions have different tasks and the result is that one is absorbed by the other (Romanos de Tiratel, 1996: 63).

The Córdoba Bibliographic Office was run by Raúl Cisneros Malbrán with the unflagging support of Fernanda Foucaud. They worked for ten and six years respectively, following the guidelines set by the International Institute for Bibliography in Brussels with a twofold aim: to produce a universal bibliographic repertory and compile a national bibliography which, in 1939, Cisneros reported, contained 42,000 bibliographic entries classified by author and by subject matter according to the decimal system. Five years later, Fernanda Foucaud explained that the *Repertorio bibliográfico argentino* was being produced in two parts: the retrospective part containing works published before December 31, 1939, and the current bibliography which included those published from January 1, 1940 onwards. However, even though the director and founder of the Bibliographic Office did everything in his power to get the University authorities to publish the national repertory, he was never successful. Over time, the cards went astray and the index vanished without a trace (Romanos de Tiratel, 1996).

The idea that the National Library should have an independent bibliographic body emerges in a series of works published in the nineteen eighties ⁽⁸⁾. Amelia Aguado de Costa proposed the creation of a Commission for the Argentine National Bibliography comprising a series of book-related entities: the four depository institutions (National Library, the National Congress Library, the National General Archive and the National Copyright Directorate), the Book Directorate and the book chambers. Her aims included the publication of a "periodic Argentine National Bibliography" (Aguado de Costa, 1985: 6). Similarly, Elsa Galeotti proposed the creation of a National Bibliographic Institute which would be responsible for producing the Argentine national bibliography (retrospective, current and prospective) and the co-ordination of all the country's bibliographic activity (Galeotti, 1985: 45-46).

A year later, Josefa E. Sabor asked, "What is the likelihood of the National Library taking responsibility for compiling and publishing the current general bibliography of the Republic of Argentina? ... It is, in our view, very slight, not to say non-existent" (Sabor,

1986: 6). On the basis of this assumption, she then presents the guidelines for a National Bibliographic Institute (Sabor, 1986: 7-10). Hebe Pauliello de Chocholous also backs Sabor's proposal in the conclusion to a study that examines the issue in depth (Pauliello de Chocholous, 1986: 27-28). The four librarians cited also agree on the need to adopt international standards – Sabor (1986: 10) refers specifically to the IFLA standards of bibliographic description – and they emphasise the need to adopt a broader outlook which would contribute to the universal control of what is published worldwide.

Depository libraries

We need to ask why there is this tendency to refer virtually exclusively to the National Library as being primarily responsible for compiling an official and current national bibliography.

This is firstly due to the "Resolution of the Education Ministry (Exp. 56.705/55) which entrusts the National Library with compiling and publishing the *Boletín bibliográfico nacional* (see above). In view of the inadequacy of this *Boletín*, when the National Library was subsequently restructured through Decree-Law 727/71 of the same Ministry, it was given the task of publishing a current *National Bibliography* ... [the latter] was never published [even though] the National Library had prepared the 1971 volume for publication that remain unpublished. The technical department also... includes a catalogued duplicate index card of each monograph in a file that could serve to draw up the *Bibliography* in the future..." (Sabor, 1986: 3, 5).

More recently, Decree 1.386/96 – which regulates the operations of the National Library as a de-centralised and self-sufficient institution under the jurisdiction of the Secretary for Culture of the National President's Office – states one of its objectives to be that of "guarding, increasing, preserving, conserving, recording and disseminating the printed cultural record, and in particular with respect to the country's cultural heritage, on any permanent medium of information" (Argentina. Leyes, etc., 1996). "Disseminating" involves extending, spreading and physically propagating (Real Academia Española, 1992). It therefore implies publishing and distributing what is recorded, giving preference to Argentine cultural manifestations. We should mention that this can only be the case if the Library catalogues available on line over the Internet were to cover Argentina's retrospective output and not only its output since 1994. It would also need to permit a search by publishing country, something which is not currently possible. Moreover, the national bibliography would need to be published on a regular basis.

Finally, the section of Resolution 86/2003 on the National Library Directorate, which defines its organisational structure in Appendix II, under the section Technical Processes Department Actions, states one of its tasks to be: "Organising and coordinating activities involving the production of the National Bibliography" (Argentina. Presidencia de la Nación. Secretaría de Cultura, 2003).

As will be apparent, all of this would clearly seem to be pointing in the same direction. However, if we leave aside the National Copyright Directorate which is a legal institution, there are still two other potential candidates: the Congress Library and the National General Archive. Where the first is concerned, as we have seen, Article 64 of Act 11.723 designates it as the preferential depository for official publications when it states that, in addition to being the usual depository in this respect, the institution should also receive anything published at the expense of the National Treasury (Argentina. Leyes, etc., 1933). The second, I should mention, already has difficulty fulfilling its role as a national archive, and it would therefore be unwise to include it in a general scheme aimed at co-ordinating the activities of depository libraries with a view to compiling the national bibliography. In my view, the National Library, on which attention tends to focus, and the Congress Library, are therefore the most suitable candidates to take on this scheme.

By way of conclusion

In the words of a respected expert in the field, "A national bibliography is a mirror that reflects the culture, character and current interest of a country by listing its publishing output. Not only does it serve as an historical recorder, but when distributed to other countries, it serves as a 'window' to that country " (Bell, 1988: 29, quoted by Madsen, 1999). To continue with the same simile, the window on national output (not only of books and periodicals, but also electronic documents, video and sound recordings, microform, theses, musical recordings, official documents, pamphlets, etc.) is as yet only ajar and the mirror is so misted over that it is only capable of reflecting a very distorted image.

Having reached this point, it is important to understand that the national bibliography has regressed rather in the same way as Argentina. Consequently, the motivation that existed or ceased to exist after its compilation had a huge influence on its content, accessibility and very existence.

The only window that can be opened today to reflect a very limited part of our output is a commercial one, the intention of which is publication for sales purposes. Consequently, it does not list works that are out of print or any that are sold outside the traditional distribution and bookshop channels.

It is very sad for a librarian with a bibliographic vocation have to reach this conclusion. The points I have been making – a vague legal framework with loopholes, poor attempts at bibliographic control of national output, good intentions and efforts that have failed for lack of institutional support, proposals for the creation of a new bibliographic institution separate from the National Library – these all demonstrate lack of planning, a waste of human and material resources, appalling budgetary distribution and a lack of political will to remedy a situation which we hesitate to call by the name it deserves.

True, it may be claimed that social exclusion rates have drastically increased in Argentina in recent years. And yet the national bibliography problem dates from much further back. The budgetary causes referred to by Beaudiquez (2001) indeed prevented and continue to prevent its effective realisation and maintenance, and yet a country's budget is nothing more than the specific declaration of its political priorities and until these don't change, it will be virtually impossible to resolve the national bibliographic topic.

Nevertheless, a very clear direction emerges from all of these points. Firstly, there is a need to gain specific state support. This should take the form of incorporating new material and human resources or reallocating and reorganising the existing means, so that a plan can be drawn up in the short, medium and long term and its recommendations complied with. Secondly, we must acknowledge the existence of three stakeholders which need to co-ordinate and work together to share in the task of compiling the current national bibliography. National Library in the case of all the entities bearing of information which are registered in the National Copyright Directorate, excluding official publications (published at state expense) and periodicals. The Congress Library would then take charge of compiling these official documents and the CAICYT (Argentine Scientific and Technical Information Centre which comes under the auspices of the CONICET, Scientific and Technical Research Council, the official body that grants the ISSN) would be responsible for the serial publications, as it has been to date. The staff and managers involved in the project will have to overcome all the impediments encountered in the history of the profession. They will have to acknowledge exhaustiveness as an ultimate but by no means as an immediate goal. They will have to gather and make sensible use of the experience gained elsewhere in the world, accept unhesitatingly the international standards and format recommended to produce the national repertory, understand that electronic publishing is a very attractive solution (Knutsen, 2003), know how to ask for help and accept it humbly and willingly.

In this respect and taking advantage of the occasion provided by this IFLA meeting in Buenos Aires, I would refer back to Recommendation 19 of the International Conference

on National Bibliographic Services (1998) which states: "Where needed, IFLA should assist national bibliographic agencies to develop their national bibliographic activities – for example: establishing pilot schemes to develop national bibliographies, establishing guidelines for producing them, and organising national, regional or international seminars and training workshops". We do not know how many other countries in the world are in the same boat as Argentina, though we think there are probably very few. That is why, if we do our part, we are hopeful about receiving whatever support we are offered.

The title of this paper refers to an outstanding debt, and one that has still not been settled. Of all the domestic and foreign debts incurred by our country, this is probably neither the most important nor the most urgent, and yet Argentine librarians are right to fight hard and with determination for a right recognised in any human society: the identification, recording, conservation and access to all intellectual output – the irreplaceable foundations on which any cultural identity is built.

Notes

(1) On Argentina's retrospective national bibliography, the following make useful reading: Sabor, Josefa E. 1976. *Manual de fuentes de información*. Buenos Aires: Marymar, p. 194-210 and, more recently, Zabala, Horacio. 2000. Resumen histórico de la bibliografía argentina [Electronic file]. In "Jornadas Nacionales de Bibliografía" (5as. : 2000 : Mar del Plata). [Actas]. Mar del Plata: Asociación de Bibliotecarios, Documentalistas, Archiveros y Museólogos; Departamento de Documentación y Biblioteca Central de la Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata. 1 CD-ROM.

(2) For a different perspective on this repertory, see Sagastizábal, Leandro de. 2002. *Diseñar una nación: un estudio sobre la edición en la Argentina del siglo XIX*. Buenos Aires: Grupo Editorial Norma.

(3) Except for *Polibiblon: bibliografía acumulativa argentina e hispanoamericana*. No. 1(1947)-no. 7 (1947). Buenos Aires, [s. n.], 1947; and *Biblos: órgano oficial de la Cámara Argentina del Libro*. Buenos Aires: Cámara Argentina del Libro, 1941-1966.

(4) This Act uses the definition from Act 20.380/73 which was subsequently repealed and replaced by 25.446/2001, on promoting books and reading, which provides no definition on what is legally considered to be a book.

(5) Another similar entity the Cámara Argentina de Publicaciones (Argentine Publications Chamber).

(6) Cámara Argentina del Libro: <http://www.editores.com> [Consulted: 27/4/04]

(7) For a more detailed insight, see: Menéndez Navarro, Alfredo, Guillermo Olagüe de Ros y Mikel Astrain Gallart. 2002. Ciencia, positivismo e identidad nacional en el Cono Sur: la participación argentina en los proyectos documentales contemporáneos (1895-1928). In *Hispania: revista española de historia*, 62 (1): 221-258.

(8) Twenty years earlier, having studied the situation of the general retrospective and current national bibliography, Coutoure de Troismonts, proposed the creation of a body that would co-ordinate the combined efforts of all the institutions involved. For further information, see Coutoure de Troismonts, Roberto. 1965. *Estado actual de la bibliografía nacional argentina*. Buenos Aires: Fundación Interamericana de B. Franklin.

(9) For a complete list of works registered by the National Copyright Directorate, go to <http://www.jus.gov.ar/minjus/ssjyal/Autor/default.htm>

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