

18th Conference of the LIBER Groupe des Cartothécaires / Map Expert Group Barcelona 17-18 April 2012

The general theme of the 18th Conference of the LIBER Groupe des Cartothécaires / Map Expert Group was “*Map libraries in a changing world*”. The conference took place in the Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya, April 17-18 2012. The conference gathered 62 participants from 21 different countries.

Five sessions and two visits were organized during this two days conference.

During the first session entitled “*Dissemination of digital collections*”, three “massive” digitization projects of historical maps were presented. These projects are realized by the Library of Catalunya, the National Library of Scotland, and the University of Portsmouth.

The second session, “*Photographic materials as geographic documentation*”, emphasized the importance and the wealth of aerial photographic collections stored in the libraries. Three communications were presented during this session. The aerial photographs begin to be digitized and to be available online. This digitization was not a priority for the libraries, “*sensu stricto*” cartographic materials usually being the first priority. Other reasons can explain this delay. The great number of these aerial photographs, and the difficulty to catalogue them have probably contributed to postpone their digitization in the libraries’ programmes.

The third session, “*Managing special collections*”, discussed diffusion projects. Three papers were presented during this session. The availability of photographic archives through georeferenced interfaces (Google Earth, Google Maps) has been shown.

The fourth session, “*Born digital map*”, emphasized the difficulty to manage digital maps and digital collections in libraries’ catalogues. Three communications were presented.

The fifth session, “*Map cataloguing*”, discussed cataloguing of paper and electronic cartographic materials, and cataloguing of cartographic series. Three communications were presented.

The congress ended with three short presentations of experiences.

During the congress, we also had the opportunity to visit the *Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya*, and the *Centre Excursionista de Catalunya*. The participants greatly appreciated the visit of the Institute library. The important cartographic and photographic collections of the Centre were admired during the second visit.

This meeting was immediately followed by a second meeting dedicated to cartographic documents. This second meeting was organized by the International Cartographic Association Commission, Digital Technologies in Cartographic Heritage. The theme was “*Digital approaches to cartographic heritage*”. Ninety three participants, from 24 countries, attended this meeting.

In 2010, Liber GdC and ICA Digital Technologies in Cartographic Heritage decided to organize a joint meeting to give the opportunity to the members of both groups to discover the works of the other association. More than 30 participants attended both meetings. These participants appreciated the joint organization, letting them discovering the activities of the other association.