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## WHAT IS THE CUIB

he Centro Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas CUIB (University Center for Library Science Research) is the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México organization dedicated to do high level research in the fields of Library Science and technical and scientific information.

The Center was founded on December 14, 1981 and is managed by a Director and an Academic as well as an Administrative Secretariat. It has the following departaments and areas: Library, Computing, Publications, and Dissemination. A group of the Center's specialists serves as an internal Advisory Board.

In the past the Center was located at the Antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso, in the heart of the old area of the City, where it operated until September of 1988. At present it is housed on the 12th and 13th floors of the Humanities Tower II, at the University City campus.

**INFOBILA** 

The Center has as its main functions the following:

- The carrying out of theoretical and applied research related to all aspects of Library Science.
- The dissemination of the research activity by means of publications, courses, round table discussions, seminars, and workshops conducted by national or foreign specialists in Library Science and Information, as well as other related subjects.
- Provide assistance to organizations and research and service institutions that need help in matters related to our particular field.
- The participation in the training of high level academic personnel in this field.

## RESEARCH

he most important activity of the Center is to carry out research, in an effort to solve problems related to the field of Library Science and Information.

The research spectrum carried out by the Center is diverse, consequently this main specialty has been divided into the following areas of research:

Library Science Philosophy. Research in this field is dedicated to the shaping of scientific and to conform theoretical principles as applied to Library Science.

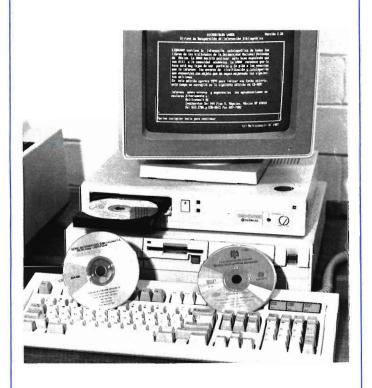
Education in Library Science. This area covers theoretical problems and those derived from the teaching-learning process of Library Science, with emphasis on national experiences.

**History of Library Science**. Research in this field investigates and processes historical facts which have contributed to the creation of Library Science as a branch of knowledge.

Collection Development. In this area problems related to the development of collections are studied and covers important aspects such as selection, withdrawal, use, and evaluation of library collections.

Analysis and Processing of Documentary Information. Research in this field covers the study of the different classification systems which are used for the organization of documentary information: logical-symbolical, logical-deductive and logical-mathematical; and also of use for the analysis of qualitative factors that have an influence in the interpretation and transcription of information from conventional sources such as catalogs, thesauri, classification systems, terminology, control and data bases. The above covers diverse aspects that have a common denominator: understanding the phenomena in relation to storage and retrieval of documentary information, and studies such as:

- Cataloging. Designed for the study of systems of bibliographic description and the explanation of its aims.
- Languages. This has to do with the study of content description related to the development of theoretical concepts and logical systems. This allows the comprehension and handling of qualitative and semantic elements that affect the interpretation and description of the contents of a document; and represented by means of abstracts and subject categories.
- Standardization. This area covers the study of aims and functions of standards for the organization of documents, libraries and information systems.



## Technology and Automated Systems.

Studies automation and the technology that is generated and which can be applied to library and information activities, with the purpose of promoting changes, innovations, and new possibilities. This subject is also studied from a social point of view, regarding the levels of impact and change, as well as the relation with the use of information.

Publishing Market. Research here is related to publications, from their creation to their distribution, with the object of finding explanations that allow us to understand and create alternatives for a more complete use of this kind of material. In this area, a study of government publications has been the first of a series of studies.

**Library Legislation**. A study of legislation that governs libraries, library systems, the flow and use of information, and the technological support in its local, national, and international activities.



Reading Habits. This activity covers matters relating to the reading habits of the Mexican population, and seeks the formulation of alternatives that can influence about it.

Library Users. A research area that identifies and explains the characteristics, needs, and behavior of different types of users in regard to the utilization of library and information services and which leads to an adjustment of these services to the realities of the Mexican user.

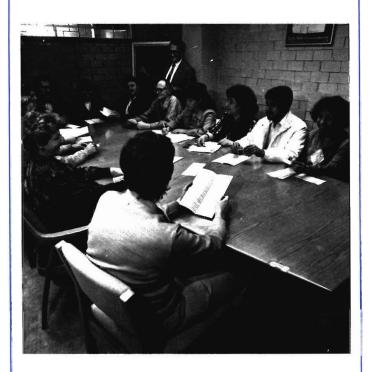
Library Organization and Operation. A specialty that covers the study of problems concerning the structure, operation, and variables that affect the development of libraries and their role in society, in order to understand and seek explanations and options for national needs. At present the study covers university and public libraries.

These subjects are covered by specialized researchers in each one of these fields.

# PROGRAMS DERIVED FROM RESEARCH ACTIVITY

he Center (CUIB is developing different programs that have emerged from its research activities and that have produced favorable results. The Center has subscribed important agreements of cooperation with national and international institutions. Among the programs that the Center carries out at a national level are:

- Training of Researchers, an activity that has as its object the academic training of researchers of the highest level, who will sustain the demanding academic standards that are required at present.
- Consulting by means of the academic personnel of the Center in its capacity of technical consulting to individuals and to national or international institutions.
- Research & Teaching, takes place within the Center by a group of researchers that holds a series of courses in order to bring librarians up to date, and which cover different fields of specialization. These courses are offered to professional librarians from different institutions. The subjets of this courses are related directly to the research which are carried out in this Center.



**Teaching** This program disseminates Library Science knowledge with the cooperation of academic personnel and offers courses at different institutions of higher education throughout the country. The teaching programs by the Center include the international courses that are taught within and without the country. Other courses are offered in Mexico as well as in foreign countries with the participation of specialists from the Center and abroad, among wich can be mentioned The Training of Latin American Researchers in Library Science and Information, and The Training of Personnel in Automated Bibliographical Information.

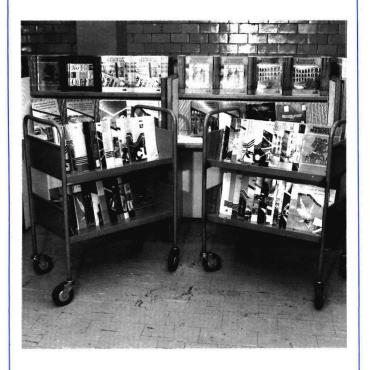
These programs had reached institutions beyond our borders. News has also reached foreign countries about our agreements with institutions of other countries and with international organization. These agreements have as their principal aim, the promotion of scientific-academic exchange and mutual aid and collaboration in carrying out diverse activities.

## DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH

ommunication of scientific knowledge is an integral part of the activities that are carried out by the Center. The following activities are organized with this object in mind:

## **ACADEMICS ACTS**

- Series of Lectures. They are delivered by the acdemic personnel of the Center during the year, with the objetive of communicating scientific knowledge to different groups.
- Research Seminars. The aim of these seminars is to analyze, by the Center's own researchers, the project, the problem, and progress of each research activity.
- Round Table Discussions. These are organized for the purpose of exchanging opinions with external specialists on the progress of research programs, an activity that invariably enriches research.
- Discussions. These are open forums that gather specialists in Library Sciences and related subjects with the particular investigation that is being carried out. The Annual Library Science Research Discussion (Coloquio de Investigación Bibliotecológica) holds a very special place in our academic life.
- National Meetings. Specialists in the field gather together from different parts of the country to discuss results of a specific research project.



The Center maintains close contacts with organizations and institutions of higher education as well as with national and foreing associations for the purpose of organizing academic events in a cooperative effort, and, of course, in the Center's field of endeavor.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Another important channel for the dissemination of research is the extensive publications program. Among the editorial achievements, we can mention the following list of publications carried out since the Center was founded.

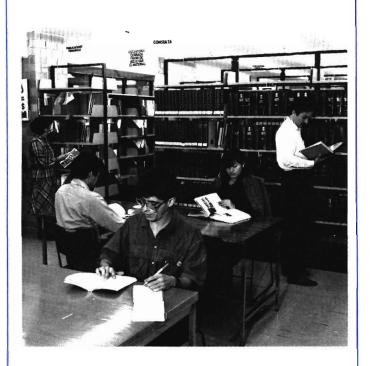
- Monographs. These publications contain complete studies of particular subjects that have interested the Center.
- Reports. The Reports include all the information relative to participants, discussions, and conclusions of the academic events held by the Center.
- Handbooks. Texts that deal with the solutions of specific problems of Library Science activities.



- Directories. Summaries of systematic data necessary for research work and/or dissemination of sources of informations.
- Research Notes. They contain advance information on research, translations, and specialized notes intended for a specific readership.
- Co-Editions. Works on different subjects that are a result of research and published in a combined effort with other institutions.
- Investigación Bibliotecológica: archivonomía, bibliotecología e información, a semestral journal that contains articles by CUIB researchers and works by specialists from other institutions.

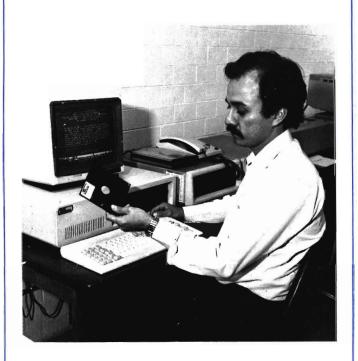
## RESEARCH SUPPORT AREAS

esearch tasks are carried out as a related activity; that is, one area is intimately connected with another. This type of effort requires constant support from the Library, and from the Computing, Dissemination and Publishing Departaments.



## THE LIBRARY

The Center has a very complete and up-to-date specialized Library in Library and Information Science. Its tasks are aim to support research work.



Special mention should be made of the data base Información y Bibliotecología Latinoamericana (INFOBILA) developed by the library. This data base contains articles from Latin American periodicals on Library Science, Information, Archives, and other related subjects. In INFOBILA is analiyzed the bibliographic information that has been published in monographs, acts of congresses, pamphlets, and work documents. Considering the fields covered, the services offered, and their importance, this data base has attracted much attention not only in this country but abroad as well.

The library possesses a select collection of books, Library Science theses, a collection of 130 different periodicals, and booklets. It publishes the *Boletín de Adquisiciones* that contains the titles of recent aquisitions and is distributed to other related institutions; and another publication is the *Novedades Bibliotecológicas* that contains the table of contents of periodicals received by the Center.



The library includes modern specialized equipment for processing information such as microcomputers, CD'Rom, microfiche and microfilm readers, etc. The users of the library are researchers from the Center as well as professors and librarians from other institutions.

#### COMPUTING

Included in this field is the latest technology that has been developed for the study of Library Science and the processing of information. In matters of computer use, the Center offers aid to researchers, specialists, and secretarial personnel, and occasionally other university departments. Included are internal courses for the purpose of training and bringing up to date personnel in this field.

As for the production of works being created by researchers, support is offered in the processing of information, in the design and working out of computerized systems. Other activities that receive support are: the printing of publications, the development and bringing up to date of the data base (INFOBILA), as well as projects requested by the Center's administration, or programs of dissemination by the Center.

#### DISSEMINATION

This activity coordinates and supports different academic projects organized by the Center in order to comply with tasks such as dissemination of Library Sicence Knowledge. It is also in charge of compiling information for the creation of academic reports and evaluations.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

This area carries out our editing program in all its technical aspects, design, printing, distribution, exhibition, and sale of the Center's publications.

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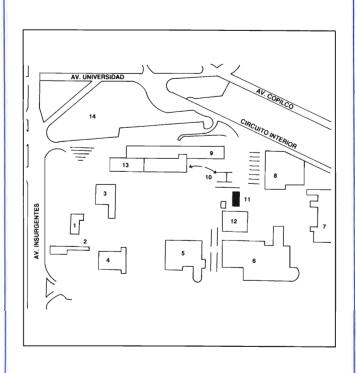
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- 6 Facultad de Química
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- 13 Facultad de Filosofía y Letras
- 14 Facultad de Psicología

## centro universitario de investigaciones bibliotecológicas



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