

# TICVida '05. TO BECOME EUROPEAN DOCUMENTALISTS – A Ibero American Life Sciences Documentation e-Congress.



Hispanic Association of Internet Documentalists (AHDI),  
<http://www.documentalistas.com>



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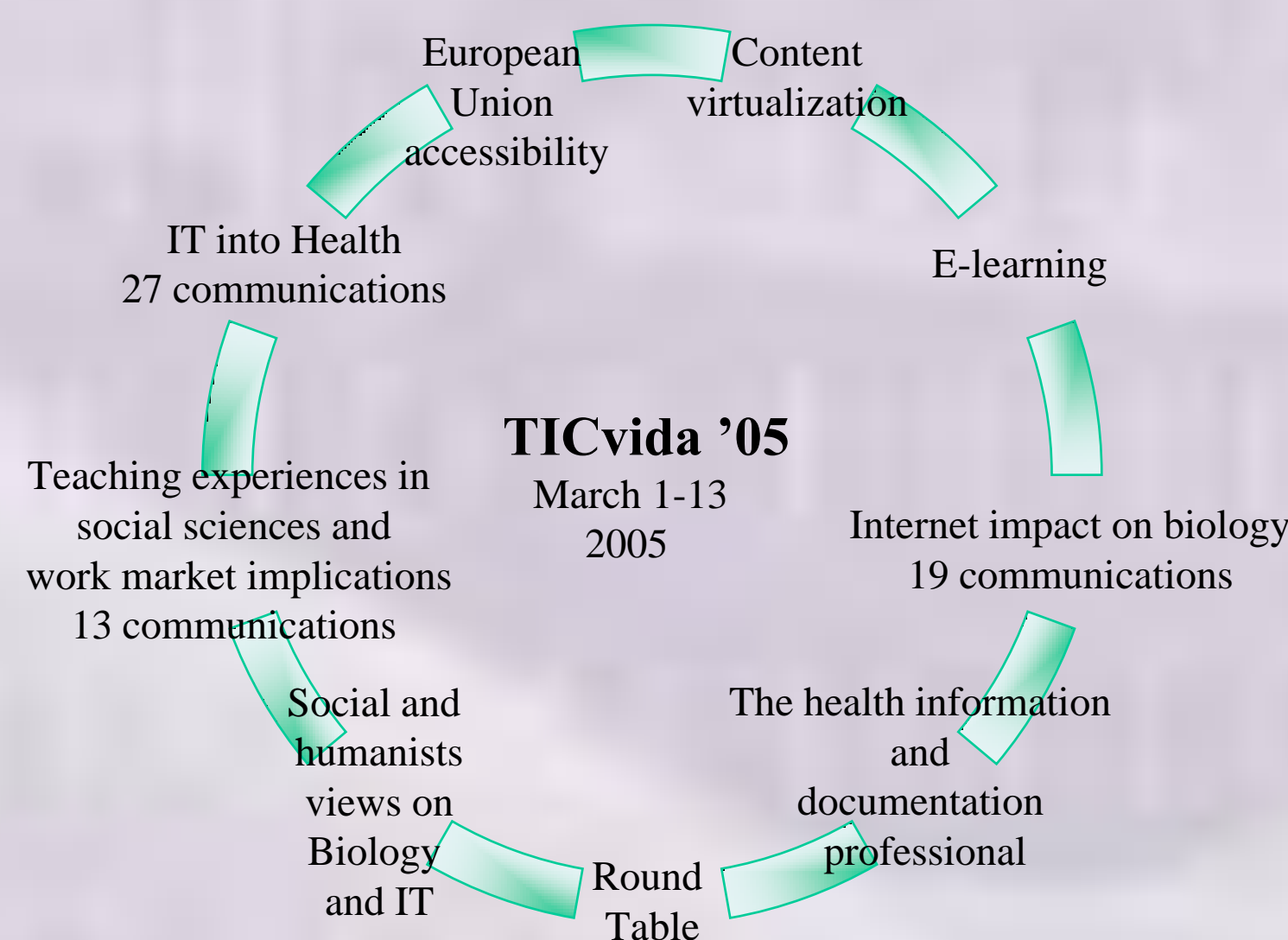


**ABSTRACT:** 19 spanish-speaking American countries formed 60%, Brazil 3%, and Spain 37% of the participants of the March 05 e-congress promoted by the Hispanic Association of Internet Documentalists (AHDI, <http://www.documentalistas.com>). The current development in information technologies targeting life sciences conjugated motivations for collaborative work. The european organisers focused on: gaining access to complementary expertise/results; developing longer term links; sharing costs; establishing or familiarising with standards; gaining expertise of European markets; monitoring competitors' activities. Awareness of American topics and issues raised by the electronic congress was a ceiling on the Europe's documentalists contribution, and to become fully informed resulted into a collective dynamics of opinion.

Three subject themes about public health, biology and social sciences achieved the basic platform for discussion along the five first days. 28 communications, available as compressed files, nourished the public health forum (what resulted in 480 pages of the printed version), 19 communications expressed the biologists interests' (340 paper pages), the selection, appraisal and retention of social science data occupied 13 communications and 241 pages. Five general debates were organised what included medical equipment and IT, internet and biology, the information and documentation professional in health, teaching and labor market in social science, and humanistics views on internet in biology.

A round table was instituted as the switching point between the first and the second part of the event. Hope in the IT market as a social structure was expressed in considering life sciences.

The second part of the e-congress was based on three workshops. The e-congressists were invited to contribute to sessions prepared from the european documentation centre (Alicante, Spain), the Isla de la Cartuja (Seville, Spain) internet firm Sadiel, and from the University of Huelva (Spain). EU policies related with life sciences, e-learning and university contents virtualization showed the evidences allocating this comparative Ibero American analysis all its value.



## Euraslic at the TICVida'2005 Congress.-

After the EUROCEAN 2004 (Galway, Ireland) spanish oceanographers expressed their disappointment because of the restraints to the convergence process with the european oceanography derived from the EU disappearance of a specific european marine science program and the dilution of the spanish marine science program between those of global change, natural resources, environment, etc.

IT used to promote quality assurance in marine science was the central idea on EURASLIC at TICVida 2005. To help counteract library subscription losses and to turn the survival of electronic archives under the point of view of the perpetual access criteria seem to be what can be do to attract the very best from the libraries side. EURASLIC close association with the ASFA database was presented as what will cumulatively establish the quality and reputation of the Association. Assuming editor's responsibility to exercise judgment at the subject gateways in marine science was emphasized as a singular product of our labours. Deliberately open to far-ranging claims EURASLIC could provide a sufficient number of subject editors. Otherwise participants in TICVida'05 were reported on the countries distribution of the Euraslic's libraries, referenced with their web addresses. The publishing activity of Euraslic was shown, a description of the thematic contents of its conferences was facilitated, and the place of Euraslic inside the electronic market and its relationships with UNESCO were also scrutinized.



Anta Cabrerros, Ceferina (España)



Álvarez Rodríguez, Yadira (Cuba)

## The Biology Session.- The American Contribution.

19 communications prepared for the TICVida 2005 event tried to meet the needs of the Ibero-American biology science and technology community. Brazil, Cuba, Peru, Equator, Mexico and Spain contribute to this session. 48 authors present their results in the Biology sector, 18% of them were biologists, 16% were veterinarians, 12% model contents from the meteorology, 10% issued from the information area, 10% were computer engineers, and also biochemists, nutritionists, environmentalists and other were associated to the authorship. The input coming from marine research provided 5 communications.



Guanangui Guamán, Paola Tatiana (Ecuador)



Pastor Ramírez, Mario (Perú)



Nicolás Codarin, Leandro (Argentina)

## European organisers focal points.-

### Gaining access to complementary expertise/results.

The implementation of a derived series of recommendations was a result of the telemetric estimation of 'Heloderma horridum charlesbogerti' population size inside Guatemala (where viable conservation strategies were designed after the radio-telemetric information produced with turtles). Invasive species are detected through GPS devices at the Isabela Island (Galapagos) project. Fishery time savings of around two-three weeks are estimated when traditional dock count systems are replaced by online catch estimations available at anytime.

### Developing longer term links.

The need to consider the long-term consequences of alternative basic philosophies was examined. The clinic application of the sonar, the background of nowadays medical scanner, had an initial phase 1947-1962 that presupposed the exemption of the work with animals at the laboratory. Individualized and best qualified training sessions were offered by InterNiche through the virtual substitution of animals by specific designs. The "alternatives" to the harmful animal use through the computer simulation software present an important potential of support to the educative practice.

### Sharing costs.

The participants regarded their place at an european e-congress platform as economically affordable, and expressed their experiences in free of registration costs virtuality like the Ibero-American aquaculture three editions e-congresses organized by the Ichthyopatolgy Laboratory, University of Zaragoza, <http://www.ichthyopatologia.com>. The information ownership difficulties attached to sharing costs policies on the part of the originators was advanced. In the realm of the absence of opportunities to publish Open Access was thus illustrated.

### Establishing or familiarising with standards.

The after-the-decision exchange of ideas is a primary deficiency in presence of the lack of executive attention. Thus the health and vigor of the biomedical expertises is more affected by "management" and not by "knowledge" deficiencies. The equatorian "Concepto Azul" (<http://www.uees.edu.ec/bio/hm/azul.htm>) received a particularly notable consideration.

### Gaining expertise to European markets.

A profound understanding of the chemical substances involved into the nutritional processes is required to conjecture the evolution of the related legislative information. A collaboration between bromatologists and dietetics experts from Uruguay and Spain presented a web tool (<http://www.uees.edu.ec/bio/hm/azul.htm>) linking food and spanish and european legislation. An exemple considering the saccharin identity and purity was designed to put out an exemple of an optimal search strategy using the proposed web.

### To monitor competitors' activities.

To give an idea of the grounds on which competitors answer the new educative needs an usual tool is the web visits' counter. The online UNAM Biochemistry and Molecular Biology service, from Mexico (<http://bq.unam.mx/~evazquez/>), links its existence as sole spanish-speaking electrofic instrument in its speciality to its popularity as a 16000 times accessed web site in its first year. A parasitology interactive guide elaborated at the Complutense university is authorial from its inception, after the engagement into more competitive schemes, the editors assumes the digitalization of the parasitological preparations.

Taking into account that 70% of the papers were written in Spain, the participation of american countries were focused on National Parks computer monitoring, meteorology centers knowledge management and online available reference books. On National Parks a Brazilian contributor states a model for ontological engineering related with mammals, birds, herpetology, and invertebrates and plants at the Parque Estadual do Cantão ([http://www.plan.gov.br/dma/areas\\_protegidas/area\\_protegida\\_informacoes\\_uc.htm](http://www.plan.gov.br/dma/areas_protegidas/area_protegida_informacoes_uc.htm)). The other National Park studied was the Ecuatorian Marine Reserve associated to the Galapagos Island. Three technical offices, each one in a different island (Isabela, San Cristóbal and Floreana), work in a WAN (Wide Area Network) architecture with the Central Office of the Park (at the Santa Cruz Island) where the applications and databases are installed inside the main servers of the Park Direction. Inspired by the 'The Cathedral & the Bazaar' (Raymon, 2001 February) philosophy the computer system promotes the participation of the community of users as co-developers of the applications. The Fisheries record management (fisherman data, ships, fisheries works, etc.) was the initial aim of the project. But relevant data from two other sources are also collected: Tourism (personal cards for the tourism guides are available through the network, tourism guides, ships, routes control, visitors record), and Natural Resource protection (animals, plants, and resources exploitation). The applications were first employed on October 2003. Open source software has been used (Apache, PHP and MySQL). The web page user interfaces were designed with the script language PHP, they are managed with an Apache web server, and for the management and administration of the data a MySQL database was used.

A Caribbean meteorological Centre (Cienfuegos, Cuba, <http://www.cienfuegos.cu/Paginas/cmpcf/meteoro/general/index.htm>) web page was described. The communication included an explanation of the intranet tool. Designed with Microsoft Access it comprises the library database of the centre. The same centre was the subject of a case study scrutinized both from the University of Cienfuegos and from the Provincial Delegation of the Science, Technology and Environment Ministry (CITMA). A proposal based on the methods Delphi and SAATY was advanced for the improvement of the knowledge management at the Centre.

## Biblio-informatics at the Congress.-

The will to avoid charges derived from intellectual property rights conducts to the use of open-source software. So the use of free code, as unskilled as it can be at first, looks as a culture technology of low costs, as less value can be added now than was possible in times pasts. Contributors believe that self-publishing practices find ways to add other kind of values like synchronicity when working at the same document from diverse workstations or networks. Otherwise the difficulty of acquiring the skills and equipment necessary to produce biblio-informatics e-tools are less with open source software now. It keeps some information officers in the knowledge business and others out of it, a pure product fugacity.

A highly specific marketing open-source platform, TikiWiki, was emphasized because of its leading coverage in terms of online synchronic work possibilities (its product is the 'Wikipedia' whose administrators entitle the name of 'librarians'). PHP-Nuke was the other programming tool involved. Its lay out is very attractive and the reader can rely on spanish language developing. Truzone, <http://www.truzone.com>, is designed for a nuke solving the informative needs of the health sector. It bases its usability on final utilizators like medical doctors and the hospital community. The critical choice of which scholarly outlet was best suited to an article's subject matter result into the migration to the MySQL (Structured Query Language) in the case of the 1997 born aquaculture e-journal AquTIC (<http://www.aquatric.com>), University of Zaragoza. Although the three times employed e-congress platform in aquaculture CIVA (<http://www.civa.com>), has another experience with SQL. Initially it was programed as a web page using ASP (Active Server Pages), global variables (collected inside a file global.asa), CSS Style Sheets (Cascading Style Sheets) and an access menu programed with Macromedia Flash. But limitations derived from neckbotles constrained to 20 users the access to the platform. So the Microsoft Windows 2000 professional server first employed was abandoned and the laboratory of ichthyopatolgy migrated to a commercial server without a top in the limit of users, and also with the appliance of ASP Mail, a system that greatly simplifies the personalized e-mails posted by the contributors. A third edition was necessary because of saturation problems with Microsoft Access. The new adopted MySQL, although it is not able to support nested consults, it discriminates between technical and scientific communications that fit different evaluation criteria.

The e-congress participants enjoyed by knowing and been involved with the keyplayers, ie the electronic platform available at TICVida 2005 integrates an utility designed to download the communications (offered as files in pdf format for printing) and it gives special attention to a facility for pooling e-mail addresses and other professional data between the contributors. It was encouraging to see that the organisers maintained an usage statistics measuring the defacto downloading performed for each contribution. To increase participation and to support the sharing of commentaries between potential partners an information space was reserved beneath each contribution intended to obtain the opinions from the participant readers. The contributors countries flag's were appended to their professional information.

TICVida was supported by red.es, the spanish governmental organism for the scientific and academic information technology network (redIRIS), by the savings bank Caja Madrid, and by the University of Vic (a private entity). Between the last well known ciberconferences dedicated to the Information Technology supported communication, coming from the Ibero-American countries, are the Online Congress for the Observatory of the Cybersociety (2nd edition 2004, <http://www.observatorio.org>) and the Ibero-American Communication Biennial (5th ed. 2005 Sept., <http://www.biennial.comunicacion.org>). Also, supported by the University of Valencia (<http://www.valencia.comunicacion.org>), a next 2006 e-conference will consider the European and American web based information services.