

Audiovisual funds preservation and dissemination in state archives of Spain: An example of collaborating and using digital tools: "Spanish dances in Google Earth"

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The preservation of audiovisual materials has become a challenge for the Archives, because not all repositories are capable of hosting these funds properly. Besides, keeping them safe is not enough for archivists and researchers, as access and dissemination are part of the Archives functions. People usually cannot accede to these visual documents for two reasons: - Audiovisual funds are very fragile and need special preservation conditions. - Very few Archives own projectors to watch this kind of material. In spite of these problems, nowadays new technologies provide tools that enable the digital distribution of these funds, as we try to demonstrate with this example, "Spanish Dances in Google Earth", developed under supporting of the State Archives of Spain. Spanish Archives Portal (PARES) is the digital tool provided by the State Archives of Spain, in order to disseminate the content of Spanish Archives and provide a framework for dissemination of digital objects (those which are being digitised in different Archives). The project "Spanish Dances in Google Earth" is an example of preservation of audiovisual funds, dissemination and use of digital tools which can be summarized in these points: 1. Audiovisual funds kept in the General Administration Archives (one of the State Archives of Spain), several popular Spanish dances filmed in 35mm film, between 1956 and 1976, were sent for their preservation to the Spanish Film Archives (Filmoteca Nacional), unit belonging to the Institute of Films and Audiovisual Arts (ICAA), an autonomous body under the Spanish Ministry of Culture. This transfer was made using a deposit agreement. 2. The Spanish Film Archives provided a copy on DVD, which has been used for archivists and researchers. 3. Technical staff of the General Administration Archives has developed a project which allows the display of these dances through Google Earth, placing them in the corresponding geographic locations. 4. This tool will be accessible through PARES, which supports already another example of archival use of Google Earth: "Spanish Monumental Catalogue", which shows more than three thousands of historical photographs from different parts of Spain. Conclusions: - Collaboration between institutions has allowed the preservation of funds. - Previous works have served as an experience to develop new projects. - The Spanish Archives Portal (PARES) offers wide dissemination to all this projects.