Forum: Spanish Online Resources for Spanish and Latin American History

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Forum
Spanish Online Resources for Spanish and Latin American History
Roger L. Martínez-Dávila

Introduction

This article discusses how to maximize scholars’ use of Spanish online sources for Spanish and Latin American history. Initially discussed are six essential considerations for digital investigations, which are intended to enhance researchers’ efforts to locate digital resources. Subsequently, two abbreviated research cases studies are examined. The first case relates to the peculiarities of utilizing the Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte (MECD)’s Portal de Archivos Españoles, the primary web portal to Spain’s national archives. The second pertains to using digitized manuscripts made available through collaborative local and scholar research projects such as the Revealing Cooperation and Conflict Project (RCCP). Last, this article presents a discussion of the most important web-based Spanish sources (archives, libraries, museums and finding aids) for Spanish and Latin American history. Multiple Internet hyperlinks are included in the list of online digital repositories of documentary evidence and material culture.

The mid-2010s are a challenging period to investigate digital collections precisely because they exist as patchwork of emerging collections that are incompletely indexed, and thus it is difficult to appreciate their significance. Diligent researchers who employ a robust search methodology have significant opportunities to locate and reveal highly dispersed and fragmentary histories. For the purposes of offering tangible examples for those wishing to use this method, this author offers his own expertise pertaining to the creation of the Carvajal-Santa María family confederation, an extended clan of conversos (Jewish converts to Christianity). The clan, which hailed from the Spanish community of Plasencia, Spain, staffed the Roman Catholic Church and
Six Essential Considerations for Digital Investigations

The researcher should:

1. Understand how the topic or theme of investigation might be represented in documentary evidence and material culture.
2. Learn how documents are accumulated into collections and subsequently gathered and organized by state and private institutions.
3. Conduct an exhaustive electronic investigation of the institution’s Internet presence, as well as those of its partner organizations and patrons.
4. Understand how the institution possessing the documents has made its documents and material culture available in digital formats—not all of which may be accessible via Internet websites.
5. Understand that digital archival indexes and catalogs are not comprehensively “relational”—that is, at times indexes and individual records are not directly interconnected when using online search tools.
6. Encourage institutions to make their resources digitally available by offering assistance to them. This approach is unorthodox but an essential scholarly responsibility.

When a researcher reflects on their area of research, it is important that they consider how historical events, personages, and ideas were recorded and preserved. For example, how did early modern families preserve the memory of their predecessors as well as themselves? During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, Spanish and colonial Spanish Americans used documents such as dowry letters (cartas de dote), testaments and codicils (testamentos y codicilos), and church memorial foundations (capellanías), as well as physical structures such as church sepulchers and chapels and family homes (casas solares). In more elite cases, family memory was preserved in physical structures created for the public good, including monasteries, convents, hospitals, and even bridges and city gates. Last, this may include material culture such as family-commissioned artwork (paintings and portraits for private, church, and public use) and religious artifacts like monstrances, censers, and ecclesiastical attire. Thus, it is imperative that one activates as many of their human senses—visual, auditory, somatic, olfactory,

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1 My comprehensive work is presented in my forthcoming text, Reconciling Blood and Faith: Creating the Converso Carvajal-Santa María Family in Early Modern Spain, to be published by the University of Notre Dame Press.
and even gustatory—when considering the range of evidence that may be still preserved.

With an appreciation of the scope of available historical evidence, the researcher should next focus on those organizations that may continue to hold, have received, or may receive these items. Naturally, historians will instantaneously think of public and private libraries, archives, and museums, but these are only the initial consideration for a robust search. Exploring the example of early modern trans-Atlantic families, the researcher will gravitate to those institutions that preserve historical memory. For example, elite and minor family records can be found in noble family document collections in Spain’s Sección Nobleza del Archivo Histórico Nacional (Toledo), immigration- and nobility-related records in the Archivo General de Indias (Sevilla), family legal battles recorded in cases in the Archivo de Real Chancillería de Valladolid, genealogical studies and family documents in the Colección Salazar y Castro at the Biblioteca de la Real Academia de Historia (Madrid), notary records in most provincial Spanish archives, life-event records (birth, confirmation, marriage, death) and memorials in diocesan and cathedral archives, and property sales records in municipal archives. Remarkably, many national, provincial, and local institutions have portions of their documentary collections (finding aids, catalogs, and some documents) online.

However, scholars cannot limit themselves to these traditional holders of documents. Inventories and imagery of artifacts, material objects, paintings, and textiles are also held and shared via the Internet by national museums, such as the Museo Arqueológico Nacional (Madrid), as well as provincial, church, association (agricultural, trade, cultural, regulatory, etc.), and local organizations and museums. Although it might seem an unlikely reference, Google Maps with its map, terrain, and street views can be used to conduct meaningful geographic research on buildings, public spaces, and public works. For example, the fifteenth century Puente del Cardinal (Bridge of the Cardinal) constructed by Cardinal Juan de Carvajal and the Cathedral of Plasencia over the Tajo River can still be viewed in the present day Parque Nacional de Monfragüe using Google Maps. Central to this approach is a readiness to investigate corollary pathways—or sideway searches—to locate historical evidence in traditional and nontraditional organizations and websites.

The third consideration is where most researchers often begin their investigations: searching for digital collections held by archives
and libraries. Although it is a direct and effective method, it is neither exhaustive nor conclusive in terms of locating digital collections, precisely because this tactic fails to anticipate what types of historical evidence were generated and where these items now reside. For example, searching for familial and clan history for a Spanish community with trans-Atlantic relations might fall short if one were only to consider investigating church institutions. However, private organizations such as Fundación Cajacírculo have collaborated with the Catedral de Burgos to make a catalog of its document collection for the Archivo Histórico de la Catedral de Burgos available for Internet use. Similarly, the RCCP hosts the Deciphering Secrets: Unlocking the Manuscripts of Medieval Spain website, which not only supports the transcription of manuscripts but also makes available portions of church record books known as the Actas Capitulares for the Archivo de la Catedral de Plasencia and municipal records for the Ayuntamiento de Plasencia. Thus, it is important to appreciate the patron and partner institutions that might host digital search tools and collections for primary owners of documents and artifacts.

With the fourth consideration—how institutions have made their documents and material culture available—although many local and church institutions have digitally photographed portions of their collections, they exist only on CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, and hard drives. If a scholar is investigating early modern families with trans-Atlantic relations, there is a high likelihood that a family genealogist has digitally photographed life-event records (libros de bautismo, libros de matrimonios, etc.), individual testaments, and property records from a local municipal or diocesan archive. In this scholar’s own research experiences in local and provincial archives (Béjar, Burgos, Ciudad Rodrigo, León, Plasencia, Salamanca, Talavera de la Reina, Trujillo, and Zamora), he has encountered innumerable local genealogists who photographed dozens of documents about their families and interrelated ones. The only manner to determine if the records are available in an electronic format from an institution is through a polite inquiry to the archive via postal correspondence, email, or a telephone call. Not only should one inquire about digital images of manuscripts possessed by the archive but also for the names and contact information of local genealogists who have worked in the archive and are known to have taken photographs.

The fifth approach for fruitful electronic searches involves a full appreciation that some archives, libraries, and museums have not linked their online tools (search engines, finding aids, catalogs, etc.) with their
online manuscript and material cultural collections. The specific issue that a researcher must work around is recognizing that online catalogs are often created using relational databases and that these databases are frequently incomplete in terms of their cross-referencing capabilities. Relational databases are collections of data tables that record individual attributes about each manuscript (for example, dates, names, places, events) as well as physical and electronic reference numbers (signaturas) for those same manuscripts. As will be discussed below, the Archivo General de Indias (AGI) is one repository that suffers, in some cases, from incomplete cross-referencing that leads the investigator to believe a manuscript is not digitized and available online when, in fact, it is readily accessible. As a result, one must often use web-accessible archive search tools in systematically repetitive ways.

In the case of a search relating to early modern families, the researcher may first choose to use a library or archive’s online catalog to look for different combinations of surnames, places, dates, and events. Depending on the robustness of the indexing, the researcher can then limit or broaden their queries to make sure they are locating the most appropriate records. From these individual records, the investigator may be able to find an Internet hyperlink to the specific digital document. However, one cannot stop here because the relational databases that reside behind the search tools may report incomplete information and web links to digital documents. The corollary, repetitive strategy is to begin a search in the well-worn but increasingly forgotten approach of browsing a series of specific classes of documents (for example, a complete set of a notary’s ledgers) or subject matter papers (for example, a ten-year collection of international diplomatic correspondence). If the researcher repeatedly finds the object of their search, perhaps an individual person, in a collection of diplomatic correspondence (for example, Volúmenes 3 and 14), they should use the search tool to browse those specific volumes, as well as ones that are adjacent to them (that is, Volúmenes 2, 4, 13, and 15).

The final and sixth consideration requires scholars to encourage institutions to make their resources digitally available by offering to either photograph collections or by giving limited financial assistance to the entity. While larger national and provincial archives already offer some digital reproduction of manuscripts for set fees, many local and minor archives lack specific processes or the necessary equipment to duplicate their manuscripts through electronic means. Offering to pay for the privilege of digitally photographing documents is the minimum a researcher can do in order to greater serve history and colleagues; each
investigator should consider gifting a copy of all their manuscript images to the archive. In each local archive where this researcher was granted this privilege, he has always offered a DVD-ROM copy of all his images. For example, in the case of the Archivo de la Catedral de Plasencia, this researcher was able to deliver an electronic catalog and more than 5,000 images to the institution. Through acts such as these, all scholars can contribute in important ways toward the digital preservation of manuscripts.

An Extended Case Study Demonstrating How to Identify Incompletely Indexed Digital Records

The most useful combination of search tools for Spanish and Latin American history is a Portal de Archivos Españoles (PARES) search of the AGI because of the robustness of the online search engine and the number of digitized records. PARES is the online search catalog for locating many of the items held in the collections of the national archives of Spain. While PARES is not a comprehensive tool, it is an ideal resource to begin one’s search for manuscripts. One specific limitation of PARES’ search capability for the AGI is that the search tool often locates a complete document reference but indicates that a digital copy of the manuscripts is not available. That is, only the original document is available for physical viewing at the AGI or by ordering a reproduction. However, often PARES reports incomplete information and will not initially offer access to digital documents. Thus, investigators may need to modify their search methods to find hidden pathways to electronic copies of documents.

For example, the researcher may be interested in the Mendoza family in colonial Peru or Bolivia during the latter part of the sixteenth century. To start with, visit the PARES website (http://pares.mcu.es/) and click on the “Búsqueda Avanzada” link. To locate potential documents, the researcher decides to perform a search for the term “Mendoza” as well as “Charcas” because there may be documentation pertaining to the Audiencia de Charcas. In the “Fecha” or date fields the investigator can type in the range of “1570” to “1600.” The researcher may also decide to search all items (“Todos los Registros”) available by selecting that option, not just those documents that are reportedly digitized. Last, the researcher decides to limit their search to the AGI by selecting “Archivo General de Indias” from the “Filtro Por Archivo” field. See Figure 1: Searching for “Mendoza” and “Charcas” on PARES.
Subsequently, the investigator clicks “Buscar” and finds that the AGI holds documents in several collections, including Audiencia de Charcas, Audiencia de Lima, Patronato Real, Indiferente General, Casa de la Contratación, Contaduría, Audiencia de Panamá, Mapas y Planos, and Justicia. As the researcher is interested specifically in the Audiencia de Charcas, they should click on it. See Figure 2: Initial Results of Search on PARES.
After PARES refreshes the screen, the investigator will see that it reportedly encountered twenty-three individual records relating to the search. See Figure 3: Final Results of Search on PARES.
Figure 3: Final Results of Search on PARES

The image shows a screenshot of the search results from PARES, with 23 results found. The results are filtered by level inferior, with options to choose different levels. The search was conducted on Mendoza Charcas, in the Archivo General de Indias, for the dates 1570-1600, within the audience of Charcas.
The first item on the list of located items is “Constancia de haberse despachado una cédula para que el presidente y oficiales de Sevilla dejen llevar al licenciado Montealegre, a quien se ha proveído por oidor de la Audiencia de los Charcas, a don Cristóbal de Mendoza, su yerno, llevando éste consigo a su mujer, dando informaciones,” and it is noted under the signatura, “CHARCAS,415,L.1,F.143V(1).” Clicking the link for this document will subsequently bring up the unique descriptive record for the document. At this point, the researcher may believe that the document is not digitized because there is no camera icon (the nomenclature that PARES uses to let one know an electronic document is available). Thus, the researcher may presume—wrongly—that the document is not available for digital viewing. See Figure 4: Individual Record Indicating No Digital Item on PARES.

Figure 4: Individual Record Indicating No Digital Item on PARES
As AGI’s generous staff demonstrated to this author during an onsite research trip during 2011, finding all digitized documents sometimes requires the investigator to perform a second search on PARES. In order to access the electronic copies, they will need to perform a secondary search for the volume of the collection that they wish to review. Returning to the example relating to the Mendoza family in colonial Peru and Bolivia, look closely at the unique descriptive record for the document relating to Cristóbal de Mendoza. The “Código de Referencia” reports “ES.41091.AGI/ 16403.7.723// CHARCAS,415,L.1,F.143V(1).” Determining if the document is in digital format requires a review of the “Signatura Histórico.” In the case of this example, the researcher will see that this reference number is “CHARCAS,415,L.1,F.143V(1).”

Now the researcher should perform a new search on PARES but only for the book (libro), bundle (legajo), or number (numero) that they are seeking to locate. Returning to the PARES’ “Búsqueda Avanzada” link, the investigator now can do a search for only the book, or “CHARCAS,415,L.1.” Again, be sure to limit your search to the AGI by selecting “Archivo General de Indias” from the “Filtro Por Archivo” field. Subsequently, in the “Filtro Por Signatura” field, the researcher should type in “CHARCAS,415,L.1.” (One should be sure not to put any spaces in between letters, commas, and numbers.) Last, click on “Buscar.” See Figure 5: Searching for “CHARCAS,415,L.1” on PARES.
Again, a sub-hyperlink to “Audiencia de Charcas” will appear, which the researcher should select. The next screen will report that there is digital access to the entire book, not just the document the researcher was initially seeking. From this point forward, the investigator can access digitized images either by clicking on title “Registro de oficio y partes para la Audiencia de Charcas” and signatura “CHARCAS,415,L.1” or, more directly, by selecting the camera icon. If the investigator selects the title, they will need to proceed through one additional step and select “Ver imagenes.” See Figure 6: Entire Digital Book Available to View on PARES.
Figure 6: Entire Digital Book Available to View on PARES

The next PARES screen will present all 494 images of the entire book “CHARCAS,415,L.1.” See Figure 7: Digital Version of “CHARCAS,415,L.1” on PARES.
To locate the initial record the researcher was seeking, again they should return to their first search results and find the “Código de Referencia” that reports “ES.41091.AGI/16403.7.723//CHARCAS,415.L.1,F.143V(1).” With this discrete information, the investigator knows that they should browse through the images using the “Elegir de la lista” field to select “F.143v,” or folio 143 verso, to locate their specific document. Clicking directly on the document image will automatically zoom the document for easier viewing. See Figure 8: Digital Version of “CHARCAS,415,L.1,F.143V(1)” on PARES.
As a rule of thumb, it appears that almost all libros are digitized, while other resources are still only available on paper and vellum. Additionally, it appears that some other resources, such as “numeros” in “Indiferente,” are available in digital form, so it is worthwhile to use this same search technique for other signaturas.

While this author cannot verify that all libros are digital, a few examples of those that can be viewed online include:

- Audiencia de Charcas—all libros, such as “CHARCAS,415,L.1”
- Audiencia de Mexico—all libros, such as “MEXICO,1088,L.1”
- Audiencia de Lima—all libros, such as “LIMA,567,L.7”
The RCCP: An Extended Case Study of Scholars and Local Institutions Bringing Collections into the Digital Era

Additionally, scholars should be aware of newly emergent digital collections that are brought to light via collaborative initiatives, such as the RCCP, which involves international scholars and Spanish institutions. For example, the Ayuntamiento de Plasencia, Diócesis de Plasencia, Centro Sefarad Israel (Madrid), MECD, and ten universities are collaborating to generate transcriptions of cathedral and municipal records from the fifteenth through seventeenth centuries for communities such as Plasencia, Spain. This city as well as the province of the Extremadura is particularly important to Latin American history as key royal bureaucratic and church leaders who shaped American policy hailed from the region. Similarly, large numbers of Spanish American conquistador, explorer, and settler families came from this region and created a two-way trans-Atlantic bridge of peoples and documents during the colonial era.

Crucial to the RCCP’s efforts to understand Spanish and trans-Atlantic relationships are its use of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and crowdsourcing of municipal and church manuscripts pertaining to Plasencia. During summer 2014, RCCP delivered the first of its kind MOOC that integrated online education with crowdsourced transcription of manuscripts for research purposes. In this Deciphering Secrets MOOC, students studied the history of medieval Spain and learned how to perform paleography. This 12-week English-language course attracted 10,600-plus students from 143 nations. More importantly, students worked as Global Citizen Scholars who transcribed most of the 600-plus page Libro I of the Actas Capitulares del Cabildo de la Catedral de Plasencia in less than three weeks. RCCP’s transcribers created reliable transcriptions, and approximately 1,000 of these Scholars have registered to continue working with RCCP at its transcription website, http://decipheringsecrets.net, which launched in February 2015.
Now, while some Hispanists may not study trans-Atlantic relationships, many others do, and they are accustomed to investigating those primary sources held in historically important communities such as Sevilla. While the role of Sevilla is well understood in terms of the relationship between Spain and the Americas, less is known about the important role of Plasencia in the shaping of early Spanish colonial history. For example, in 1472, two of Plasencia’s native sons—Cardinal Bernardino López de Carvajal and Dr. Lorenzo Galindez de Carvajal—made their first appearances in the Spanish American world. In this year, Bernardino completed his bachelor’s degree in theology and began to serve as an adjunct professor at the university at the Cathedral of Salamanca. 2 In that same year, Archdeacon Diego de Carvajal fathered and Juana de Galindez gave birth to Lorenzo. Although Lorenzo was born out of wedlock, he later ascended to the highly desirable position of judge on the Royal Chancellery of Valladolid (Real Chancilleria de Valladolid) and was the first correo mayor of the Consejo de Indias. 3 During the 1480s and 1490s, these two men circulated within Spain’s principal royal administrative and ecclesiastical circles. Dr. Lorenzo Galindez would help define early Spanish American policies and promote the placement of his own family into key exploration and conquest roles in the Americas. 4

At the papal court of Pope Alexander VI, Bernardino was one of the critical Spanish leaders who secured the pope’s blessing of the Spanish encounter with the Americas. On May 3 and 4 of 1493, Bernardino and other Spanish officials at the papal court obtained the Inter Caetera bull from Pope Alexander VI, as well as two other bulls that granted Spain the authority to “certain lands” not possessed by Christians. 5 Specifically, the May 3rd Inter Caetera communicated the pope’s recognition and approval of Spain’s discoveries and economic interests in the New World, although it also included stipulations. It required Spain to teach Christianity to the lands’ inhabitants, as well as

2 Biblioteca de la Real Academia de Historia (BRAH) Colección Pellicer, tomo 9/4070, fol. 134; Archivo Histórico de la Universidad de Salamanca Libro de Claustro 1, fol. 253; Florencio Marcos Rodríguez, Extractos de los Libros de Claustros de la Universidad de Salamanca, Siglo XV (1463–1484), tomo VI, num. 3 (Salamanca: Graficas Alfer, 1964), 182.
3 BRAH Colección Floranes, tomo B-16, fols. 257–258; BRAH Colección Salazar y Castro, C-20, fol. 214
5 Archivo General de Indias (AGI) Patronato, legajo 1, num. 3, R. 2.
After further lobbying on the part of the Spanish ambassadors to Rome, a superseding May 4th Inter Caetera enhanced and distinguished the rights and privileges of Spain vis-à-vis Portugal. With this additional papal authorization, Spain secured all lands west of the Azores and Cape Verde islands, and Portugal captured all lands to the east of these islands. This Spanish-Portuguese demarcation, depicted in Alberto Cantino’s world map of 1502, granted Spain all of North America, Central America, the Caribbean, and most of South America. By the early sixteenth century, the Placentino Carvajals’ power and influence over the Americas grew. These included Juan Suarez de Carvajal, the future bishop of Lugo and member of the Consejo de Indias, and Gutierre Vargas de Carvajal, the future bishop of Plasencia and a sponsor of Spanish expeditions to the Americas. Therefore, what may initially appear to be irrelevant Spanish personages are in fact significant connections to the Americas. In this manner, local archival collections in Spain offer a potential bonanza of untapped primary sources for historical studies.

Returning to the research activities of the RCCP and its focus on making unknown local manuscripts available on the Internet, it may be helpful for some historians of Spain and Latin America to review the Deciphering Secrets website. This Internet source includes digital copies of manuscripts for the early sixteenth century pertaining to Plasencia, Spain, a hub for Spanish efforts relating to the impact and entry of Spanish peninsulares into the Americas. For example, digitized copies of the Actas Capitulares del Ayuntamiento del Plasencia (1522–1526) are made available on the website. The Actas Capitulares are the day-to-day business transactional records of the city council of Plasencia and relay not only information about city council affairs and acts, but also broader activities pertaining to the Americas. For example, in 1522, Dr. Lorenzo Galindez and his cousin, Pizzaro-era conquistador Francisco de Carvajal, also known as the “el demonio de los Andes,” make an appearance in the Actas Capitulares when they report to their

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Placentino colleagues about affairs of the royal court. Therefore, scholars of early Spanish America relations can substantially benefit from local municipal and church records that relate to the Spanish origins of these modelers of Latin America. (In the appendix of this article, additional online sources for local and municipal records are notated.)

Conclusions on the Future of Digital Collections

The process of digitization is increasing at a rapid pace, and each year historians will enjoy more access to electronic images of manuscripts and material culture. However, what will remain problematic are incomplete collections that suffer from idiosyncratic and variable indexing. Therefore, researchers will need to be hyper-vigilant and avoid complacency by pursuing multiple avenues to locate primary sources for Spanish and Latin American history. Because digitization of Spanish online sources history is in its infancy, almost no printed resources discuss it. Precisely because of its rapid evolution, the most beneficial elements of the informal literature are the “about” and “history” sections of archive, museums, and libraries’ websites.

Further Reading


Ministerio de Educación, Cultura, y Deporte. Archivos Estatales.


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8 Archivo Municipal de Plasencia (AMP) Actas Capitulares del Ayuntamiento del Plasencia (1522–1526), fols. 24-29.
Internet-Based Spanish Primary Sources

Primary National Digital Collections

As of 2015, the three most important digital collections for historians of Spain and Latin America are

1. Gobierno de España Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte PARES
2. Gobierno de España Biblioteca Nacional de España’s Biblioteca Digital Hispánica

These three collections offer a bounty of primary resources (manuscripts, works of art, maps, and drawings) that chronicle the trans-Atlantic relationship between the Iberian Peninsula and the Americas. In the subsequent discussion, this article outlines the contents of these collections, their organization and presentation in digital formats, and the search tools available for utilizing them. Additional information on these materials can be found in the “Links to Digital Materials” section of this article.

Portal de Archivos Españoles and Archivo General de Indias

PARES is a project of the Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte, which was created for the protection and diffusion of the national historic patrimony of documents held by the Spanish government. It was conceptualized as an open and dynamic project of public and private archives, and is an open access and free resource that links to documents that have been digitized by the national archives. PARES is often conceptualized as simply a document search engine to access those manuscripts and books that have been digitized by the primary national institutions, including the Archivo de la Corona de Aragón, Archivo de la Real Chancillería de Valladolid, Archivo General de Simancas, Archivo General de Indias, Archivo Histórico Nacional, Sección Nobleza del Archivo Histórico Nacional, Archivo General de la Administración, Centro Documental de la Memoria Histórica, and Centro de Información Documental de Archivos.

However, PARES is significantly more than a catalog providing access to digital collections. In the truest sense it is a map and portal to other national, provincial, local, ecclesiastical, and private collections. Accessible through its web gateway, titled “Enlaces de Interés,” researchers can find the Censo-Guía de Archivos (Census-Guide of Archives) that offers a digital tool to search for primary sources via three distinct approaches: (1) a search of the archives directory, (2) a
search for the original collection of materials, and (3) a search of organizations that created materials.

Using PARES, investigators can access the electronic catalog, as well as many digitized documents that are held by the AGI. Founded in 1785 by the order of King Carlos III, the AGI is the most important national collection for studies of Spanish America.\(^\text{10}\) Its 43,000 legajos include approximately 80 million pages of documents which were previously scattered across multiple institutions in Simancas, Cádiz, and Sevilla.\(^\text{11}\) AGI’s inclusive dates are roughly 1492 until 1830.\(^\text{12}\)

_Biblioteca Nacional de España and Biblioteca Digital Hispánica_

The Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) is the national library, and, as such, it theoretically preserves a copy of every text published in Spain, as well as “holds an extremely valuable collection of incunabula, manuscripts, illustrations, drawings, photographs, audio recordings, musical scores, etc.”\(^\text{13}\) Within the BNE is the Biblioteca Digital Hispánica (BDH), a web portal that allows users to investigate the institution’s electronic collections, which include access to over 25 million pages from books, engravings, ephemera, maps, manuscripts, newspapers, photographs, and other items.\(^\text{14}\) Much like other digitization efforts across Spain, the creation of the digital collection was supported by the private foundation efforts of Vive Telefónica.

The BDH is best utilized as a finding aid and search tool for the BNE’s digital collections. Hispanists and Latin Americanists will find several collections of particular benefit. Although not exclusively American, the music catalog (“Listas de reproducción de sonoros”) includes fully documented musical playlists for a full range of artistic forms. The “Atlas y material cartográfico” is especially rich with relevant Spanish American maps and cartographic content that ranges from 1424 to 2014. The largest section of this collection is for the period 1761 to 1845.\(^\text{15}\) Separately organized are nautical charts (“Cartas

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\(^\text{10}\) Ibid.
\(^\text{11}\) Ibid.
\(^\text{12}\) Ibid.
náuticas”) that are most comprehensive for the period 1758 to 1808.\textsuperscript{16} The “Hispanoamerica” collection is quite robust, featuring over 6,000 items. However, do not solely review this area because it will lead the researcher to believe the BDH only owns books and manuscripts, as opposed to other materials, that pertain to Latin America. Last, the “Independencia Americana” includes access to approximately 700 texts.

\textit{Biblioteca de la Real Academia de la Historia}

Perhaps lesser known to Americanists is the collection of Biblioteca de la Real Academia de la Historia (BRAH), which was founded in 1736 and includes over 380,000 volumes of texts, manuscripts, and transcriptions of manuscripts for Spain and Hispanic America.\textsuperscript{17} The most significant physical collections for the Americas are the Colección Luis Salazar y Castro (CLSC), which includes extensive documentation regarding Spanish and Spanish American families from the late Middle Ages through the twentieth centuries, and the Colección Juan Bautista Muñoz (CJBM), which King Carlos III commissioned to preserve the history of Spanish America. Unfortunately, only the CLSC is searchable online, whereas a partial catalog for CJBM is only available in the publication, \textit{Catalogo de la Coleccion de Juan Bautista Munoz: Documentos Interesantes Para la Historia de America}. In fact, Juan Bautista was the founder of the modern AGI in Sevilla.

The CLSC is searchable using the web-based index known as \textit{dokuklik: Índice de la Colección Salazar y Castro}, which is hosted by the Gobierno Vasco’s Departamento de Educación, Política Lingüística y Cultura. The search engine allows for Boolean text searches with the option of using date ranges, which subsequently reports items with abbreviated descriptions and exact references to specific volumes and folio numbers. Researchers can subsequently order and receive digital reproductions from BRAH by emailing a request using a “Solicitud de Reproducción de Fondos” form. Although the CJBM is not searchable online, the references provided for documents in the \textit{Catalogo de la Coleccion de Juan Bautista Munoz: Documentos Interesantes Para la Historia de America} are sufficiently reliable that a researcher can use the same “Solicitud de Reproducción de Fondos” form to solicit electronic copies from BRAH.

Smaller collections, which are not online but relate to the Americas are the Aguirre (pertaining to the demarcation of the

\textsuperscript{16} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{17} “Biblioteca,” BRAH, \url{http://www.rah.es/biblioteca.htm} (accessed February 18, 2015).
Americas), Alba Delibes (Brazil and Philippines), America, Bucarelli y Ursua (Mexico), Caballero y Fernandez de Rodas (Cuba), Calderon Collantes (Mexico and Africa), Cartagena (Venezuela and Colombia), Diplomática de España, Fernandez Duro (Cuba), Isturiz (Cuba and Santa Domingo), Jesuitas, Mata Linares (Chile, Peru, Argentina), Memorias de Nueva España o Boturini (Mexico), Moreno Sanchez (ecclesiastical heraldry), Mutis (Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Venezuela), Papeles Sobre America, Pellicer, Ruiz de Apodaca (Mexico), Ruiz Mantilla (Colon family), Serrano y Dominguez (Cuba), and Zobel de Sangroniz (Philippines).

**Other Valuable National Digital Collections**

Unlike the well-known AGI and PARES, other incredibly valuable digital historical resources for the Americas can be found in a variety of national, provincial, private, church, and local institutions. Those of most benefit to all scholars of the Americas are listed below. (The “Links to Digital Materials” section of this article offers current Internet hyperlinks to these institutions as well as lesser-known digital collections.)

*Digital de Colecciones de Museos de España*

Over eighty Spanish museums’ collections can also be accessed online via CER.ES (Colecciones en Red), which includes over 215,000 cultural works and more than 371,000 images. Of keen interest to Hispanists is CER.ES’ online catalog of the collection of the Museo de América (Madrid), Museo Nacional de Cerámica y Artes Suntuarias González Martí, Museo Nacional de Escultura, Museo Massó (a collection pertaining to mariners), and Museo Sefardi (Spanish Jews). The value of this online search tool is revealed by a general search for museum holdings related to “America”; the search produces an inventory of over 26,000 items.

Within CER.ES, one should be sure to search the Museo Arqueológico Nacional’s (MAN’s) collection, which was founded in 1895 and recently underwent a comprehensive renovation (2008–2013) with an intensive focus on digital representations of historical artifacts. Along with this transformation was the introduction of new

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online finding aids (via CER.ES) that include the ability to search through 2,200 Iberoamerican numismatic pieces. Although not thought of as a library, MAN also holds 120,000 text volumes and includes a photographic collection.\(^{20}\)

* Museo Nacional del Prado and the Prado’s Banco de Imágenes

Founded in 1785 by an official act of King Carlos III, the Prado first opened to the public in 1819 as the Real Museo de Pinturas y Escultura with approximately 311 paintings.\(^{21}\) Presently, the collection includes approximately 7,600 paintings, 1,000 sculptures, 4,800 prints, and 8,200 drawings. The web-accessible gallery provides imagery and documentation for over 8,000 elements of the collection. Scholars can also request reproductions and official permissions to reprint these images via the Prado’s Banco de Imágenes. The Prado’s digitization efforts have also benefited, as does the BNE, from the backing of Vive Telefónica.

**Internet Links to Digital Materials**

Please note that Internet hyperlink addresses may have changed from the time of publication of this article. If a researcher encounters an address that is no longer functional, it is recommended that they conduct a Google search for the following titles and names of resources to locate the most up-to-date hyperlink. Alternatively, always search for the primary entity that is the digital publisher of the resource—for example, the Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte—and use its online institutional index or search tool to locate the current address.

**National Level Sources**

Archivo de la Corona de Aragón

http://www.mecd.gob.es/cultura-mecd/areas-cultura/archivos/mc/archivos/aca/portada.html

Archivo General de la Administración


Archivo General de Indias
http://www.mecd.gob.es/cultura-mecd/areas-cultura/archivos/mc/archivos/aga/portada.html

Archivo General de Simancas
http://www.mecd.gob.es/cultura-mecd/areas-cultura/archivos/mc/archivos/ags/portada.html

Archivo Histórico Nacional
http://www.mecd.gob.es/cultura-mecd/areas-cultura/archivos/mc/archivos/ahn/portada.html

Archivo de la Real Chancillería de Valladolid
http://www.mecd.gob.es/portada-mecd/

Biblioteca de la Real Academia de la Historia
http://www.rah.es/biblioteca.html

Biblioteca de la Real Academia de la Historia: dokuklik: Índice de la Colección Salazar y Castro
http://dokuklik.snae.org/salazar.php

Biblioteca Nacional de España/Biblioteca Digital Hispánica
http://www.bne.es/es/Catalogos/BibliotecaDigitalHispanica/Colecciones/

Censo-Guía de Archivos de Archivos de España e Iberoamérica
http://censoarchivos.mcu.es/CensoGuia/portada.htm

Centro Documental de la Memoria Histórica
http://www.mecd.gob.es/cultura-mecd/areas-cultura/archivos/mc/archivos/cdmh/portada.html

Centro de Información Documental de Archivos
http://www.mecd.gob.es/cultura-mecd/areas-cultura/archivos/mc/centros/cida/portada.html

Digital de Colecciones de Museos de España (CER.ES)
http://ceres.mcu.es/

Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte Archivos Estatales-National Archives
http://es.calameo.com/read/00007533523c486877891
Museo de América  
http://www.mecd.gob.es/museodeamerica/el-museo.html
Museo Arqueológico Nacional—Catálogos temáticos  
Museo Arqueológico Nacional—Colecciones Iberoamericanas de museos españoles  
http://www.man.es/man/coleccion/catalogos-colectivos.html
Museo Massó  
http://museomasso.blogspot.com/
Museo Nacional de Cerámica y Artes Suntuarias González Martí  
http://mnceramica.mcu.es/
Museo Nacional de Escultura  
http://museoescultura.mcu.es/
Museo del Prado Banco de Imágenes  
http://www.bancodeimagenesmuseodelprado.com/index.php
Museo del Prado Galería Online  
https://www.museodelprado.es/coleccion/galeria-on-line/
Museo Sefardi  
http://museosefardi.mcu.es/
Portal de Archivos Españoles  
http://pares.mcu.es/index.html
Sección Nobleza del Archivo Histórico Nacional  
http://www.mecd.gob.es/cultura-mecd/areas-cultura/archivos/mc/archivos/nhn/portada.html

Provincial Archives (a select list, alphabetized by province name)
Archivos de Andalucía  
http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/culturaydeporte/archivos/web_es/ListadoArchivos?id=02cd09d5-57e2-11dd-ba1f-31450f5b9dd5&idContArch=02cd09d5-57e2-11dd-ba1f-31450f5b9dd5&idTipo=02cd09d5-57e2-11dd-ba1f-31450f5b9dd5
Archivo Histórico Provincial de Ávila  
http://www.archivoscastillayleon.jcyl.es/web/jcyl/ArchivosCastillaYLeon/es/Plantilla66y33/1258122340382/
Archivo Histórico Provincial de Burgos
http://www.archivoscastillayleon.jcyl.es/web/jcyl/ArchivosCastillaYLeon/es/Plantilla66y33/1259064196585/_/_/

Archivo Histórico Provincial de Cádiz
http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/culturaydeporte/archivos/ahpcadi

Archivo General de Castilla y León
http://www.archivoscastillayleon.jcyl.es/web/jcyl/ArchivosCastillaYLeon/es/Plantilla66y33/1258122133063/_/_/

Arxius de la Generalitat de Catalunya
http://cultura.gencat.cat/ca/departament/estructura_i_adreces/organismes/dgpc/temes/arxius_i_gestio_documental/arxius_del_sistema/arxius_de_la_generalitat_de_catalunya/

Archivo Histórico Provincial de Ciudad Real
http://ccta.jccm.es/dglab/ArchivosHist?opc=1&idArchivo=2

Archivo Histórico Provincial de Cuenca
http://ccta.jccm.es/dglab/ArchivosHist?opc=1&idArchivo=3

Portal de Archivos Extremadura (Caceres and Badajoz)
http://archivosextremadura.gobex.es/

Archivo Histórico Provincial de Granada
http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/culturaydeporte/archivos/ahpgana

Archivo Histórico Provincial de Huesca
http://www.patrimonioculturaldearagon.es/archivo-historico-provincial-de-huesca

Archivo Histórico Provincial de León
http://www.archivoscastillayleon.jcyl.es/web/jcyl/ArchivosCastillaYLeon/es/Plantilla66y33/1259064329094/_/_/

Archivo Histórico Provincial de Lugo
http://archivosdegalicia.xunta.es/portal/archivo-historico-provincial-de-lugo/content/el-archivo/index.html?lang=es

Archivo General Región de Murcia
http://archivoweb.carm.es/archivoGeneral/arg.inicio

Archivos Generales País Vasco
http://www.paisvasco.notariado.org/?do=archivo
Archivo Histórico Provincial de Las Palmas "Joaquín Blanco"
http://www.gobiernodecanarias.org/ccdpsv/cultura/archivolaspalm
as/index.html

Archivo Histórico Provincial de Salamanca
http://www.archivoscastillayleon.jcyl.es/web/jcyl/ArchivosCastill
aYLeon/es/Plantilla66y33/1259064385717/./._

Archivo Histórico Provincial de Sevilla
http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/culturaydeporte/archivos/ahpsevil
la

Archivo Histórico Provincial de Toledo
http://ccta.jccm.es/dglab/ArchivosHist?opc=1&idArchivo=5

Archivo Histórico Provincial de Zamora
http://www.archivoscastillayleon.jcyl.es/web/jcyl/ArchivosCastill
aYLeon/es/Plantilla66y33/1259064410863/./._

Archivo Histórico Provincial de Zaragoza
http://www.patrimonioculturaldearagon.es/archivo-historico-provincial-de-zaragoza

Local Municipal Archival Collections (a select list, alphabetized by
town name)

Archivo Municipal de Barcelona
http://w110.bcn.cat/portal/site/ArxiuMunicipal?lang=es_ES

Archivo Municipal de Burgos
http://www.aytoburgos.es/archivo/conoce-el-archivo/el-archivo-
municipal/el-archivo-municipal

Archivo Municipal de Cádiz
http://institucional.cadiz.es/area/Archivo%20Hist%C3%B3rico/23
8

Archivo Municipal de Cuenca
http://ayuntamiento.cuenca.es/portal/lang_es/rowid_72104,212
94/tabid_8880/n_ARCHIVO%20MUNICIPAL/default.aspx

Archivo Municipal de Granada
http://www.granada.org/inet/archivomunpal.nsf/wbyclave/inicio

Archivo Municipal de León
http://www.aytoleon.es/es/ayuntamiento/areasmunicipales/patrim
onio/Paginas/ArchivoMunicipal.aspx
Archivo Municipal de Lugo

Archivo Municipal de Madrid
http://www.madrid.es/portal/site/munimadrid/menuitem.f4bb5b953cd0b0aa7d245f019fc08a0c/?vgnextoid=c507ae9b5b010VgnVCM100000d90ca8c0RCRD&vgnextchannel=0c369e242ab26010VgnVCM100000dca8c0RCRD

Archivo Municipal de Plasencia
http://archivo.plasencia.es/

Archivo Municipal de Salamanca
http://www.archivoscastillayleon.jcyl.es/web/jcyl/ArchivosCastillaYLeon/es/Plantilla100Detalle/1262860325506/Institucion/1263825258845/DirectorioPadre

Archivo Municipal de Sevilla
http://archivomunicipaldesevilla.org/hemeroteca/archivo-municipal/

Archivo Municipal de Toledo
http://www.ayto-toledo.org/archivo/archivo.asp

Archivo Municipal de Trujillo
http://www.trujillociudad.com/home/cultura/archivo-municipal

Archivo Histórico Municipal de Valencia

Archivo Municipal de Zamora
http://www.archivoscastillayleon.jcyl.es/web/jcyl/ArchivosCastillaYLeon/es/Plantilla100DetalleFeed/1253861401355/Institucion/1263825313484/DirectorioPadre

Archivo-Biblioteca-Hemeroteca de Zaragoza
http://www.zaragoza.es/ciudad/usic/
Local Cathedral Archival Collections (a select list, alphabetized by cathedral name)

Archivo de la Catedral de Barcelona

Archivo Histórico de la Catedral de Burgos
http://www.cajacirculo.com/AHCB.php

Archivo Histórico Diocesano de Coria-Cáceres
http://www.diocesiscoriaacaceres.es/Organismos/Archivodiocesano.php

Archivo de la Catedral de Granada
http://www.catedraldegranada.com/index.php/archivo

Archivo Histórico Diocesano de la Catedrales de Jaen y Baeza
http://catedraldejaen.org/0000019872107721c/index.php

Archivo de la Catedral de León

Archivo de la Catedral de Lugo
http://www.diocesisdelugo.org/pages/archivo/catedral.htm

Archivo Capitular de Mallorca
http://www.catedraldemallorca.info/principal/es/patrimonio/archivo

Archivo de la Catedral de Murcia
http://ticumarchivocatedralmurciaalbentosa.blogspot.com/

Archivo y la Biblioteca Capitulares de Pamplona
http://www.catedraldepamplona.com/biblioteca/

Archivo de la Catedral de Plasencia
http://www.diocesisplasencia.org/w/?page_id=749

Archivo de la Catedral de Salamanca
http://www.catedralsalamanca.org/datosinteres.htm

Archivo de la Catedral de Santiago
http://www.catedraldesantiago.es/es/archivo-biblioteca

Archivo General del Arzobispado y Archivo de la Catedral de Sevilla
http://www.icolombina.es/institucion/index-informacion.htm
Archivo Capitular de Toledo
http://www.catedralprimada.es/archivo_capitular_toledo/
Archivo de la Catedral de Valencia
http://www.catedraldevalencia.es/archivo.php

Organizations

Fundación Cajacírculo
http://www.cajacirculo.com/
Vive Telefonica
http://vive.telefonica.com/innovacion-y-cultura/?i=digitalizacion-fondos-biblioteca-nacional-de-espana