

Digitization Projects at the Faculty of Letters at Tetouan

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The projects which are presently being carried out at the Faculty of Letters at Tetouan and the Tetouan Asmir Association related to multi media and digitalization include three different types. The first one is a project which consists of making interactive CD Roms on the cultural heritage of Tetouan and other Moroccan medinas of Andalusian origin such as Chauen and Salé. The second type of project consists of cataloguing libraries, both private and public, especially in Tetouan but also in other North Moroccan cities like Chauen, Ksar el Kebir, Tangier and Larache. The third type of project which is being carried out at our faculty, often in collaboration with other entities, and it consists of digitalization of manuscripts and documents in the private libraries of Tetouan. The three types of projects are closely related in the sense that they are all directly related to the promotion of the cultural heritage of our city.

I. The Cultural Heritage CD Roms. The purpose of this project is to promote the history, architecture, culture and arts of the medinas of Morocco, especially those which like Tetouan have been classified as world cultural heritage cities by UNESCO. The project is unique in the sense that it relies on the multi media to promote our cultural heritage relying on texts, commentaries, music, animation, images and incorporated video clips. So far five interactive CD Roms have been produced and distributed. The importance of this project in the field of education is clear, because these CD Roms could be used for teaching courses related to cultural heritage cities, tourism, architecture, etc...

II. Private Library Catalogs: This project is important given the enormous amount of archives, manuscripts, documents of all types available in the private libraries of North Moroccan cities, especially Tetouan which is an important cultural centre. This documentary material was not known and consequently available for researchers until our project began with the objective of producing a digital catalogue of both private and public libraries. The project eventually developed into two, the first is to make a catalog for the private libraries and the second is to make a catalog for all the libraries of the faculties and schools which form part of Abdelmalek Essaadi University at Tetouan and Tangier. The second part of the project is near completion and the first one is on its way.

We have advanced in making special computer programs for these catalogues, but still need to find a way to make them available in the internet.

These catalogs are essential because some of the most important libraries in Morocco have not been catalogued by computer or simply not catalogued.

This project is particularly important to allow researchers to know what kind of material exists in the private and public libraries and this step is necessary for the edition and publication of this material or for its exploitation in digital projects in order to make it accessible for a wider public.

Benadoud Paper submitted for the Digital Library for the Maghreb Workshop
Held in Rabat, Morocco, January 25-27, 2007

III. Several attempts have been made, but not completed, in the field of digitization. These include digital CD Roms of some documents in the private libraries of Tetouan. It includes an attempt to make the catalogs of some private libraries in Tetouan available to a wide public through the internet in collaboration with American research centers in the Mediterranean area. It also includes a project which consists of digitizing published journals which were published during the period of the Protectorate and which have been out of print for many decades, such as the complete collections of journals found in the Mohammad Daoud Library of Tetouan.