

FOREWORD

Over several years, I've had the opportunity to meet, appreciate and thank the exceptional work done by PhD. Federico Hernández Pacheco in the library of the Institute of Legal Research (*Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas*) of the UNAM. In addition to the camaraderie, has grown a pleasant friendship that I appreciate. When he invited me to accompany him in this work, I accepted with pleasure because I knew that it is an exceptional monograph.

Hybrid work schemes and new international scenarios in legal libraries might seem like a text intended only for experts, but the essays that make it up show a great informative and conceptual richness that leads me to congratulate its coordinator, for several reasons. One of them is to bring together two mutually enriching experiences: those of the University of Arizona College of Law and the Institute of Legal Research; another, having convened a cast of people with extensive knowledge in authorial, library science and information science issues, and the third addressing an avant-garde issue.

Researching is a complex task. The methods to carry it out are studied; research about research is made, to know its variants and aspects, and research is carried out for research, that is, to promote its best performance. To this chapter corresponds the work that the reader has in his hands. In legal matters, without library work in the broad sense, the researcher would lack the means to carry out his task. But the usefulness of researching for research has broader effects. A legal collection is essential for the academy, the forum, the judiciary, public and private administrations, organizations, the media and in general for all those interested in legal issues.

Social complexity progressively requires more and better information on the legal phenomenon. Beyond the professional use of law, the political culture of our time includes a basic catalogue of legal concepts without such institutional world would become unintelligible to any citizen. Undoubtedly, the large collections are intended for professional use, but their good organization also makes them accessible to any consultant who seeks to resolve minor doubts or satisfy needs for broad knowledge.

On the other hand, when thinking about contemporary university legal libraries, it is considered that multi, inter and transdisciplinary work is in-

creasing, and that in addition to the usual consultants of law professionals, there tend to be those minorities who cultivate other areas of knowledge. These places additional demands on those who organize and manage existing repertoires.

That is why in our time organizing and making accessible bibliographic, hemerographic and telematic information on doctrine, legislation and jurisprudence is a titanic task. Considering the multiplication of the generating sources of these materials, locating, selecting and systematizing it requires designing and applying new ways of working. The best way to achieve this is through inter-institutional cooperation and, as this work shows, also intercultural cooperation.

The transformation of a neighbourhood that for centuries was uncomfortable, in a form of economic association to produce satisfactions and generating employment, has continued to progress towards a cooperative cultural process of which we are only in an incipient phase. In legal matters, two completely different systems border but which are called to build bridges that allow Anglo-Saxon and continental familiarity. This work is already one of those bridges. As an example, the copyright system is analysed in its national and international dimension, in parallel to the right to information and Internet legislation; the impact of transformation and digital skills on knowledge and its effects are addressed, with possible hybrid scenarios; the operation of libraries in Spain, the United States, Mexico and Puerto Rico is analysed, as illustrated by the cases of the United States libraries of the Federal Courts, of the Universities of Arizona, Florida International, of Puerto Rico, and of the Institute of Legal Research of the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Several of the experiences referred on this book point to the health crisis caused by COVID-19, but in substance they concern a search to find creative responses to the challenges of an unprecedented supply and demand for legal information.

To face this challenge, is required the vision of a professional of the stature of Federico Hernández Pacheco and a group of intelligent collaborators of this book who provide us with an overview of the state of the art in the matter. The new international scenarios for law libraries pose challenges for the experience, imagination and will of librarians. Creative answers are found here, especially on hybrid work schemes, which correspond to an academic world in which times of change have suddenly accelerated and which, therefore, needs intelligent answers like the ones offered here.

I am very grateful to the coordinator of the work for the hospitality for my words, which are nothing more than a recognition of an advanced work, for which I express my congratulations to those who made it possible with their research and to the two great academic institutions of Arizona and Mexico who sponsored it.

Diego VALADÉS
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