SPANISH PRESENT DAY OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS
NOTES ON BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

Indicates the bibliographical sources of Spanish official publications such as monthly classified record of books, copyright lists, serial publications, directory of official agencies. Mentions the lack of overall coordination. Enumerates the publications issued by various government agencies. Traces the importance of government publications and the need for proper bibliographic control.

1 PRESENT POSITION

An attempt in print at a comprehensive statement relating to Spanish official publications appears on pages 179-181 of A study of current bibliographies of national official publications, edited by Jean Meyriat for the International Committee for Social Sciences Documentation and published by UNESCO in Paris at the beginning of 1958 as no. 7 in the UNESCO Bibliographical handbooks series. The following quotations from the statement in free translation from French seem to represent a reasonable impression of the problems involved:

"The reproduction of most official publications is entrusted to various private printing establishments. Certain ministries and agencies ... operate their own printing facilities. Publication and sale of government publications is not centralized. ... Numerous agencies issue lists of their own publications. There is no general bibliography of official publications. ... All publications [not having personal authors] are registered in the general bibliographies under titles as anonymous entries."

JAMES B CHILDS
Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

The above together with information gleaned during a considerable survey at the Library of Congress of Spanish official publications for the period from mid-1936 to 1955 and added to subsequently serves as a basis for the following observations, which may have not only specific and special application but may contain some general guidance in the appraisal and use of official publications wherever the bibliographical control seems rather meager and inexact.

2 CORPORATE ENTRY:
SPANISH CODE

In Spanish libraries under state control and supervision, official publications, not having an individual author, initially received attention for treatment under corporate entry in the second edition (1941) of the Spanish official cataloging code as may be noted in the following quotation in free translation from Spanish from the preface (p. VI-VII): "For the first time there appears in the instructions a chapter devoted to the publications of agencies and corporations, both official and private, authorizing henceforth the consideration of collective authorship and differentiating these from anonymous works proper. The great number of works of this character existing in libraries and the convenience of collecting them under the heading of the agency responsible for the publication to facilitate use of the catalog has been the motivation for fifteen general rules, susceptible of subsequent elaboration. ..." In the new section the following seems to be the form of entry preferred for official agencies:
The basic rule (no. 117, p. 70) reads in free translation as follows:

"The publications of agencies and corporations which are the result of their own activities such as 'boletines, anuarios, actas, memorias, informes, dictámenes, notas, proyectos, estatutos, reglamentos, instrucciones, listas, catálogos, inventarios, estadísticas, presupuestos, cuentas, balances,' and other works are to be considered as edited by said agencies, these being considered as the real authors."

21 Treatment as Anonymous Works

Nevertheless, rule 126 (p. 77-78) still continues treatment of a specific group of official publications as anonymous works under title as follows (in free English translation):

"Certain special classes of publications which emanate directly from the central administration of the State or from parliaments, such as political constitutions of countries, collections of laws, single laws, decrees, orders, regulations, ordinances, instructions, grants, corporate charters, privileges, etc., sometimes including the name of the responsible agency or official corporation and sometimes not."

22 List of Headings for Official Spanish Agencies:

In keeping with the new provisions of the official cataloging code, the list of about a thousand headings for present-day official Spanish agencies prepared by Doña Angela García Rives and Doña María Poveda Bárcenas of the Biblioteca Nacional at Madrid for use in the catalog of Spanish libraries, seems eloquent evidence of the problem created by the increasing representation of official publications in the libraries of Spain. At the same time, it would seem to be evidence of a very considerable and increasing body of official publications being issued and published by the various ministries and other instrumentalities of the Government of Spain, to which no overall record exists currently or retrospectively.

3 SOURCES

31 Monthly Classified Record

At the same time, the monthly Boletín del depósito legal de obras impresas, which began publication under the Dirección de Archivos y Bibliotecas with April 1958, is arranged in classified order and seems to include official publications, the entries being according to the official code, yet there being no indexing by agency. The requirement for deposit includes not only books, pamphlets, periodicals, music, maps, films, prints, recordings, picture postcards, but does not specify particularly official publications.

32 Copyright Lists

For serial publications in particular, volume 2 (Revistas) of Año III (1954) of the Anuario de la prensa española, edited by the Dirección General de la Prensa, discloses through careful scanning of the various sections of the classification nearly two hundred titles that seem to be identified as emanating from various agencies of the national government. The brief section "Administración Central," on pages 276-279, includes only official publications and has but twelve titles. There is no indexing by ministry or other agency. Although volume 1 (Diarios) of Año IV (1956) has been seen, no copy of a corresponding volume 2 has been available.

34 Directory of Official Agencies

Turning next to pinpointing and identification of official agencies, the F.A.C. (Fichero
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de altos cargos), a directory published on cards 10 x 15 cm. by Angel Estirado Pérez, Manuel Cortina 10, Madrid, and kept up to date monthly by reprinting the cards as changes occur, is arranged in the following order: Jefatura del Estado (including Cortes, F.E.T. y de las J.O.N.S.), Presidencia del Gobierno, ministries in alphabetical order, banca, otros organismos, and datos de interés general. The F.A.C. gives citations to laws organizing agencies and lists the principal officials, but does not list official publications. Likewise, the Anuario general de España (Bailly-Baille- lière-Riera), published at Barcelona by "Anuarios Bailly-Baille and Riera Reunidos," Sociedad Anónima, includes a directory of the Spanish National Government at the beginning of volume 1, but does not list official publications. Neither did the annual Guía oficial de España which began in 1722, and ceased publication with 1930, ever attempt to list official publications.

35 Annual National Budget

In the annual national budget, issued by Ministerio de Hacienda under the title Presupuestos generales del Estado para el ejercicio económico, there are to some extent under the ministries, the general bureaus, and other agencies occasional items allocated to the preparation and printing and distribution of official publications. At times there are mentions of specific titles. Yet, nowhere under any of the ministries or elsewhere does there seem to be mention of general government press or system of government presses or overall plan for the printing, publication, sale, and distribution of official publications. In the use of the budget, it must be borne in mind that the law of December 18, 1950, provided that the budgets be enacted for biennial period, the volume for the first or even year being the full executive budget and that for the second or odd year being only for additional and amendatory items. Also, there has been regularly a supplementary budget in separate form entitled Presupuestos de los organismos autónomos para el ejercicio económico, and these autonomous agencies would need to be taken into account to help obtain a full picture of the situation.

4 Lack of Overall Coordination

A Secretaría General Técnica de la Presidencia del Gobierno was created as a general administrative department by decree of December 20, 1956, has been accompanied by the development of similar agencies in the various ministries, but seems not yet to have come to grips with the problems of official publications. In the very illuminating administrative charts of the various ministries accompanying most monthly numbers of its Documentación administrativa beginning with January 1958, it is possible to secure a visual impression of their organization and ramifications, with the direct agencies, the dependent agencies, and the autonomous agencies.

41 Value of Official Publications

Indeed, emphasis for many official publications, other than those of general cultural value, and of legal, historical, statistical, and scientific character, would seem to be upon their value for the legislator, the government official, the agencies, and for those cooperating with them or affected by their actions, as it still seems to be in many other countries.

5 Government Agencies

Since as stated in Meyriat's Study and as specified above, there now seem to be no overall source for current bibliographical information for the apparently very considerable and important body of Spanish official publications, it will be useful to consider the various agencies in the following administrative order to ascertain what bibliographical sources may be revealed:

Jefatura del Estado,
Presidencia del Gobierno,
Ministerio de Agricultura,
Ministerio del Aire,
Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores,
Ministerio de Comercio,
Ministerio de Educación Nacional,
Ministerio de Ejército,
Ministerio de Gobernación,
Ministerio de Hacienda,
Ministerio de Industria,
Ministerio de Información y Turismo,
Ministerio de Justicia,
Ministerio de Marina,
Ministerio de Obras Públicas,
Ministerio de Trabajo, and
Ministerio de Vivienda.

51 Jefatura del Estado

Under the Jefatura del Estado are included the Consejo del Reino, the Cortes Españoles, the Consejo Nacional, the Instituto de Estudios Políticos, which by law of September 9, 1939, took over the Library of the former Senate and the Secretaría Técnica of the former Congreso de los Diputados as a body to study and investigate "con criterio político y rigor científico los problemas y manifestaciones de la vida administrativa, económico, social e internacional de la Patria," is the only one of these publishing extensively. In 1946 appeared a 207-page descriptive catalog under the title Ediciones del Instituto de Estudios Políticos, and in the spring of 1954, a 16-page list of publications' in print entitled Catálogo de ediciones y publicaciones, and currently apparently a monthly Boletín editorial. The Movimiento which refers to the Falange Española Tradicionalista y de las J. O. N. S. (often referred to simply as FET y JONS) with its elaborate party administrative apparatus and probably extensive publications is not here referred to further.

52 Presidencia del Gobierno

The Presidencia del Gobierno includes supervision over a number of non-ministerial agencies, among them being the Consejo de Estado, the Alto Estado Mayor, the Consejo de Economía Nacional, Consejo Superior Geográfico, Consejo Superior de Estadística, the Dirección General de Plazas y Provincias Africanas, the Instituto Geográfico y Catastral, the Instituto Nacional de Estadística, la Secretaría General para la Ordenación Económico-Social, the Secretaría General Técnica, etc. Of these agencies, the Consejo Superior Geográfico, serving as the national coordinating agency for official mapping work, includes in its annual Memoria general lists of the maps and related publications issued during the year by each of the mapping agencies. Further, the Instituto Geográfico y Catastral, which has special facilities for map printing and frequently does such work for other agencies, issued in 1948 a 315-page Catálogo de publicaciones, including many before 1936, maps as well as other works. Still further, the Instituto Nacional de Estadística, the central official statistical office, makes available from time to time a brief Catálogo de publicaciones, and issued in 1947-1952, a two-volume Catálogo de la Biblioteca, with a supplement in 1951. Volume 2 (566 p.) includes the statistical publications and is classified, with the Spanish titles normally presented at the beginning of each section, listed under the name of the agency. On the centenary of Spanish statistics in 1956, the Instituto compiled a chronological record (202 p.) as complete as possible of all Spanish statistical publications, under the title Publicaciones estadísticas de España, being mainly official publications. At one time, the Dirección General de Marruecos y Colonias (now Plazas y Provincias Africanas), which is in close relationship with the Instituto de Estudios Africanos, issued a small list of publications placed on sale. In 1959, the Secretaría General Técnica edited through the Boletín oficial del Estado a 29-page Catálogo general de obras, publicaciones, 1958-1959. This seems to complete the record for agencies under the Presidencia del Gobierno.

53 Ministerio de Agricultura

Turning next to the ministries, the Ministerio de Agricultura issues its general publications through the Sección de Capacitación of the Dirección General de Coordinación, Crédito y Capacitación Agraria, places them on sale through the Librería Agrícola, Fernando VI, 2, Madrid, and has made available a 24-page catalog entitled Publicaciones agrícolas: Catálogo 1956. Beginning in 1948, the quarterly Boletín bibliográfico agrícola of the Ministry contains from time to time statements about publications emanating from various branches and institutions of the Ministry. In 1949, the Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agronómicas, centralizing for
considerable part and coordinating the research activities of the Ministry, prepared a 47-page Catálogo de publicaciones for distribution at the Feria del Libro in Madrid.

54 Ministerio del Aire

For the Ministerio del Aire, there seem to be no general lists of publications. The Servicio Meteorológico Nacional, the Spanish Weather Bureau, under the Ministry, regularly includes on the covers of the Boletín mensual meteorológico a listing of the Weather Bureau publications.

55 Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores

Under the Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, it may be mentioned that the 9-volume Catálogo de la Biblioteca, 1941-48, does not focus attention upon the publications of the Ministry as a separate unit. In 1951, the Dirección General de Relaciones Culturales made available a 16-page list entitled Publicaciones de la Dirección General de Relaciones Culturales. Further, the Instituto de Cultura Hispánica, the other agency in connection with the Ministry having a considerable publishing program, issued in 1949 a 24-page Catálogo de publicaciones, and through its publishing affiliate Ediciones Cultura Hispánica issued in 1953 a 31-page catalog and in 1955 a 62-page catalog.

56 Ministerio de Comercio

The Ministerio de Comercio, separated from the Ministerio de Industria y Comercio in 1951, is included in the catalog prepared by the Comisión de Enlace de Publicaciones de los Ministerios de Industria y Comercio and issued from time to time under the title Ministerios de Industria y de Comercio: Catálogo de las publicaciones editadas por los diferentes servicios de ambos departamentos, the edition of 1956 having 77 pages. Some five or six editions of the catalog had been issued before the division in 1951.

57 Ministerio de Educación Nacional

For the Ministerio de Educación Nacional, the Servicio de Publicaciones was established in 1952 to have charge of printing, publishing, and distribution of official publications of the Ministry proper, and announced in the middle of 1952 the imminent appearance of a catalog of the publications of the Ministry proper and of the Direcciones Generales. Finally as of 1958, the Ministerio de Educación Nacional has made available the long-announced 187-page Catálogo de publicaciones. The arrangement is by bureaus and other agencies as follows: Comisión de Extensión Cultural, Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas, Dirección General de Bellas Artes, Dirección General de Enseñanza Laboral, Dirección General de Enseñanza Media, Dirección General de Enseñanza Primaria y Junta Nacional contra el Analfabetismo, Dirección General de Enseñanza Técnica, Instituto de Formación de Profesorado de Enseñanza Laboral, Secretaría General Tecnica, Sección de Publicaciones, Secretaría de la Junta Central de Formación Profesional Industrial. To facilitate acquisition, the address of each agency is given. The catalog constitutes number 22 of the series of the "Primera Centenario del Cuerpo Facultativo de Archiveros, Bibliotecarios y Arqueólogos, 1858-1958."

The Catálogo de la Biblioteca for the Library of the Ministry, distributed in loose-leaf form beginning with 1944, does not include the publications of the Ministry as a separate class. Aside from the many individual institutions and organizations connected with the Ministry, only two services can be mentioned further.

Under the date of 1958, the Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas of Spain has edited a classified Catálogo de publicaciones (154 p.), listing 522 official publications of the Spanish archives and libraries. For the most part, these publications represent the work of the professional staff belonging to the Cuerpo Facultativo de Archiveros, Bibliotecarios y Arqueólogos. In honor of the centenary of the Cuerpo, the Junta Técnica de Archivos, Bibliotecas y Museos, which is the executive body of and for the Cuerpo, has embarked upon a special series entitled "Ediciones conmemorativas del Centenario del Cuerpo Facultativo, 1858-1958," and has included the Catálogo de publicaciones de la Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas as number XXII. In its monthly Boletín, the Directorate General
pays particular attention to its publications as well as of those of the services and institutions functioning under it. The bibliography of the work of the Cuerpo itself, as of 1946, is contained on pages III-XIII of Cuerpo facultativo de archiveros, bibliotecarios y arqueólogos: Bibliografía y personal (XVII, 105 p.), edited in 1946 by the Junta Técnica de Archivos, Bibliotecas y Museos.

The Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, the national organization for the promotion of most research, with about 145 institutes and centers, opened in 1950 a central sales office for its publications under the name Librería Científica Medinaceli, Duque de Medinaceli 4, Madrid. The CSIC had in 1949 a 140-page Catálogo, with a supplement 1949-53, kept up to date by the Boletín bibliográfico. In 1955 appeared a 46-page Catálogo de revistas, and for the Feria del Libro, Madrid, 1956, a 20-page catalog entitled Novedades, Abril 1955-Abril 1956.

58 Ministerio de Ejército

Under the Ministerio de Ejército, there is an official publishing house or service called sometimes Editorial Ejército and sometimes Ediciones Ejército, but no catalog or list of publications has been seen.

591 Ministerio de la Gobernacion

Under the Ministerio de la Gobernación, which has control over local government, public health, communication services, etc., the various agencies each seem to have their own publishing facilities, and there seems to be little evidence of any systematic listing.

592 Ministerio de Hacienda

For the Ministerio de Hacienda the only source is the Catálogo de la Biblioteca Central, 699 pages for the approximately 13,000 volume central library of the Ministerio de Hacienda, prepared by Antonic Matilla Tascon, Carmen Nieto, and Elisa Parra, issued late in 1955. The arrangement of the more than 8,000 entries is by the Universal Decimal Classification, with indexes to persons and to topics. The catalog itself reflects the various interests of the Ministry of Finance, including its official publications and should be helpful for bibliographical suggestions to the one working seriously in any of the fields covered by that Ministry.

593 Ministerio de Industria

For the Ministerio de Industria, reference may be made to the statement under the Ministerio de Comercio. For the Instituto Geológico y Minero, not included in the joint catalog, a 366-page analytical Catálogo de publicaciones, prepared by José Meseguer Pardo appeared in 1947, and a supplementary list in 1952. Each year in the two series of statistical publications of the Comisión para la Distribución del Carbón is a retrospective list of the publications for the Commission and its predecessor agencies. The Escuela de Minas also has a separate list.

594 Ministerio de Informacion y Turismo

Under the Ministerio de Informacion y Turismo, the Dirección General de Información has supervision over the official Editora Nacional, created in 1937 to publish material according to the principles of the National Movement, which has available as of 1955 a 102-page Catálogo de publicaciones, including only those in print. A list of the publications of the Dirección General itself for the years 1946-47 (31 p.) was printed with the Revista Nacional de educación, number 30. Sometimes the Dirección General uses the designation "Publicaciones Nacionales," but whether in the sense of a separate publishing house seems uncertain. For the Feria del Libro, 1945, in Madrid, the Instituto Nacional del Libro Español, the center for the current national bibliography, issued an 8-page Catálogo of its publications.

595 Ministerio de Justicia

For the Ministerio de Justicia, a small Catálogo de publicaciones of 133 pages was prepared for distribution at the Feria del Libro.
in 1951. In 1956 appeared the 17-page Catálogo de publicaciones of the Instituto Nacional de Estudios Jurídicos, which functions also in connection with the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas.

596 Ministerio de Marina

Under the Ministerio de Marina, there is the official Editorial Marina, but no lists or catalogs have been seen. At Cadiz, the Instituto Hidrográfico de la Marina, the National Hydrographic Office, issues from time to time a catalog of its mariner's charts and related publications which are reproduced in its own plant.

597 Ministerio de Obras Públicas

For the Ministerio de Obras Públicas, little information as to publications seems to be available, even though the Ministry has supervision over RENFE, the Spanish State Railways.

598 Ministerio de Trabajo

For the Ministerio de Trabajo, there seems to be rather meager mention of its official publications in its monthly Revista de trabajo, even though the bibliographical section is prepared in the library of the Ministry. In 1948 a 12-page list was issued under the title Publicaciones de la Sección de Estudios y de la Escuela Social. In 1949, the Instituto Nacional de Previsión, the national social security administration, issued a 255-page Catálogo de publicaciones, covering its 41 years of activity with a numerical as well as a topical arrangement, and replacing various earlier lists.

5991 Ministerio de Vivienda

The Ministerio de Vivienda was established in 1957, and no information as to publications has been observed.

6 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is seen that in a period of about forty years the increasing presence of Spanish official publications in the national libraries and in those under national supervision has been such as to bring recognition of the utility of a form of corporate entry in the official cataloging code. The pressure apparently accumulated without any overall control of distribution and provision for deposit in libraries. At the same time, the national bibliography seems not to have been able to do too much with collecting and recording the increasing number of official publications, the prime responsibility being to cover books in the book trade. The annual Feria del Libro in Madrid seems to have been one means of focusing some attention on the problem, for eliciting some exhibits from various official agencies, and for stimulating the preparation of some catalogs of publications. Beyond that, certain other factors have come into play. The record has been eked out here and there. An understanding is being aroused in the varying considerable array of data in many fields, some of it of immediate and pressing interest, that is being brought forth by modern government, in this case Spain, in meeting the needs for national survival in the present world. The next step in Spain may well show some further progress towards making the data in official publications available by striving toward overall bibliographical control. And, further progress may point the way towards the utility of making similar surveys in other countries, elaborating the data accumulated and presented by Meyriat. These would help to establish comprehension and understanding of the increasingly complex governments of the present-day and their ever more intricate publications.

1 Still unpublished. A microfilm made from a carbon copy may be purchased for $10.00 from the Photoduplication Service, Library of Congress, Washington 25, D.C.

2 Spain. Junta técnica de archivos bibliotecas y museos. Instrucciones para la redacción del catálogo alfabético de autores y obras anónimas en las bibliotecas públicas del Estado dirigidas por el Cuerpo facultativo de archiveros, bibliotecarios y arqueólogos. Madrid
[Dirección general de archivos y bibliotecas], 1941. xi, 210 p. The first edition was in 1902.


5 Previous to 1958: Bibliografía hispanica.

6 Series of such annual reports, which might include regularly a statement of the official publications are not too common, and seem never to be issued by the ministries.