PROTOCOL OF INTENT BETWEEN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SPAIN
(*BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE ESPAÑA*)

BETWEEN James H. Billington, acting in his capacity as The Librarian of Congress of United States AND Antonio Fontán, acting in his capacity as President of the Royal Board of Trustees of the National Library of Spain (*Real Patronato de la Biblioteca Nacional de España*), using the competencies conferred on him by article 5.4 of Royal Decree (*Real Decreto*) 1581/9, modified by Royal Decree (*Real Decreto*) 523/97.

CONSIDERING the common history of the United States of America and Spain during the time when the Spanish Crown was present in vast and extensive areas of the present United States, including the territories corresponding to states such as Florida, The Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and California, together with the importance of the Spanish expeditions which, be it by land or sea, deepened the knowledge of the North American space reaching regions as remote as Alaska.

CONSIDERING it is desirable to make greater knowledge of the Spanish roots and the history of a large part of America available through the Internet.

CONSIDERING the future growth of the Hispanic population having this common cultural background and that it is desirable that said history be understood by the society as a whole.

CONSIDERING that the National Library of Spain (*Biblioteca Nacional de España*) is the most important institution of the Spanish library system and that one of its functions is to project Spanish culture at an international level and formalize institutional relationships with other national libraries, among which The Library of Congress is an obligatory point of reference, being the leading institution of its kind in the world.

CONSIDERING that the collections, be they hand-written, printed, and visual, of the National Library of Spain are specially rich and varied where America is concerned, and constitute an indispensable source of information in this respect.

CONSIDERING that, during the period from 1492 to 1821, Spanish culture gave rise to one of the primary groups of works created by humanity and that the population of the United States of America can accept that legacy as its own, since it is part of its cultural heritage.

CONSIDERING that the collections of The Library of Congress and the National Library of Spain are complementary in many ways, and that much of the bibliographic and documentary production on the Hispanic world can be found in either of the two libraries, which, together, would be able to satisfy research needs through the Internet.

CONSIDERING the need to make the sources that document Spain's presence in the United States of America over the last 500 years more accessible through the Internet.

CONSIDERING the facilities that new technologies provide for the dissemination of the past and present common culture through the Internet, as The Library of Congress has been doing through its "American Memory" ("*Memoria de América*") project.

CONSIDERING that both The Library of Congress of the United States and the National Library of Spain are interested in highlighting the different aspects of the common past of both nations and that both parties intend to cooperate closely through the Internet for this purpose,

As proof of this intent,

THEY STATE, IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPACITIES, THEIR INTENTION OF

1. Digitizing their historical collections that illustrate the common history of the United States of America and Spain, such as travel books, chronologies, books of memoirs, maps, drawings, engravings, etc.

2. Exchange or make readily accessible via the Internet the digital reproductions created by the partners.

3. To the extent that there are resources available, exchanging experts capable of successfully carrying out all those projects that may be agreed upon, in the future, within the scope of this Protocol.

4. To the extent that there are resources available, to organize congresses and seminars in the course of which technical and professional experiences may be exchanged, or scholarly meetings relating to the common history of the two nations and to the resources and collections that are the subject matter of this Protocol, specially emphasizing the ethnographic aspects.

5. To develop bibliographic projects related to the common history and to the bibliographic resources kept in the libraries in order to subsequently disseminate these through the medium considered most suitable.

6. This document is signed in both the English and Spanish languages and both versions are considered to be original, the English version being the only valid version in the United States of America and the Spanish version being the only valid version in the Kingdom of Spain.

7. The clauses in this Protocol are subject to the laws of the United States of America and those of the Kingdom of Spain.

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This Protocol expresses the cooperative spirit of both institutions on the date of signature thereof, and sets forth the areas in which both of them hope to develop specific plans for collaboration. As soon as it is possible and the parties agree to do so, a detailed work plan for each area shall be prepared, and may be the subject of a collaborative agreement.

Both of the signatory institutions shall appoint a commission of at least two representatives for the coordination, legal formalization and monitoring of the project stated in this Protocol.

And so that it be recorded and in proof of their being bound by this Protocol, they sign it on the date and in place stated below.

Washington, February 24, 2000

The President of the Royal Board of Trustees of the National Library of Spain

El Presidente del Real Patronato de la Biblioteca Nacional de España

The Librarian of Congress of the United States of America

El Bibliotecario del Congreso de los Estados Unidos de América

Signed/Firmado: Antonio Fontán

Signed/Firmado: James H. Billington