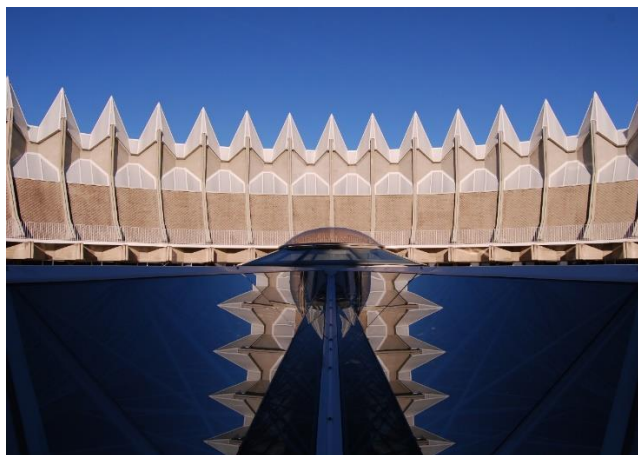


IPCE (Spanish Cultural Heritage Institute-Ministry of Culture and Sports)

Description



IPCE (Spanish Cultural Heritage Institute) is the institution of the Ministry of Culture and Sports dedicated to the research, conservation and documentation of cultural heritage at a Spanish level.

In order to develop this work, IPCE counts with a 120 people staff from different disciplines that face their work from the necessary multidisciplinary perspective demanded by the complex task of conserving and valorizing cultural property.

IPCE has a consolidated trajectory of more than 60 years that has allowed the establishment of a unique archive of scientific results, conservation reports, besides valuable bibliographic and photographic archives. More precisely, IPCE offers the access to different archives:

- Research and Training Area Archive, with analytical information and studies performed with a range of innovative techniques applied to the study of the types of cultural assets available to the laboratory (micro-samples, stratigraphic cross-sections, spectrums and photographs, x-radiographs).
- General Archive, containing the documentation generated in the IPCE's conservation and restoration interventions (paintings, sculptures, archaeological objects -metal, glass, pottery, bone, organic material-, historical books and documents, textile, mural paintings and mosaics, old photographs, monuments, etc.); accessible on-line since 2019.
- Architectural Heritage Inventory (1979-1982); accessible on-line.
- Blueprints Library; accessible on-line.
- Historical Heritage Photo Library; accessible on-line.
- Monument Catalogue of Spain (1900-1961).

Archives accessible on-line via <https://ipce.culturaydeporte.gob.es/documentacion.html>

Fields of application

Cultural heritage (all types)

Paintings, sculpture, textiles, archaeology, architecture, graphical documents, photography, scientific items etc.

Content and related type of objects/collection materials

RESEARCH AND TRAINING AREA ARCHIVE

This archive dates back to 1967, when the IPCE was first created (originally as the ICROA). It is a State-owned archive, generated by the technical staff of the Institute and other institutions or companies contracted for this purpose.

This archive contains more than 2,000 x-rays images, multispectral images, micro-samples, stratigraphic charts, chromatograms, spectrums, images and reports related to preventive conservation and biodeterioration, and photographs. All of them performed with a range of innovative techniques applied to the study of the types of cultural assets available to the laboratory:

- Paintings: murals, on board, on canvas, on metal sheeting, on leather, etc.
- Sculpture: wood, metal, plaster, terracotta, etc.
- Textiles.
- Archaeological materials: ceramics, glass and crystal, metal, stone, bone, mosaics, etc.
- Graphical documents.
- Palaeontological remains, etc.

It may be viewed as a fundamental reference point for the study of the cultural assets of periods, artists and schools ranging from Prehistory to the transition between the 19th and 20th centuries. These cultural assets are drawn from libraries and museums with a range of owners (public - national, regional or local - and private), Church institutions and a range of public bodies (universities, royal academies, foundations, research centres) all of them covering a nationwide scope. On occasion, in consideration for the loan of the work, typically for temporary exhibitions, interventions have been performed on privately owned works.

GENERAL ARCHIVE

The General Archive is responsible for the safekeeping of documentation generated by the IPCE itself and by the institutions which, from the 1940s onwards, preceded it in its functions of conserving and restoring Spanish Cultural Heritage. It contains the following archives:

- **Conservation and restoration project archive**

This preserves the records of the conservation and restoration of movable and immovable cultural assets, including reports, memoranda and graphical and photographic documentation of the process of work performed since 1961.

- **Architectural Heritage Inventory (1979-1982)**

The Architectural Heritage Inventory, a document record dating back over 30 years, has once again come to light thanks to the retrieval of the former database created in the late Seventies and early Eighties of the last century.

The Architectural Heritage Inventory belongs to the task of inventory and cataloguing historical and cultural heritage which began in Spain in the mid-19th century with the creation of the Monuments Commissions, a task continued by the National Artistic, Archaeological and Ethnological Information Service in 1961, inherited by the Artistic, Archaeological and Ethnological Information Centre, which in the late 1970s created six inventories courtesy of the Directorate-General for Fine Arts. The Inventory constitutes a hugely important record of the characteristics of Spain's architectural heritage three decades ago, and many of the properties included in it were, following their listing, subsequently placed on the Register of Assets of Cultural Interest.

- **War Archive**

This is the name given to the documentation generated by the two institutions created during the Civil War to protect Spanish Historical Heritage: the Madrid Delegated Requisitions Board, on the Republican side, and the Artistic Recovery Service, on the Nationalist side.

- **Blueprints Library**

The Blueprints Library of the Institute of Cultural Heritage of Spain comprises more than 20,000 blueprints of churches, monasteries, palaces, castles and historical/artistic sites across all of Spain's provinces.

Most of these correspond to restorations performed from the 1940s up to the late 1990s by the bodies responsible for the restoration of monuments, of which today's Institute is the successor. It nonetheless

also includes blueprints associated with the Architectural Heritage Inventory datasheets generated by the Artistic, Archaeological and Ethnological Information Centre during the 1980s.

The documentation dates in the main from the 1970s and 1980s, although an intriguing collection, dedicated essentially to castles and historic/artistic sites, predates this period.

HISTORICAL HERITAGE PHOTO LIBRARY

The IPCE Photo Library comprises more than 700,000 photographic documents covering a timespan from the 1860s to the present day, dealing with subjects which reflect the transformation of Spain's Cultural Heritage from the early days of photography.

In the case of the oldest collections, the original negatives are available, although the Photo Library also has a notable volume of period positives.

Taken as a whole it constitutes an archive of remarkable value, and its holdings are in continuous expansion.

They are sourced and added to via two routes:

Through acquisition by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, by means of purchases or the acceptance of bequests.

Through contributions by the IPCE itself, which has continuously expanded its photographic collections as a part of the process of documenting and archiving its cultural restoration and conservation projects since 1962.

The archives which belong to the Photo Library are:

- [Arbaiza Archive](#)
- [Baldomero & Aguayo Archive](#)
- [Cabré Archive](#)
- [Conde de Polentinos](#)
- [Conservation and Restoration](#)
- [Artistic Information](#)
- [Loty Archive](#)
- [Monuments and Archaeology](#)
- [Moreno Archive](#)
- [Pando Archive](#)
- [Ruiz Vernacci Archive](#)
- [Vaamonde Archive](#)
- [Villanueva Archive](#)
- [Wunderlich Archive](#)
- [Other holdings](#)

LIBRARY

With 40,000 volumes and more than 1,600 journal titles, the IPCE Library enjoys particular specialisation in the conservation and restoration of cultural assets, and in the various aspects of Historical Heritage.

The Library, designed by Fernando Higueras and Antonio Miró in 1985, occupies the circular space beneath the concrete cylinder which supports the central courtyard of the IPCE. It was, in fact, the first library with a circular layout to be built in Spain.

It comprises three rings which are open to users (the furniture likewise designed by the same architects), plus a further two depository rings.

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Requisites/needs for the service

As a public institution, IPCE archives are basically open to the public, and therefore IPCE holds a wide experience as access provider

Provider



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