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MEXICO'S INFORMATION POLICIES

AT THE

END OF THE MILLENIUM

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by

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ABSTRACT

Mexico's information policies have been adapted to participate in a more global world in the last decade of the millenium. The formal joining of the country to the former GATT, and NAFTA, and several other free trade agreements with Latin American nations has meant changes and adaptations of intellectual property, copyright and flow of information legislation. This in turn has shaped information policies at institutional, county, state and national level. The new legal national information framework is just beginning to impact information servicies of most type of organizations, such as libraries. This paper gives an overview of Mexico's laws and legal initiatives that will shape the future flow of information in Mexican society in the years to come and the effect in library and information services.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR PRINTED INFORMATION (5)

* 1846 - Copyright law is passed.
* 1867 - National Library.
* 1932 - National Serials Collection.
* 1965 - Legal deposit.
* 1970 - CONACYT is founded and given the responsibility
    ?   of creating a National Scientific Information and   Documentation Service
    (NSIDS)?.
* 1976 - CONACYT published the document describing the
    scope of NISSD.
* 1979 - The Mexican Constitution is reformed to include
    the right of every citizen to have access to
    information.
* 1983 - National Institute of Statistics, Geography and
    Informatics INEGI)is founded.
* 1984 - Copyright of software law is passed.
* 1986 - Free Postal Service to post among libraries.
* 1987 - A presidential decree creates the National
    Network of Public Libraries.
* 1987 - Tax incentives for S&T databases.
* 1990 - Telecommunication law is modified to permit
    private sector to offer telecommunications
    services.

PRESERVATION OF PRINTED INFORMATION

The National Library
National Serials Collection
General Archives of the Nation
Union Congress Library
Similar organizations exist in most Mexican states

INFORMATION POLICY MAKERS

* INEGI -- National Institute of Statistics, Geography,
    and Informatics (government statistics,
    census, social and economic data).
* SECOFI - Ministry of Trade and Industrial Promotion.
* SEP ---- Ministry of Public Education (University,
    public and school libraries).
* BANCO DE MEXICO - Central bank (Macro-Economic
    statistics).
* CONACYT National Council for Science and Technology

(Scientific and Technological information).
* SCT --- Ministry of Communications and Transport
     (Telecommunication policies).
* Supreme Court - Jurisprudence.
* Congress - Legislation.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AMBAC   - Mexican Association of Librarians
ANBAGRO   - National Association of Agricultural
                 Librarians
CNB   -   National College of Certified Librarians
ABIESI   - Association of higher education and research
Librarians (not totally active).

MAIN NETWORKS

SEP   -   3000 public library networks
                -    80 Polytechnic library systems
                -    Public university libraries

INEGI   -   Government statistics/data/information
CONACYT   - Science and technology information centers
                - Access to foreign online databases
                -    National online database standards and policies

DEMAND OF INFORMATION POLICIES

Create standards of services and information sources.
Have a stronger voice in financing bodies.
Coordinate national information activities.
Foster cooperation and exchange of information.
Compile national reference sources.

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INFORMATION SEARCH:

Mexican libraries capabilities to lobby
The new copyright law:
      What are the changes
      Impact in library services
      Photocopy,
      book lending
      General impact on society

Software copyright
Role of SECOFI
Internet and legal property vs free flow of information
Differences between practice and law in protection of legal property
Duplication in libraries and at home, etc.
The US push for intellectual property protection
Conference of the WIPO in Mexico
Changes in telecommunications
State library laws
Political changes
Potential loss of balance between economic and social information flows
Transborder data flows
Agreements signed in the last ten years:
>   World Intellectual Property Organization
>   World Trade Organization
>   Multilateral Agreement on Trade (Phase II)
>   Agreements with Chile, Costa Rica, etc.

Access to government data and information
Copy machines, tape recorders, video, cut and paste in Internet

CHECK:
Papers of Monica Guerrero
Talk with Monica, prepare a questionnaire
Memoria de Congreso WIPO held in Mexico
Review Copyright law
Infobila
Revista de Derechos de Autor
List of Mexican web pages related to this topic

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