

## **Notes on methodology / STATISTICS ON MUSEUMS AND MUSEUM COLLECTIONS IN SPAIN**

### **1. Object of this statistical research**

This section offers information on Museums and Museum Collections in the territory of Spain, whatever the legal ownership status or the legal status of the institution responsible for its running and management. The aim is to offer information that will lead to a deeper knowledge of this cultural sector. Results are offered on the number of museum institutions and with regard to certain characteristics of the same, namely: accessibility; availability of services and level of facilities; activities carried out; museum deposits; visitors and staff of these institutions.

The classification variables used were: the type of museum or museum collection, the autonomous region in which it is found, and the ownership of and institution responsible for its running and management.

### **2. Source of information**

The information comes from a statistical operation that is part of the National Plan on Statistics, **Statistics on Museums and Museum Collections**, developed by the Ministry of Culture. It is a research work carried out every two years, which is a joint effort between the Statistics Division and the General Sub-Directorate of State Museums, of the Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence, National Heritage and The Regional Governments and Autonomous Cities that participate in different phases of elaboration of the same. Details on the methodological aspects of this survey, as well as the detailed results can be consulted in the section corresponding to statistics at [www.mcu.es](http://www.mcu.es).

### **3. Main concepts and classifications**

**Museum.** The concept of museum as used in statistics is the one defined by The Law of Spanish Historical Heritage, 16/1985, of June 26, by which "Museums are institutions of a permanent nature that acquire, conserve, research, communicate and exhibit for the purposes of study, education and contemplation, collections that are of historical, artistic, scientific, technical or any other form of cultural value".

**Museum collection.** For the purposes of statistics, Museum Collections are considered to be "The body of cultural goods which, even though not meeting all the conditions required for the development of the inherent functions of a museum, are exposed to the public in keeping with museum criteria, at fixed visiting hours, and which has a basic set of deposits as well as the means for their conservation and safe keeping".

**Type of Museum.** The classification of Museums and Museum Collections according to type is in keeping, fundamentally, with what has been established by UNESCO, plus variations derived from the contributions of specialists, fundamentally for adaptation to the reality of each autonomous region. It is as follows:

\* Fine Arts: contains works of art created fundamentally between Ancient times and the XIX century (architecture, sculpture, painting, drawing, etching and, since 2002, religious art)

\* Decorative arts: contains works of art of an ornamental nature. Also called applied arts or industrial arts.

\* Contemporary art: contains works of art done, mainly, in the XX and XXI centuries. Includes cinema and photography.

\*Casa-museo: Museum located in the house or residence of birth of a famous personality.

\* Archaeological: contains objects, bearing historical and/or artistic values, drawn from excavations, and archaeological discoveries or undertakings. Includes numismatic, glyptic and epigraphic specialities.

\* In situ. Created when certain historical sites (archaeological sites, monuments, in situ examples of the industrial past, etc.) were turned into museums in the place for which they were originally conceived. (Includes Centres of Archaeological Interpretation, as long as they have a collection that has original deposits; Nature Interpretation Centres are not included).

\* Historical: Museums and museum collections that illustrate events or historical periods, personalities, etc., are included in this category, as are military museums, etc.

\* Natural sciences and Natural History: contains objects linked to biology, botanical studies, geology, zoology, physical anthropology, paleontology, mineralogy, ecology, etc.

\* Science and Technology: contains objects representative of the evolution of the history of science and technical studies, and also deals with the diffusion of the general principles of the same. Planetariums and scientific centres are not included, save those that may have a Museum or Museum Collection.

\* Ethnography and Anthropology: devoted to pre-industrial and contemporary cultures and cultural elements, or those belonging to a recent past. This category includes museums of folklore, of the arts and of popular customs and traditions.

\* Specialised museums: look more specifically at a part of Cultural Heritage not covered in other categories. Until 2002, it included religious art, which, from then on, came to be considered as belonging to the realm of Fine Arts.

\* General: Museum or Museum Collection that can be identified by more than one of the previously mentioned categories.

\* Others: cannot be included in the previous categories.

Autonomous Region. Geographical classification corresponds to the location of the Museum or Museum Collection, independently of ownership or of the institution responsible for running and management.

Ownership: Refers to the person or corporate body that features as the possessor of the heritage of the Museum or Museum Collection.

Managing Institution: Refers to the person or corporation or legal entity that features as being responsible for the management and running of the Museum or Museum Collection.

Finally, it must be underlined that certain entities, which are considered by the International Museum Council (ICOM) as museums are not included here as units to be researched and investigated in this statistics operation: the conservation institutes and exhibition galleries that depend on libraries and archive centres; the institutions that exhibit living species, such as botanical gardens and zoos, aquariums, nurseries, etc; natural reserves and planetariums and scientific centres, save those that have a Museum or Museum Collection in the terms used in statistics.

#### **4. List of References**

Details on the methodological aspects of this statistic, as well as the detailed results can be consulted in the section corresponding to statistics at Cultural Statistic Information on Web :

*Ministry of Culture. Spain*

<http://www.mcu.es/estadisticas/index.html>

*Statistics on Museums and Museum Collections in Spain*

<http://www.mcu.es/estadisticas/MC/EM/index.html>

<http://www.mcu.es/culturabase/cgi/um?M=/t11/p11&O=culturabase&N=&L=0>

In addition, the data from Museums and Museum collections in Spain are complemented, in terms of cultural participation, with the results of the **Survey on Cultural Habits and Practices in Spain 2006-2007**. This survey is a sample-based research work, done on 16 thousand people over the age of 15, resident in Spain. The survey is part of the Spanish National Plan on Statistics and conducted over a period of four years. A data selection from both of them are included in the **Yearbook of cultural statistics**.

All these data are available on the website of the ministry:

*Survey of Cultural Habits and Practices in Spain 2006-2007*

<http://www.mcu.es/estadisticas/MC/EHC/2006/Presentacion.html>

<http://www.mcu.es/culturabase/cgi/um?M=/t9/p9&O=culturabase&N=&L=0>

*Cultural Statistics Yearbook in Spain 2008*

<http://www.mcu.es/estadisticas/MC/NAEC/2008/PresentacionAnuarioEC2008.html>