

## Renaissance and Reformation Renaissance et Réforme



### Fundación Dialnet (Dialnet foundation). Dialnet. Database.

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Spaces of Power of the Spanish Nobility (1480–1715)  
Les espaces de pouvoir de la noblesse espagnole (1480–1715)

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sources, and inviting comparative studies that hold great potential to teach us about Góngora's work and influence in particular, and the great literary debates of early modern Europe, as well as canon formation and transformation, in general.

*Góngora et les querelles littéraires de la Renaissance / Góngora y las polémicas literarias del Renacimiento* exemplifies the digital humanities at their very best. Mercedes Blanco and the entire collaborative team of scholars involved in this project are to be congratulated on creating such a rich trove of tools, materials, and resources.

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### **Fundación Dialnet (Dialnet foundation).**

#### **Dialnet. Database.**

Logroño, Spain: University of La Rioja, 2001. Accessed 22 May 2020.

[dialnet.unirioja.es](http://dialnet.unirioja.es).

Dialnet is a bibliographical database developed by the University of La Rioja (Logroño, Spain). It began in 2001 with the purpose of increasing the international visibility of Spanish research in the humanities and social sciences. Since its inception nearly twenty years ago, Dialnet has become the paramount scientific bibliographical repository in Spain. Its data are drawn from a wide spectrum of sources: mostly academic journals, but also publishers, university libraries, and libraries of non-academic public and private institutions. Today, it is regarded in Spain as the main Spanish research database.

Its origins date back to 1999 when the University of La Rioja contemplated the possibility of developing a system to provide updates on the publication of new issues of scholarly journals. Once these updates were being emailed regularly to a group of users, the University of La Rioja began simultaneously developing a catalogue with the data collected (this catalogue was christened DIAL). By early 2001 it was functioning and serving users in the university. DIAL soon turned into the springboard for a more ambitious project—an online bibliographical database designed under the auspices of an institute established

for that purpose in 2001 and named Fundación Dialnet (Dialnet Foundation). At the time of writing, the foundation's executive board is composed of two members *ex officio*, namely the president of the University of La Rioja, Julio Rubio García, and its head of administration, Guillermo Bravo Menéndez-Rivas; the foundation's managing director, Joaquín León Marín; and elected members, namely the University of La Rioja's vice presidents for planning and resources, José Luis Ansorena Barasoain, and research, Belén Ayestarán Iturbe, as well as the mayor of the city of Logroño, Pablo Hermoso de Mendoza González, and the education minister of the state government of La Rioja, Luis Cacho Vicente.

Dialnet was up and running in 2002. Initially, it drew on the databases of a small number of libraries in Spain: those of the universities of Cantabria, Navarra, Oviedo, Extremadura, País Vasco, Zaragoza, and Castilla-La Mancha. This network gradually expanded to include other university libraries in Spain and in Latin America, as well as public and private libraries in Spain. At present, its international partners include university libraries in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. According to the latest report issued by the Dialnet Foundation—dated December 2019 and available on its webpage—the total number of research publications listed in Dialnet is 6,813,467: more specifically, 5,149,630 articles published in academic journals; 932,010 book chapters; 488,784 books; and 243,043 doctoral dissertations. The number of documents in Dialnet has shot up over the years—doubling from 2,422,347 in 2008 to 5,388,965 in 2016. Logically, as the journals and publishers in the database publish more articles and volumes, the number of documents continues to grow. Dialnet's webpage ([dialnet.unirioja.es](http://dialnet.unirioja.es)) displays the updated number of journals, documents, alerts, registered users, and doctoral dissertations. The 2019 report also indicated that Dialnet had 2,100,198 registered users, the majority from Spain (33.8 percent of the total number). The rest of the registered users were mainly in Latin America, with the largest numbers in Mexico (15.9 percent), Colombia (10.4 percent), Peru (6.6 percent), Argentina (5.5 percent), and Chile (5.1 percent). A relatively small (0.7) percent of the users were in the United States.

Over the years, Dialnet has grown into a sophisticated database. Its attractive interface design and its usability have contributed to its success. It is also available in ten different languages including English, Spanish, German, and French. As a search tool, Dialnet allows users to apply filters such as the type of document, subject, editor, and year, and to search for authors, conferences,

and doctoral dissertations. Each author has a page that links to other catalogues, such as the Spanish National Library, Google Scholar, Scopus, and Researcher ID, among others. It is also possible to search for an institution and obtain a list of all its researchers listed in the database. Other functions include the possibility of personalizing the format of the portal, setting notifications, etc.

Although Dialnet is not focused exclusively on research related to the Renaissance, its coverage of the breadth and length of the humanities renders it a most convenient tool for scholars of the early modern period. For example, imagine a search on the topic of the Spanish school of philosophy known as the Escuela de Salamanca, formed by outstanding thinkers around the University of Salamanca in the sixteenth century. If we open Dialnet's main webpage, we can easily see two prominent search bars: "Search documents" and "Search journals." If we type "Escuela de Salamanca" in the "Search documents" bar, Dialnet produces 2,063 documents, and also offers the possibility to narrow the results using filters: document type (journal article, thesis, book chapter, or book), subject (psychology and education, humanities, social sciences, philologies [*sic*], legal services, economy and business, art and technology), decade, publisher, and language.

The data provided for each document include the title, author, journal title, and issue (number, years, page range) or publisher, often a link to an abstract, and in the case of documents available in open access, a link. Both the name of the author and the title of the journal are linked to the author page and the journal page. Author pages commonly, but not always, indicate their institutional affiliation and other data, followed by a list of their documents in Dialnet. In order to narrow down the 2,063 results, we can apply, for example, the filters "Humanities" in subjects and "English" in languages, which gives us ten documents. In our random search, most of these ten publications are not entirely focused on the topic of the Salamanca philosophers, and some are not written in English.

Author and journal pages are particularly practical. The first of those 2,063 documents is an article published by Marjorie Grice-Hutchinson in the *Revista del Instituto de Estudios Económicos*. Accessing Grice-Hutchinson's author page, we find seven articles, four book chapters, and four books authored by her, many of which are concerned with different aspects of the Escuela de Salamanca. Our trial search in Dialnet has provided us with a long list of documents on our topic, and it has introduced us to Grice-Hutchinson's work. Let us imagine now

that we have written an article on this topic and we are looking for a journal to which we could submit it for publication. Grice-Hutchinson's articles are conveniently linked to the journals' Dialnet pages, and these journal pages provide a repository of issues as well as links to the journals' own home pages. Most crucially, these journal pages indicate the journal's rating in the Spanish CIRC (Clasificación Integrada de Revistas Científica; Integrated Scientific Journals Classification). Using a range of criteria and tools, the CIRC rates the impact of journals under five categories: A+, A, B, C, and D, where A+ means the highest impact and D the lowest. CIRC is part of EC3metrics, an institution based at the University of Granada in Spain. CIRC ratings are currently the quality point of reference used by ANECA (Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad y Acreditación; National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation), the body of the Spanish Ministry of Universities tasked with assessing the quality of the research produced by individual scholars applying for salary increases or wishing to take any of the state examinations for tenured positions. Any early-career scholar wishing to submit their hypothetical article on the Escuela de Salamanca to a journal could see the journals where a leading expert such as Grice-Hutchinson has published and decide where to send it after checking the respective journals' CIRC ratings.

Dialnet is the top Spanish bibliographical database in the humanities and social sciences, and the Fundación Dialnet can only be commended for its successful efforts. Nonetheless, such an ambitious project inevitably has limitations. Although Dialnet may work as an excellent bibliographical resource fundamentally for Spanish and Latin American scholars, the number of documents to be found in other languages such as English, German, and French is decidedly limited, as our search for English documents on the Escuela de Salamanca has shown. In that sense, the obvious way forward to increase internationalization would be for Dialnet to reach far beyond Spain and Latin America and to partner with libraries in countries such as the US, the UK, and Germany. Despite the vast network of Spanish and Latin American libraries feeding into Dialnet, the results returned from some searches may often leave out important items. This is particularly noticeable if we look at the author pages. Here I will use my own Dialnet author page as an example. My page shows, for instance, an article published in the *Revue de littérature comparée* in 2012, but inexplicably not another article I published in the same journal in 2016. It also includes two reviews written by me and published in the *Bulletin*

of *Hispanic Studies* and *Anales Cervantinos*, but not any of the other forty or more reviews I have published in those two journals. My Dialnet webpage lists only three of my ten authored books but provides a link to my author page on the Library of Congress webpage where seven of my books are listed. Taking my own Dialnet author page as an example, Dialnet reveals certain limitations. Although authors may write to Dialnet to express any issues related to their documents shown there, Dialnet will only show documents housed in their partner libraries.

While Dialnet is far and away the finest Spanish bibliographical database in the humanities and social sciences, it is somewhat limited by its regional focus on Spanish-speaking countries and by the fact that it does not show all documents available in their partner libraries. Notwithstanding, it is still the best bibliographical database for Spanish researchers, and its development has been an outstanding accomplishment.

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### **Suárez, Juan-Luis, project dir.**

#### **The Baroque Art Project: A Data Collection of Hispanic Baroque Painters and Paintings from 1550 to 1850. Other.**

Ontario: Western University, CulturePlex Lab, 2007. Accessed 24 April 2020.  
[baroqueart.cultureplex.ca](http://baroqueart.cultureplex.ca).

The Baroque Art Project: A Data Collection of Hispanic Baroque Painters and Paintings from 1550 to 1850 is one of the projects carried out in the CulturePlex Lab, an initiative of Western University, Ontario. Before delving further, it is necessary to give a brief explanation of the CulturePlex Lab to understand the context in which the project was created.

With the support of the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Government of Ontario, Western University, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the Ontario Centres of Excellence, the CulturePlex Lab provides different services related to culture, humanities, and digital innovation. Juan-Luis Suárez heads the work team, which is made up