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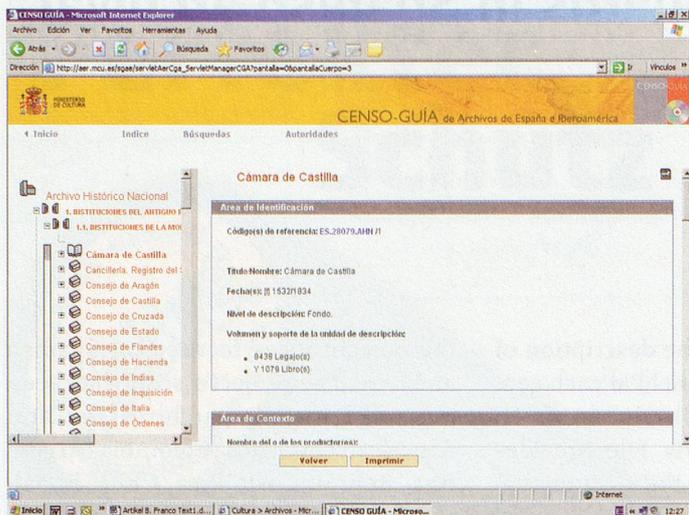
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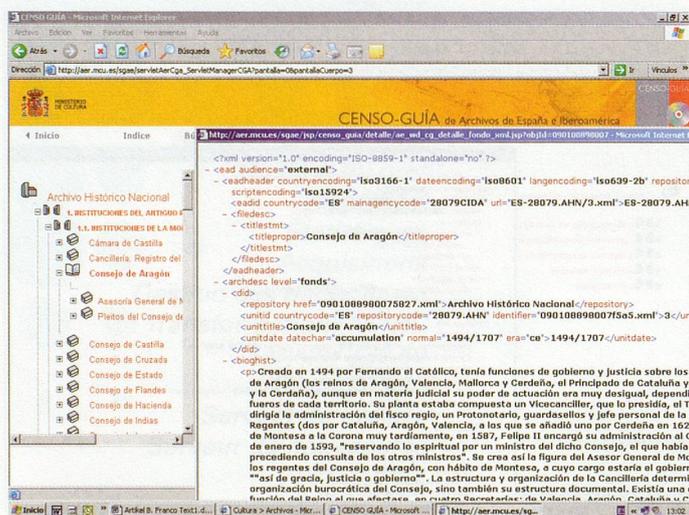


Ilu. 3

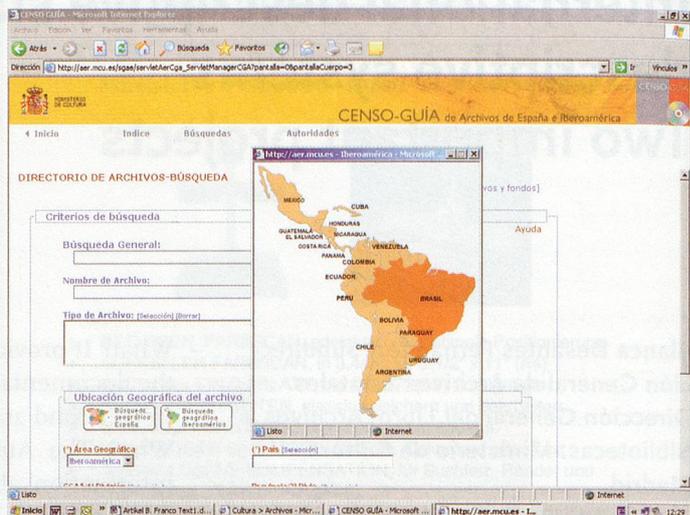
because the archival descriptions come from very diverse centres and countries.

The data structure model implemented by the project was prepared by the State Archives of Spain; it is an XML DTD called EAG (Encoded Archival Guide), currently in version Alfa 0.2; it regulates the market for general information on archive centres, providing an electronic format for the storage, publication and exchange of archive centre presentations. (Ilu. 2)

The descriptions for the fonds and collections managed in archives use a data structure adjusted to ISAD (G) 2nd edition and to the DTD of XML/SGML EAD 2002. (Ilu. 3)



Ilu. 5



Ilu. 4

The system functionalities allow research according to archive centres, to fonds and to authority files.

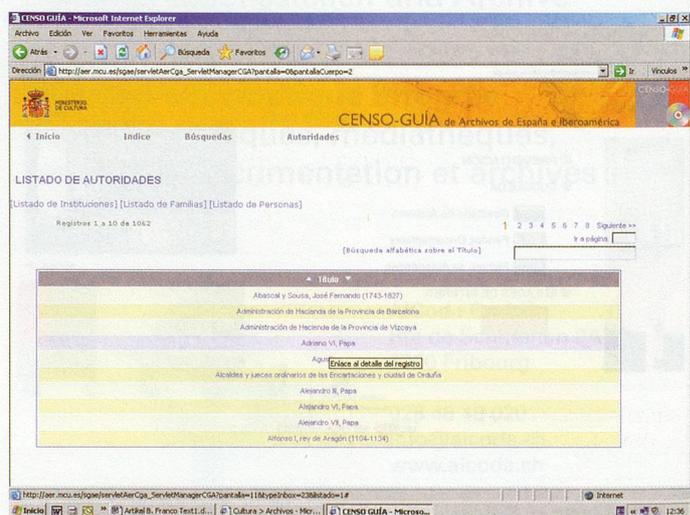
First at all, searches of archive centres. It is possible to make a general search, with free text, for the name of the archive or the type of archive and according to the geographic location of the archive (interactive map). There are pop-up windows to allow users to carry out assisted searches with controlled languages. (Ilu. 4)

The second option is the search of the documentation held at each centre. The classification scheme of the archives appears on line. All the information follows the standard ISAD (G): Identity Statement Area, Context Area, Conditions of Access and Use Area, Allied materials Area and Notes Area. All this

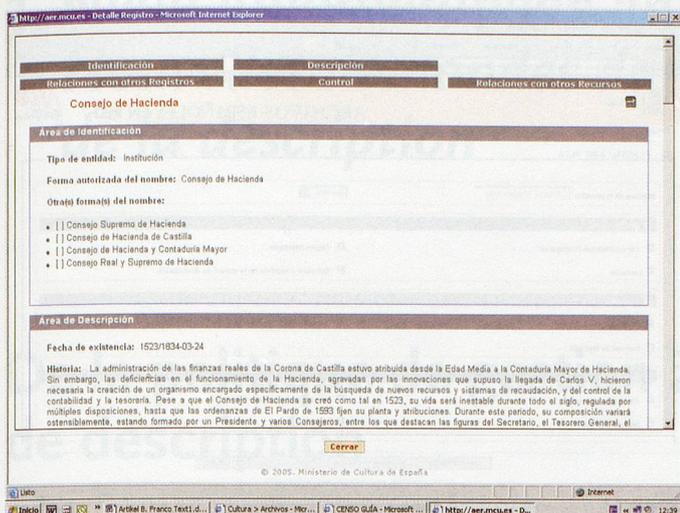
information is in XML format, too. This format was chosen because it has become the universal standard for electronic data exchange and has achieved broad acceptance; also, it is important to make sure that it can manage the sharing and exchange of information with other organisations. (Ilu. 5)

The third option is to search by Authority File. The description of creators follows the ISAAR (CPF) 2nd edition data structure. This Authority File is shared with the AER project. There are a complete list with all the results and three lists of persons, families and corporate bodies. (Ilu. 6)

Also, it is possible to search by free text. The elements of description are organized into four information areas: Iden-



Ilu. 6

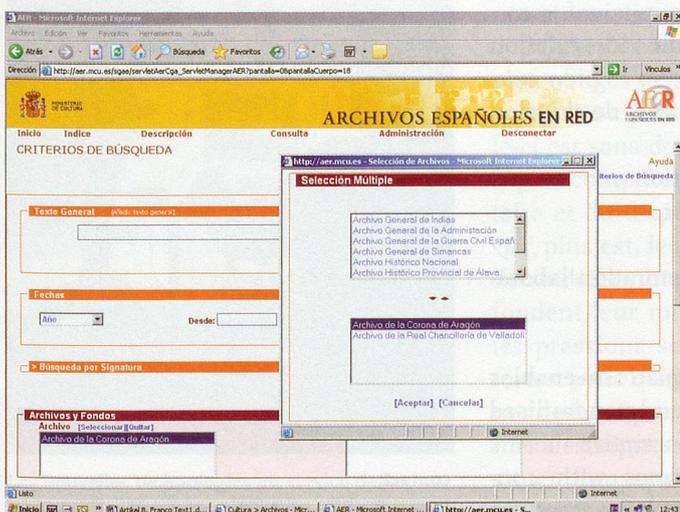


Ilu. 7

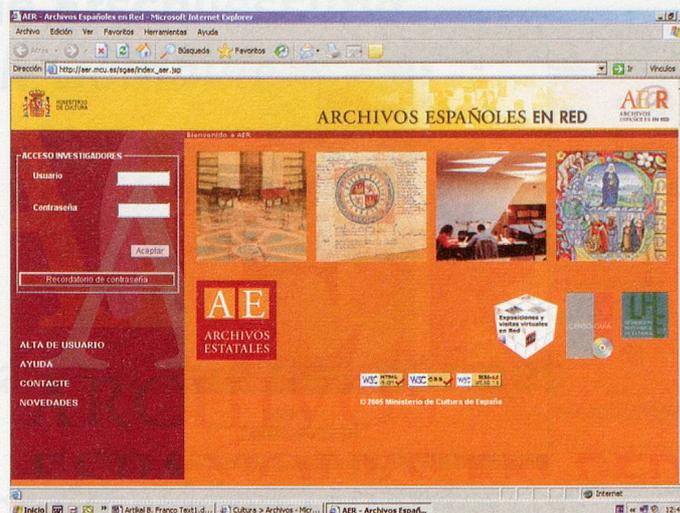
ty Area, Description Area, Relationships Area (here divided in two: Relationships with other Authority Files and Relationships with other Resources) and a Control Area. (Ilu. 7)

The Register Guide is also capable of operating with other formats (access, pdf ...) and html tables can be copied in word, excel ... formats. And the most important functionality is the on-line updating of information from anywhere in Spain or Latin America.

The AER project (Spanish Archives on the Net) is a project developed by the Spanish Ministry of Culture for the diffusion of the cultural content of Spanish archives through the Internet. (Ilu. 8)



Ilu. 9



Ilu. 8

The basic aim of the AER project is to make pre-existing standardised State Archive databases available via the Internet and to link the archival descriptions to the reproduction of the documents so they can be viewed on the Net. The AER project provides instant, free access to over 15 million pictures of documents and descriptions from anywhere in the world.

The objectives are:

- To provide instant free access to Spanish archives for the international research community and members of the general public
- To facilitate and promote research work
- To disseminate its high-quality cultural contents via the Internet in the Spanish language

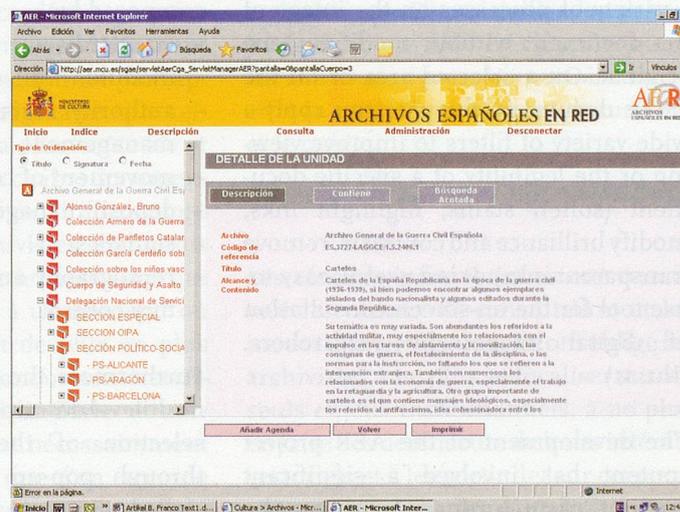
- To ensure better preservation and dissemination of the archive collections through their digitisation and on-screen consultation

Obviously, not all the documents of the Spanish State Archives are digitalised, but the number is increasing. There are criteria for the digitisation like

- the state of conservation of the documents,
- the demand for researchers and the general public,
- that the documents are described and arranged,
- the records that form part of common history ...

There are two search processes within the AER application:

- Simple search: aimed at the normal



Ilu. 10

