

# Documentation and publications

The Fundación Secretariado General Gitano has a main Documentation Centre on the Roma community in Spain which is one of the most important in all of Europe in terms of its volume and the quality of its holdings.

The Centre focuses on promoting an intercultural society in which Roma persons freely and fully exercise their citizenship and contribute to the enrichment of a universal culture. Its objectives are as follows:

- } To promote the preservation, knowledge and dissemination of Roma culture.
- } To be a documentary point of reference for research work on the Roma community.

It provides the following services:

- } **Library:** we offer a traditional on-site consultation service for outside users and for Foundation workers. Our Web page also offers an on-line consultation and reference service to cover any request for information on the Roma community. The catalogue includes over 6,000 registries (monographs, periodical publications, audiovisuals, articles of interest and grey literature) where we can look up the following subjects related to the Roma community: art, culture and history; associationism; discrimination and racism; education; legislation; interculturalism and co-existence; Roma youth and women; language and literature, social and intercultural mediation; media; population;



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religion and religiousness; health; social services; housing. It also has a section devoted to ethnic minorities and the third sector.

- } **Digital Library:** focusing on new formats, we have approximately 1,000 digitalised documents (monographs, theses, articles, studies, etc.).
- } **Mediatheque:** comprised of audiovisual materials on Roma (documentaries, programmes, films, music, teaching material, etc.) which can be viewed and heard at the Documentation Centre itself.
- } **Newspaper library:** a wealth of press clippings about the Roma people both in hard and digital copy dating back to 1967.

In 2009 we focused on the digitalisation of the oldest press clippings in order to offer better and quicker access to this information.

This service is also responsible for publishing the monthly press bulletin *Roma in the Press* which in 2009 acquired an additional 700 subscribers reaching a total of 3,000.

} **Selective dissemination of information:** each quarter we publicise the Documentation Centre's new acquisitions by means of a series of digital bulletins.

} **Exhibits:** the FSG has two exhibits which travel around all of Spain as part of cultural events and actions related to the Roma community. The exhibit entitled "Culturas para compartir, Gitanos hoy" (Sharing cultures. Roma today) takes us on a trip through the history, culture and current situation of the Roma community stressing reciprocal enrichment between Roma and non-Roma. In 2009, the exhibit was lent out 20 times and was visited by approximately 2,500 people (children and adults).

The second exhibit, "Mujeres gitanas, participando" (Roma women participating) shows the contribution made by Roma women to education, employment, politics and art. This exhibit was lent out 8 times this year and is considered an essential resource for gender equality work.

} **Teacher's resources:** support resource for education professionals working in educational contexts with Roma students or students from other cultural groups. This is a selection of materials designed for use by schools, associations, institutions and public and private organisations to teach values and intercultural co-existence and to increase awareness of the Roma community.

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} **WEB:** The Documentation Centre has a specific section in the Foundation's Web page. There one can find information on services offered; the bibliographical search catalogue; the different publications forming part of the FSG's editorial series ("Technical Annals", "Work Materials" and "Life Experiences") many of which can be found on-line; and documents and links of interest. [www.gitanos.org/servicios/documentacion](http://www.gitanos.org/servicios/documentacion)

In addition to these services, the Documentation Centre plays an active role in editing the magazine *Roma Thought and Culture* with the documentary support and coordination of the "Mediatheque" section with information on the latest bibliographical novelties of interest.

In March 2009 the Documentation Centre took part in the IV Anti-racism and Xenophobia Conference entitled "Racism blurs reality" held in Gijón. The Centre made a presentation at the panel discussion entitled "Journalists and minorities: allies or enemies" on the image of Roma in the Spanish press. This year it also collaborated with the Areas of Communication and Equal Treatment in a training initiative for law students at the Universidad Carlos III in Madrid on the media and journalistic portrayal of the Roma community.