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## Entrehojas: between megabytes, paper and the spread of knowledge

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## Entrehojas: between megabytes, paper and the spread of knowledge

The discussion on the survival or death of *the book* has been on the table since the middle of the twentieth century. The pioneering work of Marshal McLuhan in the 60's as well as those of Pierre Levy in the 80's, along with Umberto Eco and Geoffrey Nunberg's discussions in the 90's and the first decade of the twenty first century, are evidence of the concern and productivity around the subject. Some argue that *the book* as we know it will be overtaken by information storage disks; while others argue about the fallibility of the latter in relation to paper, the material that has endured millennia and, apparently, continues to bear the test of time.

But beyond the discussion on the primacy of one material over the other is the issue of diffusion and dissemination of information. What is clear, so far, is that the technologies of communication and information have added up to the communicative dynamics open through the press, television and radio, as presented at the time by McLuhan. The fields of communication, politics, arts, and science have been affected –beyond moral limits- by the dynamics that the Internet, social networks and technology have imposed on our present day.

Researching, writing and publishing tend to be activities more public, collaborative and, above all, open to the generalized gaze. Although the author's image as a single entity - generated into the eighteenth-century- remains; what begins to change and become more flexible is the idea of knowledge, its dissemination and its accessibility. It is undeniable that the documents have authors, publishers and rights owners, but it is also undeniable that access to them it is no longer restricted to specialists, associates or small circles of readers. On the contrary, thanks to various initiatives, as well as to the contribution of Web 2.0, publishing is increasingly about open access, which not only enriches the knowledge itself with different perspectives but also lets it be renewed constantly.

Thus, the interesting combination research-creativity-technology is at the service of the publication and dissemination of knowledge. This is particularly true of *Entrehojas: Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*, an initiative that responds to the need of the Hispanic Studies Graduate Program of The University of Western Ontario to create a space for academic debate about cultural, linguistic and literary studies. Also, taking advantage of new technologies, *Entrehojas* tries to become a space to strengthen dialogue among graduate students (MA and Ph.D.) at the national and international level, as well as enable the building of networks and communities of knowledge. In that sense, *Entrehojas*, rather than siding with the primacy of traditional writing forms or the new dynamics of these new technologies, takes a position in which the co-existence of languages, forms of publication and expression become the most productive ways to enrich and disseminate academic knowledge. Thus, the encounter of new scholars with voices from different disciplines and different approaches, ensure the construction of a space that allows both the authors and the journal itself to transcend disciplinary boundaries and bring new approaches to problems pertaining the Hispanic world.

An initiative like this would not be possible without the invaluable support of the Hispanic Studies Graduate Program, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and the outstanding assistance of the Library of The University of Western Ontario through [Scholarship@Western](mailto:Scholarship@Western). Each of them played an important role in the creation of this space that looks forward to a fruitful and long career of innovation and diffusion. Of course, starting any business requires a lot of effort and support, but is the continuity and growth that requires ongoing commitment and attention. That is why we appreciate the momentum and the continued support not only of these institutions but also of all the people interested in taking part in the dialogue.

The first issue we present today is the result of a rewarding and challenging process. It is also the product of a group of tireless workers, authors, editors, reviewers and contributors at all levels, who have given their best in pursuit of the debate. With three articles focused on linguistic issues, and two more whose interest and research focus more on literary and cultural issues, this first edition has tried to cover a wide range of current academic interests. From the review of the “Synonymy as a Discursive Strategy Employed by Hugo Chávez Frías”, through empirical studies aimed at presenting methodological strategies in the teaching of Spanish as a second language, to a contemporary approach of the Pre-Raphaelite influences in the poetry of Darío, this edition shows the diversity of approaches, issues and interests in the broad spectrum of contemporary Hispanic Studies. The basic idea is that these items are conceived as articles that propose ideas that deserve to be discussed and, above all, read carefully.

In terms of the future, *Entrehojas* expects to keep growing, strengthening and forming an academic community, and communication networks that will enable dissemination, discussion and accuracy for the findings of new scholars in the context of Hispanic Studies. However, this ideal will only be possible with the continued support and participation from readers and the public, because without them, writing, research and dissemination would have no reason to be. That is why we thank all those who have accepted the invitation to contribute to the first issue and to maintain the project into the near future. It does not matter if *the book* remains or is overtaken by the bytes, the important thing is that culture and knowledge never rest, but on the contrary, in their endless walk make use of technologies of information. In that sense, *Entrehojas* will keep striving to become a tool for dissemination, reading and discussion, drawing on the benefits provided by both new and traditional technologies of communication and information.