



## REAL ACADEMIA ESPAÑOLA



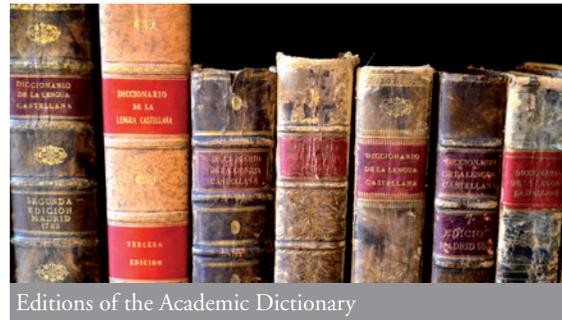
Institutional home

## Welcome

The Royal Spanish Academy (RAE) was founded in 1713, under the reign of Philip V, inspired by the model of the French Academy and with the purpose, as reflected in its first bylaws, of working at the service of the Spanish language. The emblem of the RAE summarizes in a motto with the style of the time its aims and obligations: «Limpia, fija y da esplendor» to the Spanish language.

From the moment of its foundation it contributes (through its activities, works and publications), ensure the good use of a language in constant evolution and expansion, which is the common heritage of millions of Spanish-speakers around world, an aspiration also incorporated in its current bylaws, that date back to 1993.

Between 2013 and 2015 the Royal Spanish Academy (RAE) has commemorated its centenary with different activities developed inside and outside the academic home, and, especially, with a new edition of the Dictionary of the Spanish Language –the twenty-third—, published in October 2014. The academic dictionary, like other dictionaries and resources of the institution, is available for free Online ([rae.es](http://rae.es)).



Editions of the Academic Dictionary

## THE ACADEMICIANS

The RAE has at present forty six places of full members, that hold seats named with some of the letters of the Spanish alphabet—in capital and small letters— .

The academicians are elected, by secret ballot and by a majority vote by the members of the institution themselves. The nominations have to be previously proposed by three members of the institution. The electoral rules are reflected in the Bylaws of the RAE (*Estatutos de la RAE*) and in a Regulation which governs the internal functioning of the corporation.



Plenary hall

The Academicians meet in plenary session, chaired by the Director, every Thursday of the year, except during the holidays. During the week, the academicians also participate in various working commissions that study the amendments and additions to the Dictionary, as well as the progress of the different projects.

Since its foundation, and up to the present days, the RAE has had thirty Directors. The first of them was Juan Manuel Fernández Pacheco, Marquis of Villena (1713-1725), in whose home was located the institution's headquarters. The current director, Darío Villanueva, was elected on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2014.

## PANHISPANIC POLICY

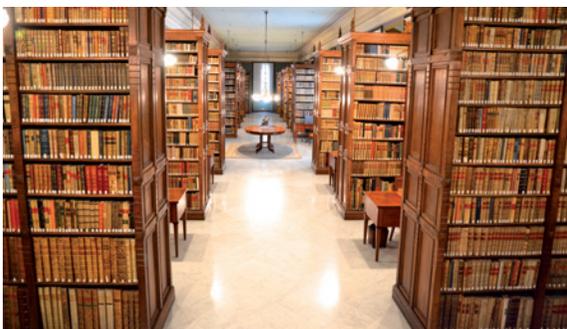
In 1951 it is created in Mexico the Association of Academies of the Spanish Language (*Asociación de Academias de la Lengua Española*) (ASALE), which groups the twenty-two corporations of America, Spain and The Philippines. Since its foundation and especially during the last years the association has boosted a linguistic policy that implies the collaboration of all of them in the academic works and projects.

Through a permanent work exchange, the language academies work to establish, through the dialogue and

consensus, a common rule—about lexis, grammar and orthography—for all the Spanish-speakers. The main goal is to favor the language unity within the diversity of the Hispanic countries.

The Orthography of the Spanish Language (*Ortografía de la Lengua Española*), printed in 1999, was the first work edited jointly by the twenty two academies. From that moment, other works have been published like the Panhispanic Dictionary of Doubts (*Diccionario panhispánico de dudas*), the Student's Dictionary (*Diccionario del estudiante*) —and its American version, the Practical Student's Dictionary (*Diccionario práctico del estudiante*) —, the Dictionary of Americanisms (*Diccionario de americanismos*), the New Grammar of the Spanish Language (*Nueva gramática de la lengua española*) — and its reduced versions, the Manual (*el Manual*) and the New Basic Grammar (*Nueva gramática básica*)—, the New Orthography of the Spanish Language (*Nueva ortografía de la lengua española*) —and its basic and school versions —, Good Use of the Spanish Language (*El buen uso del español*) and the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Dictionary of the Spanish Language (*Diccionario de la lengua Española*).

For the development of their linguistic works, the academies started the project of elaboration of the Corpus of the Spanish of the XXI Century, formed by texts of all kinds and countries of the Hispanic



Academic library



Dictionary of the Spanish Language

world and that will gather, in 2018, a collection of 400 million forms and words. Besides, several literary collections are in progress —among them, the Classic Library of the RAE (*Biblioteca Clásica de la RAE*) —.

Since 2007, the academies of the language count with the Centre of Studies of the RAE and the ASALE (*Centro de Estudios de la RAE y de la ASALE*), a building donated by the Spanish Government located in Serrano Street in Madrid. In these facilities carry out their duties the Institute of Lexicography (*Instituto de Lexicografía*), the Department of “Spanish up to date” (*Departamento de «Español al día»*) (which provides a linguistic consultation service, both via e-mail and Twitter), the Technology Department (*Departamento de Tecnología*), the Spanish Lexicography School (*Escuela de Lexicografía Hispánica*) and the New Historic Dictionary of the Spanish Language (*Nuevo diccionario histórico de la lengua española*).

## ARCHIVE AND LIBRARY

Throughout its history, The Royal Spanish Academy has collected very important bibliographic funds. The Academy's archive gathers the documentation generated by the corporation since the year of its founding, 1713, to the present. The library has around 250.000 volumes of books and around 800 headings of periodical

publications. Among its funds, especially dedicated to linguistics and Spanish and Latin-American literature, are included manuscripts, incunables and first editions of the works of the most important Spanish writers.

Apart from the general library, the academic library counts with the ones formed by the legacy of the academicians Dámaso Alonso and Antonio Rodríguez Moñino, both of an important historic value. In 2013 it also received the legacy of de academician José Luis Borau, currently in process of cataloguing.

## THE FOUNDATION

On the 20th of October 1993, under the presence of honour of the King, the pro Royal Spanish Academy Foundation was established. The foundation's main aim is “support, to the best of its ability, every activity that legally constitutes the object or aims of the Spanish Royal Academy.”

Its Board of Directors, in which the Spanish Autonomous Communities are represented, is chaired by the Governor of the Bank of Spain and it is the responsible body for the government and administration of the Foundation. Among the benefactors of the Foundation in addition to the individuals, there are institutions and collaborative companies.



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