

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER UNITS AND MARKETING OF UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY

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This paper sets out the results of analysis of fifty-two units whose mission is to transfer technology that is generated to the public sector. The objective of the analysis was to provide information and knowledge aimed at facilitating the design of units for marketing patents and spin-offs by university authorities and innovation agencies in our milieu. This project was financed by the Catalan Autonomous Government's Centre for Innovation and Business Development (CIDEM).

THE CATALAN BLOGOSPHERE

Mercè Molist

The most recent phenomenon to emerge and become popular on the Internet is blogging. This is clearly shown by the figures, according to which the number of blogs in the world doubles every five months. The Catalan language community is no exception to this development and, in the short space of time since 1999, blogs in Catalan have sprung up on the most diverse subjects by a wide range of authors from totally unknown individuals to politicians and well-known singers and writers. This revolution has been made possible due to the appearance of free services for storing and creating blogs, which make it very easy for anyone without any technical know-how to keep a blog, and also the *Catapings* and *Bitàcoles.net* directories, which one can use to find blogs in Catalan. These services form the backbone of the Catalan blogosphere, or "catosphere", as some like to refer to it, which is based mostly on voluntary work, i.e. nobody makes any money out of it and everything is done out of vocation. Although it does not exert the important social and political influence that blogging has achieved in the United States, the catosphere is becoming increasingly important because of the fundamental need in Catalonia for mass media in the Catalan language.

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CATALONIA (UNIVERSITAT OBERTA DE CATALUNYA - UOC) PEDAGOGICAL MODEL: THE CLASSROOM PERSPECTIVE

Teresa Santacana

This article is aimed at providing the reader with an insight into the pedagogical model employed in the Open University of Catalonia (UOC). This insight is based, on the one hand, on the practical teaching and management experience of the author, and, on the other hand, on her perspective as a former student of the UOC and graduate in educational psychology. With an introduction of a personal nature, a definition of the constructivist concept, a description of the pedagogical principles of the UOC virtual learning environment, and finally, a set of conclusions, the article aims to sketch the outlines of a new kind of learning and educational model, which based as it is on personalised learning and thorough student monitoring, breaks time and space barriers. The article also shows how the UOC, as a virtual environment, aims to create a constructive and communicative learning environment that is adapted to modern times and that is inspired by improvement and innovation goals.

THE FOUNDING OF THE SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY OF THE *JUNTA PARTICULAR DE COMERÇ DE CATALUNYA*: A MILESTONE IN THE INSTITUTIONALISATION OF RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE SCIENCES IN CATALONIA

Josep M. Camarasa

On the occasion of the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the opening of the School of Chemistry of the *Reial Junta Particular de Comerç de Catalunya*, a particularly significant landmark of the rudiments of policy for higher education in science and technology and for research in Catalonia, a review is made of the history of the institutions and individuals that played a leading role in the early stages of higher technical education in Catalonia, from the professorships and colleges of the *Junta de Comerç* to the setting up of the Barcelona Industrial School (*Escola Industrial*).

FUNDING FOR THE CREATION, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSOLIDATION OF *XARXES TEMÀTIQUES* (THEMATIC NETWORKS): SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH INTEGRATION IN CATALONIA

Victòria Miquel, Jordi Tasies and Joan Cadefau

The thematic networks (XT) project was initiated in 1994 as an instrument for integrating research performed in Catalonia. It was inspired by the fact that one of the problems with the Catalan science and technology system was that research was being performed in isolation; i.e. groups working on similar research lines, occasionally on identical aspects or with aims that were complementary, were not in contact with each other. There was a manifest need, therefore, to ensure that research work would be complementary and not duplicated or repeated, and an instrument was clearly needed that would facilitate - or at least encourage - contact between groups. This would give rise, ultimately, to cooperative research by groups having similar aims that would enhance their joint efforts.

This annual project, dating from 1994 and culminating in 2004 with the 3rd Research Plan for Catalonia (2001-2004), has resulted in a total of 207 networks created in the scientific area. This article aims to provide a general overview - in terms of the main results for this period - of what this project has meant and means to the Catalan science sector.

THE 2006 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITIES, RESEARCH AND THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (DURSI) AND ITS DEPENDENT BODIES

Sílvia Vives Pastor

An organisation's budget is the quantified expression of its objectives and reflects its policy priorities. The main objectives of the Department of Universities, Research and the Information Society (DURSI) for 2006 are as follows: to achieve a competitive and high-quality university system in terms of teaching, study and research in the framework of the European Higher Education Space; to continue promoting growth and improved quality in the Catalan R&D system in the context of the European Research Space, and to foster effective adoption of information and communication technologies (ICT) in all social and economic sectors of the county and to strengthen the ICT sector.