

Webs Review

Cultural diversity

In this issue, Webs Review reviews a number of webpages relating to cultural diversity. Public bodies, associations and research professionals approach the issue from different points of view.

Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec

<http://www.mcc.gouv.qc.ca/international/diversite-culturelle/esp/publicaciones.htm>

The Ministry of Culture and Communication of Quebec defends the importance of cultural diversity and prepares reports, studies and publications. The webpage features an article by Ivan Bernier looking at the possible viability of an international legal instrument for cultural diversity.

http://www.mcc.gouv.qc.ca/international/diversite-culturelle/106145_faisabilite.pdf.

International Network for Cultural Diversity

www.incd.net

The International Network for Cultural Diversity represents individual artists, cultural groups and industries that endeavor to counteract globalization's standardizing effects on culture. The webpage, in French, English and Spanish, offers information on the activities it carries out, such as the promotion of cultural diversity and development.

Media Plus Program

www.mediadeskspain.com

The European Union's Media Plus program began in 2001 with the goal of strengthening the competitiveness of Europe's audiovisual industry in the international marketplace by supporting the development, distribution and promotion of European audiovisual works. It is due to end in 2005.

UNESCO - Culture Section

http://www.unesco.org/culture/pluralism/html_sp/index_sp.shtml

"From diversity to pluralism" is UNESCO's motto on culture. The webpage provides information on different cultural policies, development, diversity, pluralism, cultural industries and heritage. The site includes UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity.

http://www.unesco.org/culture/pluralism/diversity/html_sp/index_sp.shtml

It also offers other interesting documents, such as the Report on Cultural Diversity, Conflict and Pluralism for the year 2000.

http://www.unesco.org/culture/worldreport/html_sp/media.shtml

Council of Europe - Cultural Co-operation

http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/

With regard to cultural co-operation, the Council of Europe defends the development of public and democratic cultural policies that respect the principles of identity, diversity and participation. Other goals are to integrate culture into sustainable development and advise Member States on the conception, planning and management of their cultural policies. The webpage offers a comparison of the different Member States and a compendium of public policies.

World Trade Organization

<http://www.wto.org/>

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the international body that organizes trade regulations among countries. Its agreements, negotiated and signed by most of the countries in the world, are ratified by the countries' respective national parliaments. There is currently a discussion about whether cultural goods should be included.

RIPC – International Network on Cultural Policy

<http://www.incp-rip.org>

Close to fifty countries from around the world form part of this network or international forum that deals with cultural policies and endeavors to determine how to integrate and promote cultural diversity within a common approach towards global development.

Culturelink

<http://www.culturelink.org/>

Culturelink calls itself “the network of networks for research and co-operation in cultural development”. Established by UNESCO and the Council of Europe in 1989, it is based in Croatia. Culturelink centers its resources, studies and news on communication, industry and cultural identity.

Latin American Observatory on Education

<http://www.campus-oei.org/observatorio/>

One of the main goals of the Latin American Observatory on Education is to analyze education in all its complexity and highlight both the diversity of and common elements in today's culture in Latin America.

Observatorio de la Educación Iberoamericana

<http://www.campues-oei.org/observatorio>

One of the main aims of the Iberoamerican Education Observatory is to analyse education in all its complexity, emphasizing diversity as well as the common elements of nowadays Iberoamerican culture.

International Francophone Organization

<http://www.francophonie.org/oif.cfm>

An organization grouping together a number of countries where French is spoken, including Egypt, Poland, Canada and Romania. Its activities are aimed at establishing lines of co-operation in different areas, including education and culture. It endeavors to preserve cultural diversity in international negotiations and supports audiovisual production, the written press and local radio broadcasters.