

National And International Knowledge Transfers When Using Technology On The Conservation & Restoration Of Paintings

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyses whether there is national and international knowledge transfer in the creative industry of conservation and restoration of paintings. A comparison between American and European museums is exhibited, distinguishing collaboration with research institutes and universities. A bibliometric measurement was used to obtain the data and a factor analysis to examine them. Results show that European and American museums tend to cooperate in knowledge development with other museums, institutes and universities located in its geographical area.

Keywords: Knowledge Transfer; Creative Industries; Conservation and Restoration of Paintings

1. INTRODUCTION: CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF PAINTINGS AS A CREATIVE INDUSTRY

The subsector analysed in this paper, **restoring of works of art such as paintings etc.**, is included in NACE 90 -Creative, arts and entertainment activities- instead of in NACE 91 -Libraries, archives, museums and other cultural activities-. The important thing is that these sectors are creative industries and also knowledge-intensive services (De-Miguel-Molina et al. 2012), and characteristics attributed to KIS sectors make reference to the talent and abilities of persons and firms to create knowledge (Larsen, 2001; Nählinger, 2005; Aslesen and Isaksen, 2007; Doloreux et al., 2008; Strambach, 2008; Muller and Doloreux, 2009; Shearmur and Doloreux, 2009).

The outline that we have used in this paper is as follows: in Sections 2 we briefly summarize the use of bibliometric approach in analysing collaboration between institutions and knowledge transfer. In Section 3, we include the empirical study about collaboration among museum and other institutions; we set out the data extracted from Elsevier's Scopus database, the variables and the methodology used for their study as well as the results obtained. Our conclusions can be found in Section 4.

2. BIBLIOMETRIC APPROACH TO MEASURE COLLABORATION AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Literature about innovation point out, in general, that knowledge and spillovers precede innovation. For this reason, knowledge is considered an input of innovation (Pecqueur 1992, Enright 1999, Feldman 2000, Pöyhönen and Smedlund 2004, Power and Lundmark 2004, Cooke et al. 2007). Knowledge is, therefore, a key asset for companies that compete with others and learning is a fundamental process (Maskell and Malmberg 1999). The use of innovation inputs and outputs has been used for some authors to measure innovation (Griliches 1990, Furman et al. 2002, Del Barrio-Castro and García-Quevedo 2005, Moreno et al. 2005, Buesa et al. 2006). Griliches (1990) stressed that the knowledge generated was converted into patents. In the subsector covered in this paper, data for patents would be collected from national surveys if they were available, but it is not the case. One solution is the use

of bibliometric approach to cover this gap, and especially scientific articles. Different authors have employed scientific articles to study technologies, knowledge and networks (Youtie and Shapira 2008, Leydesdorff and Rafols 2011, Robinson et al. 2011). Abramo et al. (2009) mention that using bibliometric approach to study collaboration between institutions, as universities and industries, through co-authorship of scientific articles also allow determining diffusion of knowledge and skills. And Wall and Boschma (2009) refer to knowledge networks in innovation systems, where diffusion occurs between local agents but also span across the world. In applying a new technology, Boschma (2005) and Rafols et al. (2010) state that actors require cognitive proximity to absorb new knowledge, although too much cognitive proximity may limit innovation.

Literature about knowledge transfer when museums cooperate, in restoration and conservation, with other institutions is scarce. Therefore, the research gap in this paper consists on bring into the open whether exist cooperation among museums and other institutions for using technologies and which are the patterns for these collaborations. Conservation is cited by authors among the main activities in a museum, and essential to preserve its heritage (Papini and Persiani 2004, Kotler et al. 2008). At the end of XVIII siècle and throughout the XIX, art collection and catalogue live with research in physics and chemistry applied to artworks restoration. Museums restoration laboratories and departments were set up during the XIX siècle (Moreira 2008). Therefore, analytical knowledge cooperation coexists in museums since restoration departments were developed. Results confirm that nowadays synthetic knowledge also cooperate with museums.

3. METHOD AND RESULTS

Data to measure collaboration and knowledge transfer were scientific co-authored papers. For bibliometric analysis, in the Elsevier's Scopus database were searched, in 27th July 2011, keywords "paint*" AND "restoration" OR "conservation" to obtain publications in international journals about restoration and conservation of painting artworks. The final number of articles was 1,656. These data were imported to VantagePoint software, which was used to: 1) Clean up results for technologies deployed in restoration and conservation, and institutions involved in these processes. Some techniques obtained in the results were: electron microscopy, X-ray diffraction, micro-Raman spectroscopy, lasers and Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS). The number of institutions analysed was 222: 94 museums from 26 countries, 41 conservation and restoration institutes, 49 physics and chemistry universities departments and 38 engineering and Information Technologies universities departments. 2) Elaborate matrixes, based on technologies, for papers co-authorship among museums, restoration institutes and universities. Finally, matrixes were elaborated depending on collaborations in papers: museums with other museums, museums with restorations and conservation institutes, museums with physics and chemistry universities departments, and museums with engineering and Information Technologies universities departments. To quantify collaborations, nine indicators/variables were used and also a geographical approach was defined (Table 1).

Results confirm that 27% of museums which wrote articles were located in the United States, 10% in the United Kingdom and 8% in France. Moreover, the most collaborative museums were located in the US (17.7%) and UK (9.4), regions where museums were also the most collaborative with national (17.7% of US museums, 6.3% of UK museums) and abroad (11.5% US, and 7.3% UK). Factor analysis (Principal Component Analysis) and cluster k-means statistics methods were used to analyse data. On the basis of the data input into SPSS program, the principal components (Table 1) were obtained. In the analysis of the relationships between variables, two factors explained 58.5% of the variance. Values for KMO and Bartlett were 0,743 (KMO) and 0,000 Sig. The two components in rotated matrix show what is confirmed in cluster results, that is, the variables which establish boundaries between clusters 2 and 3 is "Museum cooperated with synthetic university departments (engineering and IT) located abroad".

Table 1. Matrix of rotated components

Variables	Components	
Museum did not cooperate	.911	
Museum cooperated with other museums located in its own country		.742
Museum cooperated with other museums located abroad	.595	
Museum cooperated with research institutes located in its own country	.660	
Museum cooperated with research institutes located abroad	.791	
Museum cooperated with analytical university departments (physics and chemistry) located in its own country	.673	
Museum cooperated with analytical university departments (physics and chemistry) located abroad	.733	
Museum cooperated with synthetic university departments (engineering and IT) located in its own country	.694	
Museum cooperated with synthetic university departments (engineering and IT) located abroad		-.649

Principal Components Analysis and Varimax Rotation with Kaiser. Source: Compiled by authors from Scopus database results

The cluster k-means technique was conducted, through the factor scores obtained in factor analysis, in order to obtain group structures. In our opinion, it seemed more suitable to choose three groups to show all the diversity within the museums. ANOVA analysis was used to prove its significance. In addition, the ANOVA analysis applied to each variable used to obtain the groups revealed that all variables discriminate the classification into the three groups with all of them being significant at $p < 0.01$. Three cases can be verified in the clusters depending on whether or not museums cooperated, and the importance of all types of cooperation (Table 2). The first cluster includes museums we call *high-collaborative museums*, the second are the *medium-collaborative museums*, and the third are the *low-collaborative museums*. High-collaborative museums **have a higher mean of cooperation in all variables than medium and low collaborative museums, except for cooperation with synthetic university departments (engineering and IT) located in its own country and cooperation with synthetic university departments (engineering and IT) located abroad.** This variable brings out the existence of two components in factor analysis and the boundary between clusters 2 and 3. Examples of high-collaborative and medium-collaborative museums are included in table 3.

Table 2. Clusters depending on cooperation

Variables	Mean		
	C1	C2	C3
Museum did not cooperate	1.39	4.12	12.83
Museum cooperated with other museums located in its own country	0.38	0.25	5.67
Museum cooperated with other museums located abroad	0.29	0.12	2.00
Museum cooperated with research institutes located in its own country	0.34	0.75	2.33
Museum cooperated with research institutes located abroad	0.14	1.38	3.00
Museum cooperated with analytical* university departments located in its own country	0.14	0.38	1.83
Museum cooperated with analytical* university departments located abroad	0.28	1.00	2.33
Museum cooperated with synthetic** university departments located in its own country	0.14	1.50	1.50
Museum cooperated with synthetic** university departments located abroad	0.05	2.50	0.33
Number of museums	80	8	6

* physics and chemistry; ** engineering and IT. Source: Compiled by authors from Elsevier’s Scopus database results

It is remarkable that in the high-collaborative group figure important American museums (Metropolitan, Fine Arts in Boston and National Gallery in Washington DC) and The Tate, while in the medium-collaborative group appear important European museums (National Gallery London, Victoria and Albert Museum and Rijksmuseum). Low-collaborative museums are British Museum, State Hermitage Museum and Field Museum Chicago.

Table 3. Number of cases in each cluster

Clusters	Examples of museums, located in		
	USA	Europe	Other countries
1 - Low collaborative museums	20	45	15
2 - Medium collaborative museums	Winterthur Museum, Delaware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Kröller-Müller Museum, Netherlands; ✓ Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest; ✓ National Gallery, Athens; ✓ National Gallery, London; ✓ Rijksmuseum, Netherlands; ✓ Van Gogh Museum, Netherlands; ✓ Victoria and Albert Museum, London 	0
3 - High collaborative museums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Art Institute of Chicago; ✓ Harvard University Art Museums; ✓ Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; ✓ Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; ✓ National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC 	Tate Britain, London	0

Source: Compiled by authors from Elsevier's Scopus database results

4. CONCLUSIONS

Restoring of works of art such as paintings, as creative and knowledge-intensive services, is characterized for the creation of knowledge. However, determining this knowledge is difficult due to lack of data from national statistics at a disaggregated level. In other sector with the same problems authors have employed scientific articles, so this is what we attend in this paper. There are not studies about knowledge cooperation and networks in conservation and restoration artworks and about geography of this cooperation, so this paper covers this gap. Results from the cluster analysis show a pattern in cooperation among museums, restoration institutes and universities. Three clusters are found: *high-collaborative museums*, *medium-collaborative museums*, and *low-collaborative museums*. The first cluster includes museums with a higher mean of cooperation in all variables than medium and low collaborative museums, except for cooperation with synthetic university departments (engineering and IT) located in its own country and cooperation with synthetic university departments (engineering and IT) located abroad. In the high-collaborative group figure important American museums while in the medium-collaborative group appear important European museums.

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