Investigating Multilingual Access to Digital Libraries
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INTRODUCTION
Digital libraries remove physical barriers to access information, but the language barrier persists due to:
• Multilingual collections
• The linguistic diversity of users
This project aims to investigate the degree of success in providing multilingual access to digital libraries from the user point of view.

LITERATURE REVIEW
Multilingual access to digital libraries was already explored in 1997 (Peters and Picchi; Borgman; Oard). However, Kralisch and Mandl proved in 2006 how the linguistic structure of the Web creates a digital divide in the access to information. Are digital libraries subject to this divide?

Do digital libraries fulfil the need for information access across languages?

METHODOLOGY
Mixed Methods
Questionnaire and user tests to know:
• linguistic preferences/needs of users when searching for information
• utility of cross-language information retrieval
(Participants from the University of Sheffield and Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

Evaluation of selected multilingual digital libraries to determine whether or not they fulfil user requirements.

Questions for digital libraries: their view