Cataloguing and visualizing aerial imagery at the Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya

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This presentation will cover the former problems existing at the Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya (ICC) regarding the cataloging and management of the primary data coming from the flight surveys: the aerial imagery.

The ICC has a huge amount of aerial imagery in a variety of formats and auxiliary information with a temporal coverage ranging from 1942 to our days. Data capture has been completely in digital since mid 2005, and before that year the images were captured using analogical cameras. In this case, the image negative was maintained and preserved at the ICC Image Library, and different metadata catalogs were maintained and continuously updated, containing relevant information on the flights surveys and the corresponding imagery. The image negatives cataloged at ICC are 353.637 and the digital images captured since 2005 are more than 335.000.

Digitization of image negatives for digital production workflows, and the advent of digital cameras made reconsider the classification and cataloging of aerial images. A new approach was needed, in the look of a closer relationship between the object being cataloged, the digital image, and its metadata.

At ICC just a part of the analogical images has been scanned (around 40%) and can be directly managed by the new digital catalog. A similar problem comes from the availability of georeferenced information for the analogical images due to the fact that there is no digital information on the image georeferenced for a 24% of the analogical images. A specific policy for data digitizing and georeferencing should be observed in order to allow equivalent exploitation capabilities for all the information gathered in the catalog.

The new integrated data catalog aims to cover preservation and data discovery necessities, being as well an integrated facility for production purposes.

During the presentation we will review the process of creating the digital archive, the adopted policies for file accessibility and preservation and the integration of the image cataloging process into production workflows of the ICC.

A demonstration of the exploitation capabilities of the digital catalog will be shown.