



Fabio Rodrigues-Possebom - Agencia Brasil

THE COLLECTIONS AND THE COUP: A BRAZILIAN STORY ABOUT DEMOCRACY

Claudia Porto
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WHO AM I?

Currently - Museologist, Chamber of Deputies Museum, Congress of Brazil.

Independent museum consultant: digital strategies for collection communication.

Management of several Brazilian museums; director, Casa da Marquesa de Santos, Rio de Janeiro.

Former Arts and Exchange coordinator, British Council Brazil; later, consultant and producer of the Transform museum project.

Web content studio director for 15 years; MuseumWeek manager for Brazil (2019-2023); "New Media for Strategic Communication", MBA in Museums Management and Innovation; Europeana Network member.

Former member of the State Cultural Council of Rio de Janeiro.

ROLES PLAYED AT ICOM

Currently a member of ICOM Brazil Advisory Council

Former member of ICOM Strategic Plan Standing Committee

Former member of ICOM Committee for Collecting - COMCOL board of directors

Former member of Administrative Council, ICOM Brazil

PRESENTATION

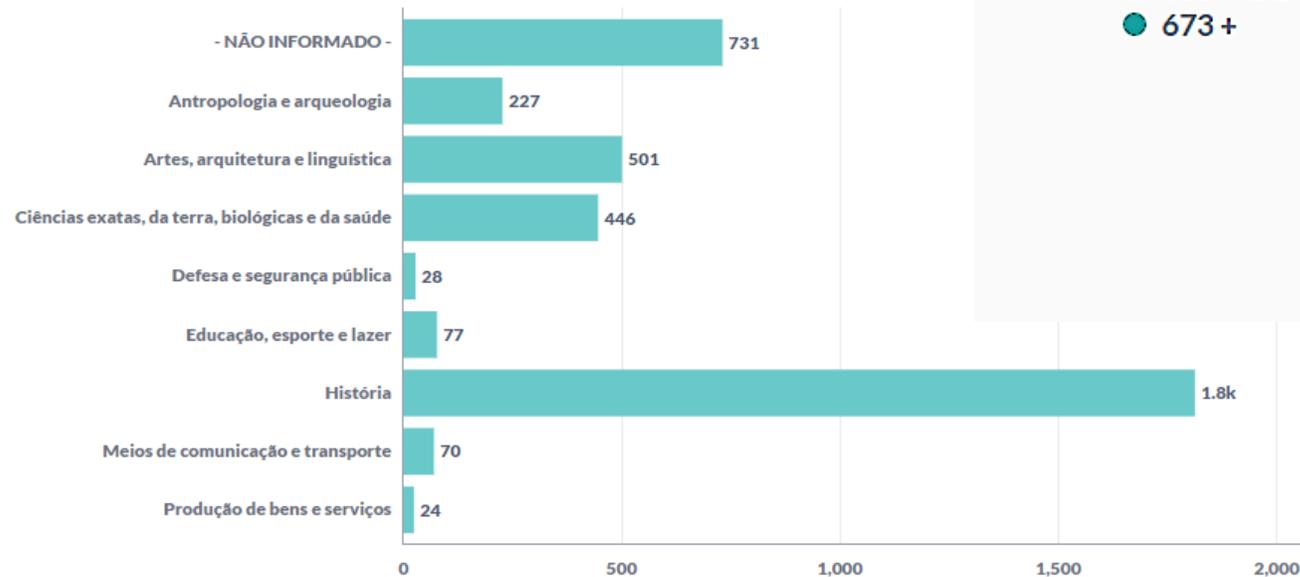
- Attempted coup in Brasilia, 8th January 2023
- Overview of the response to the destruction of collections.
- Historical and cultural collections as tools in Education for Democracy and Citizenship.
- Research conducted on the collections of the Chamber of Deputies and practical fruits of this research.

...And a few facts about ICOM Brazil and Brazilian museums.

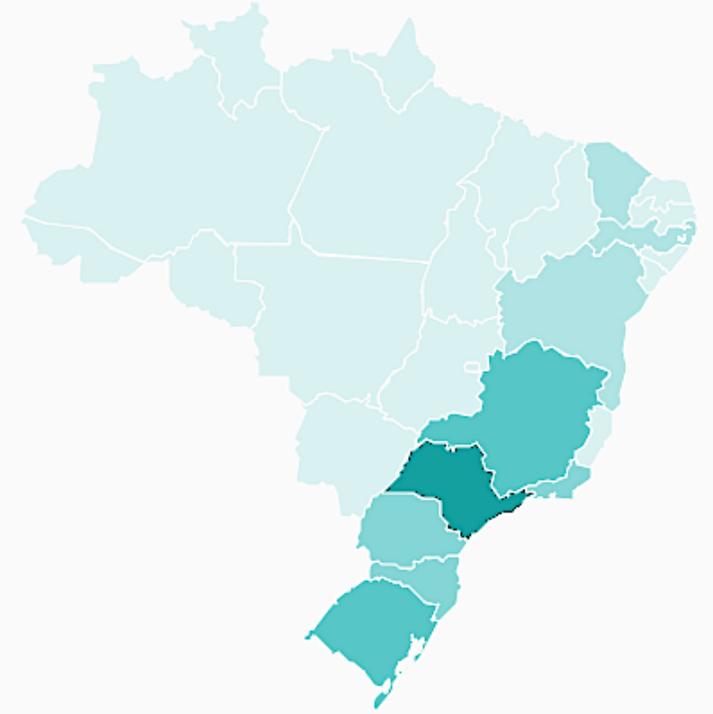
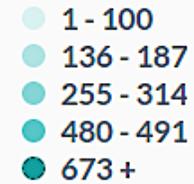
BRAZIL

Brazil: Almost 4,000 museums.

Museus por Temática



Museus por Estado



<https://cadastro.museus.gov.br/painel-analitico/>

BRAZILIAN INSTITUTE OF MUSEUMS

IBRAM - Federal authority, with administrative and financial autonomy, linked to the Ministry of Culture (2009).

Promotes and ensures the execution of public policies for the museum sector.

Managing body of the National Policy of Museums.

Manages 30 museums.



ICOM BR

ICOM Brazil founded in 1948.

Nearly 900 active members (100 institutions).

2023 - Red List Brazil.

The Brazilian Red List includes for the first time:

- Paleontology (fossils);
- Religious artifacts of African origin;
- Ethnographic objects made with elements of Brazilian biodiversity (headdresses and indigenous accessories);
- First editions of books and publications by Brazilian authors, including comic books.



THE ATTEMPTED COUP

8th January, 2023

Antidemocratic acts in Brasília led to the vandalism of historical and artistic public heritage at:

- The National Congress;
- The Federal Supreme Court;
- The Planalto Palace.

Why? An outrage over the election results, which, just seven days prior, had inaugurated a leftist president. The invasion was controlled hours later.

BRASILIA AND THE VANDALISED BUILDINGS

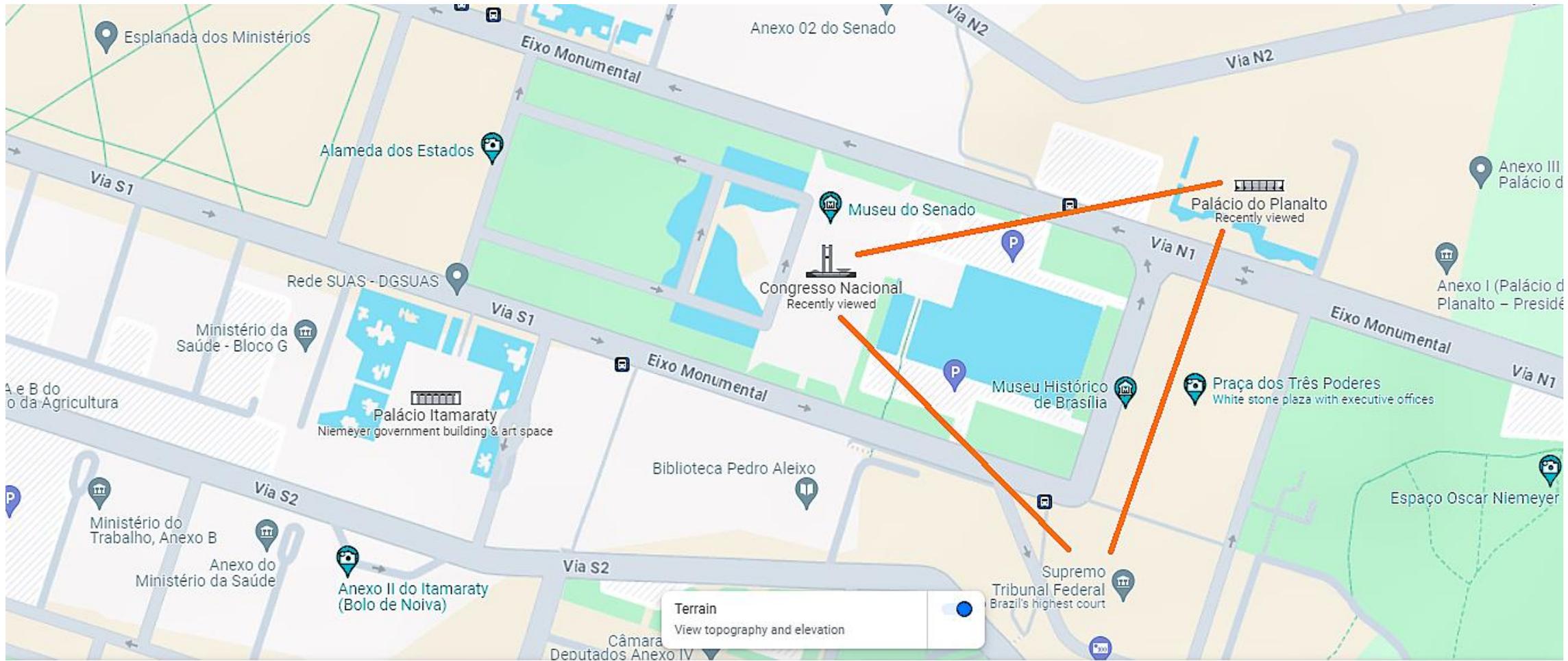
Brasilia: UNESCO's World Heritage List (1990) as an example of modernist urbanism and architecture.

Headquarters of the three republican branches:

- The National Congress (Federal Senate and the Chamber of Deputies);
- Federal Supreme Court;
- Planalto Palace, the official workplace of the president of Brazil.

Collectively, they embody the independence and harmony among the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches, symbols of Brazilian democracy.

The geographic proximity between them facilitated the invasions.





National Congress
and ministries

Arquivo/Agência
Brasil



Congresso Nacional

Câmara dos
Deputados do Brasil,
Rodolfo Stuckert

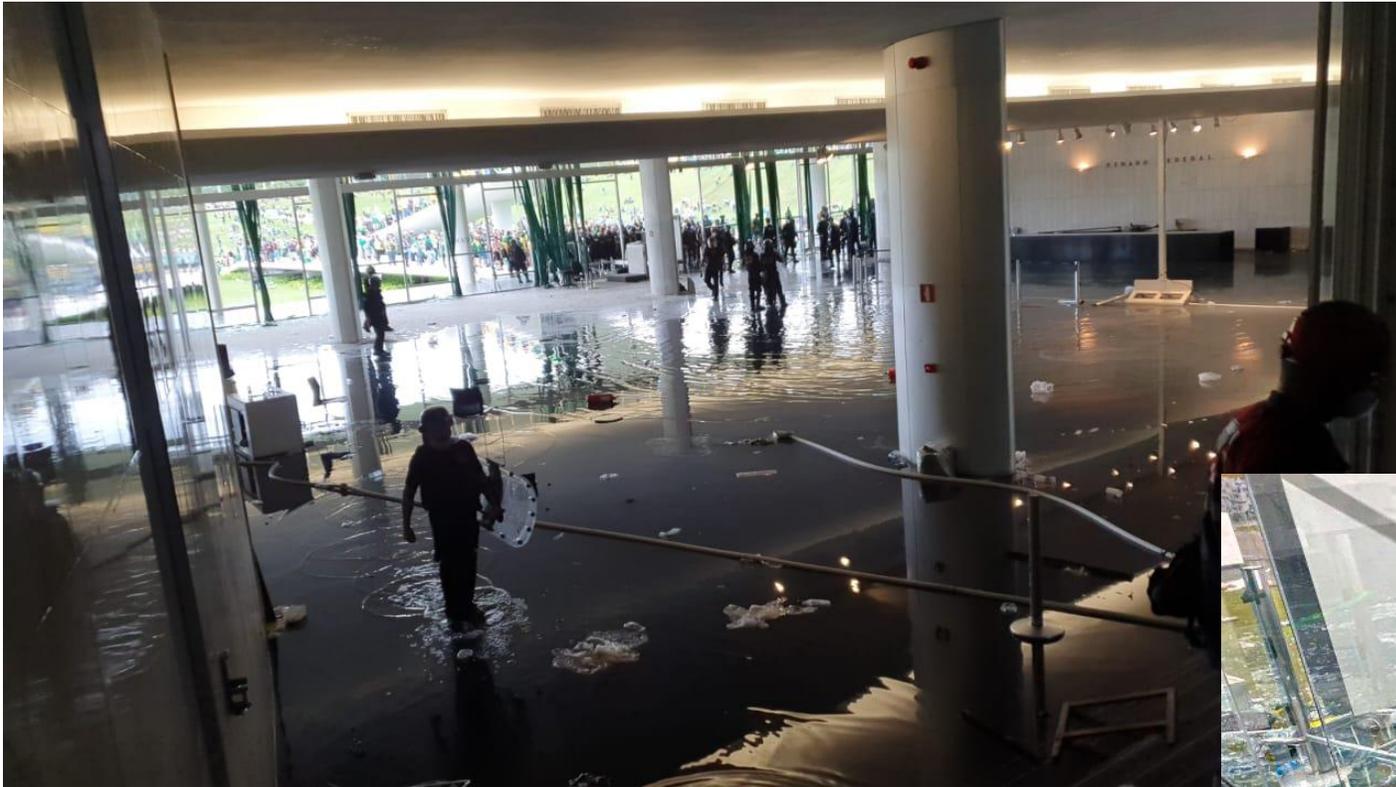


Chamber of
Deputies

Jose Cruz, Agencia
Brasil

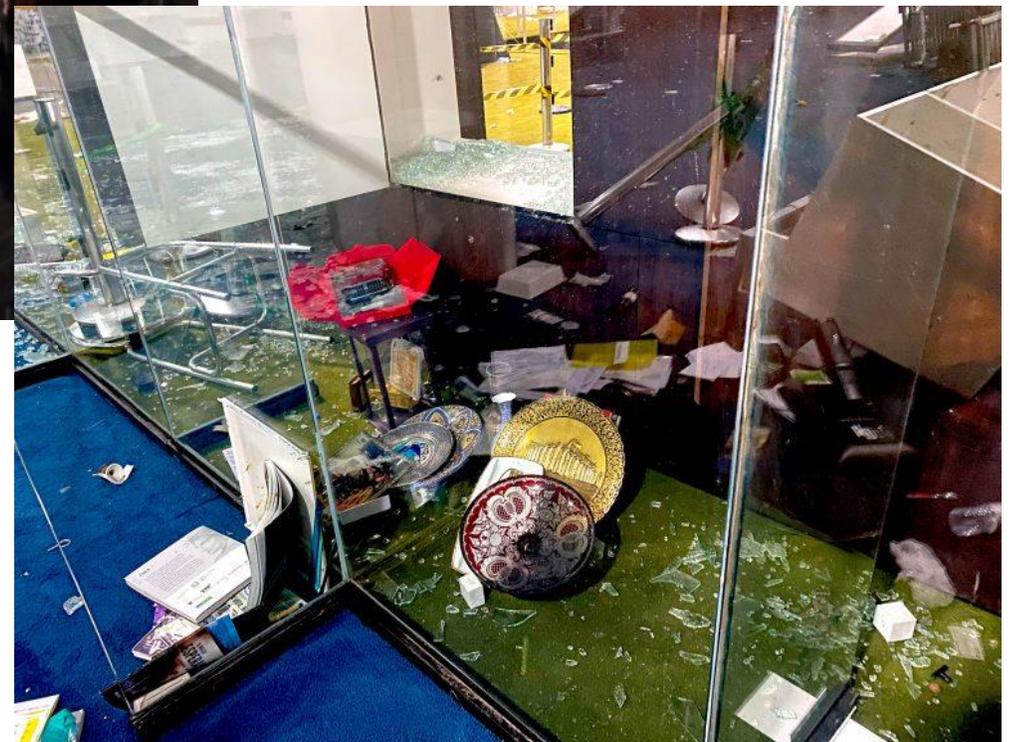






Flooded halls,
shattered windows,
broken furniture.

Arquivo/Agência Brasil



COLLECTIONS

Primary source of national political history: photographs; speeches; manuscripts; historical documents produced since the establishment of the Brazilian Parliament, 1823.

- Important art collection, representative of Brazilian art;
- Protocol gifts;
- Modernist furniture;
- Architectural plants;

...among others.

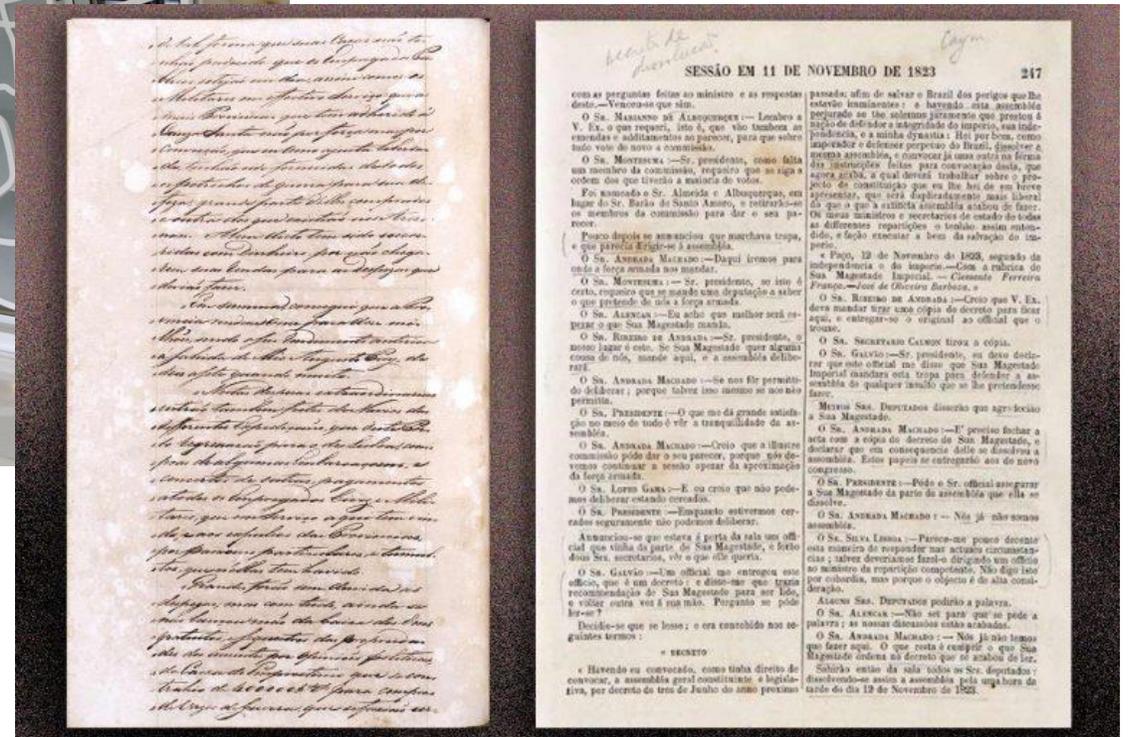


Chamber of Deputies



Alumbramento, 1978, by Marianne Peretti.
Stained glass. 280 x 1000 cm.

First and last session of the Constituent
Assembly, 1823.
Historical Archive, Chamber of Deputies



SOME OF THE VANDALISED COLLECTIONS

64 items displayed in the Chamber of Deputies were vandalised.

- 46 were protocol gifts.
- 38 were already treated, sanitized and/or restored in March 2023.

The 6 most damaged await restoration; 1 stolen.

Planalto Palace: More than 20 items vandalised; pendulum clock by Balthazar Martinot Boulle.

Senate: many items damaged, a tapestry by Burle Marx urinated on by one of the invaders.

Sculpture detached from the base, items struck, perforated, stabbed with a knife.



O técnico do Serviço de Conservação e Preservação do Museu (SECPM), Raimundo Nonato Nascimento Soares, mostra os danos causados na Tapeçaria de Burle Marx.



Ballerina, by Victor Brecheret. Photo Chamber of Deputies.

Protocol gift, China, Photo Chamber of Deputies



COLLECTIONS PRESERVATION: QUICK REACTION

Chamber of Deputies:

- Inventory;
- Preservation Policy;
- Risk Management;
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan;
- Regular training for cleaning and maintenance teams.

COLLECTIONS PRESERVATION: QUICK REACTION

- Experts from the 3 institutions (restoration and conservation);
- Ministry of Culture;
- National Historic and Artistic Heritage Institute (IPHAN);
- Brazilian Institute of Museums;
- University of Pelotas.

COLLECTIONS: EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY

Investment in education for democracy based on historical and artistic collections.

- Federal Supreme Court (STF) - Some objects were not restored, fostering critical thinking on the attack;
- Chamber of Deputies – Exhibition about the invasion, the damage and the response; website: <https://infograficos.camara.leg.br/memoria-8-de-janeiro/>
- IBRAM announced the forthcoming Museum of Democracy. Virtual repository: <https://democracia.museus.gov.br/>
- Resistance Memorial (Memorial da Resistência) - <https://memorialdaresistencia.org.br/>

ACERVO LEGAL

Chamber of Deputies - Research and Extension Group, where Chamber researchers can present individual research.

2021-2023 – I developed an independent research ‘Acervo Legal: The Use of the Cultural Heritage of the Chamber of Deputies as an Instrument of Education for Democracy’.

Goals:

- To seek convergence between cultural heritage and the Institution's core activity;
- To use collections to reinforce values such as citizenship and democracy;
- To connect items from the collections to topics currently being debated by the Chamber, in order to spark interest in Brazilian society on issues such as women's rights and inequality.

RESEARCH

At the Chamber of Deputies:

- Museum, Historical Archive, Chamber Radio and TV, historical architectural plans (4 different departments);
- Digital content produced by the communication and education areas: taxonomy, working process, interaction with society, portal access statistics;
- Portal, social media and hotspots; data base; CMS and search systems (information retrieval).

External:

- Brazilian organizations; from abroad: UK, USA, European Council, among others.

TWO EXAMPLES

1. UK Parliament - Living Heritage:

‘Brings together documents and objects from across UK Parliament’s heritage collections, providing an overview of Parliament’s role in the social and cultural changes that have taken place in British society since 1215.’

‘Bill Sticking for Liberty’,
Parliamentary Archives.

A page on Living Heritage site.



UK Parliament > About Parliament > Living Heritage > People & Parliament transforming society

People & Parliament transforming society

Parliament has frequently defined the relationship between the State and its citizens and so has often been at the very heart of change in society. Parliament at times has been a champion of advances in society, and at others has been the focal point of popular campaigns run by those frustrated by a lack of reforming legislation.

Falklands Conflict >



Maps from Falkland Islands Economic Study by Lord Shackleton, September 1982.

Parliament and the Second World War >



Find out about UK Parliament and WWII using historical and educational resources as well as

In this section

- Living Heritage
- People & Parliament transforming society**
- Parliament and the First World War >
- Parliament and the Second World War >
- Living and Learning >
- Trade and industry >
- Town and country >
- Law and order >
- Private lives >

TWO EXAMPLES

2. Resistance Memorial

Learning activities include a Human Rights Education course.

One of the cells in the former Deops/SP prison space, part of the Memorial's long-term exhibition.



Memorial da Resistência de São Paulo



MEMORIAL DA
RESISTÊNCIA
DE SÃO PAULO

Visita Exposições Eventos Centro de Referência Educação Notícias Apoio MENU

Atividades



Campanha Sonhar o Mundo



Conhecendo o Deops/SP:
História e Memória



Contaçon de Histórias



Curso de Educação em
Direitos Humanos



Curso Educar, Contar e
Brincar para Resistir: o
direito da criança à
Memória e à Verdade



Curso em parceria com o
Instituto Bixiga



#EducAtivoResponde



Ocupações Memorial



Encontro com Profissionais
de Turismo



Encontro de
aprofundamento temático



Jogos lúdico-pedagógicos



Minicurso de Encontro com
Educadores

STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES

Strengths, opportunities:

- Collections relevant to the country's history, and in different media;
- The expertise of the Chamber's digital communications and education teams;
- Constant growth in access and interaction of the target audience (website, social media).

Weaknesses (Faced by countless other institutions, in Brazil and abroad.)

- Interdepartmental communication;
- Controlled vocabulary (to index content and to retrieve content online);
- Small and/or overloaded teams;
- Limited awareness of how collections can be used in education for citizenship and democracy.

PRODUCTS

- Digital exhibition: The history of the House's social and political achievements told by the collections themselves (objects, videos, recordings, photos, manuscripts etc.); The purpose of the Congress; Democratic values;
- Interactive timeline on specific topics, such as women's rights or the environment;
- Social media: Link historical collections to the Chamber's current agenda;
- Educational participatory projects in partnership with the Chamber's School for Democracy.

AN EXAMPLE

Civic Mural, Otávio Roth, 1988. Mixed technique on paper. 8 panels of 106 x167 cm.

The work reproduces excerpts from the Constitution of 1988, written with the participation of society and the main symbol of the process of Brazilian redemocratization, after 21 years of military regime.

Like the Constitution, Roth's mural was written collaboratively by thousands of citizens, invited to draw their names in pieces of colored paper, each letter in a square.

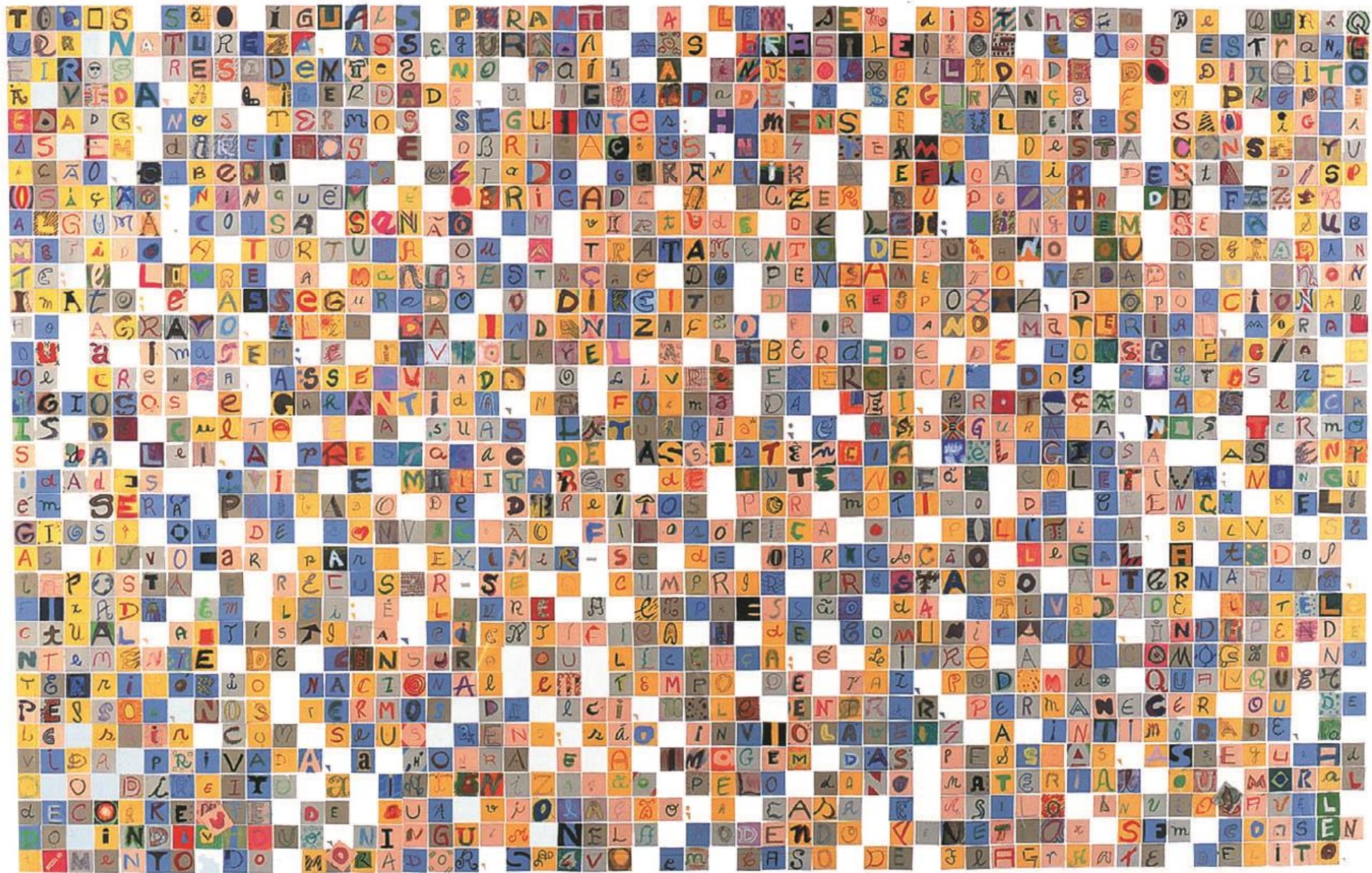


Photo:
Chamber of
Deputies

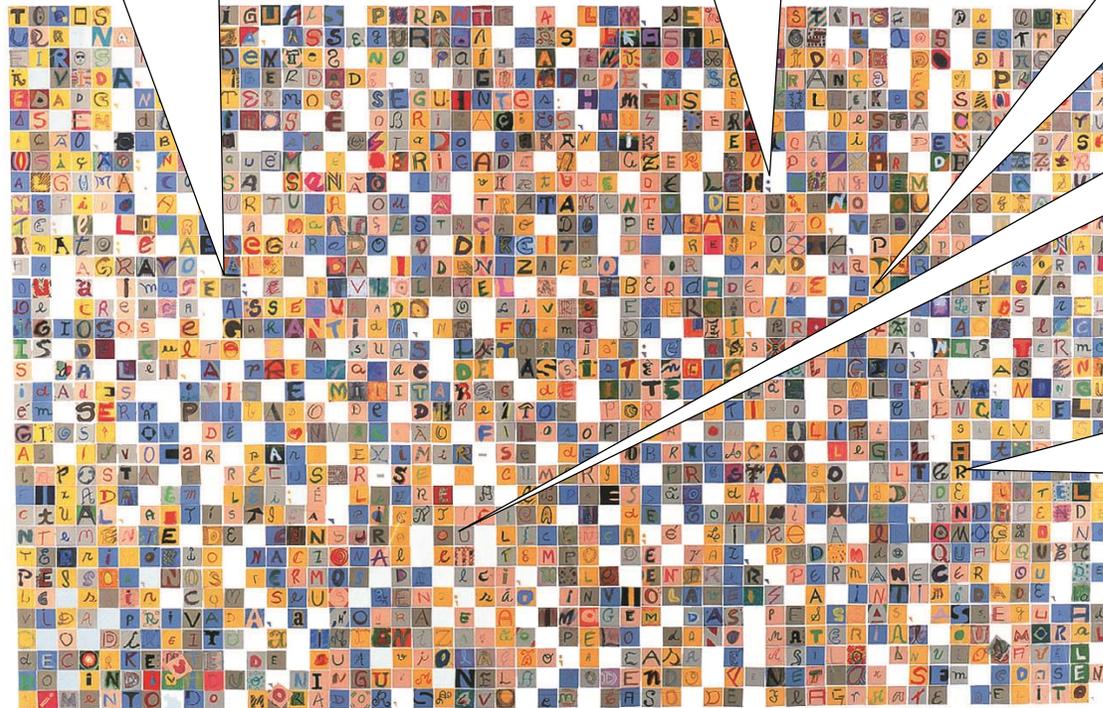
What is a
Constitution for?
How are they
created?

Why is the 1988
Constitution
different from the
previous ones?

Shall we choose an
important law and
create a similar
mural?

Are there works of
art of a political
nature?

Do you know of any
law that deals with
the rights of children
and teenagers in Brazil?



AN UPDATE

- Brainstorming with numerous departments to spark interest, think about new and feasible projects and products. First conversations that may lead to:
- Online exhibition about the history of the Chamber and its importance for democracy;
- Including relevant collection items in the existing learning material;
- A women's rights exhibition;
- A closer dialogue between departments that manage collections and those that create content.

I have been interviewing museums, archives and libraries institutions to share experiences and views.

Do you recommend any?

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Very interested in exchanging information with you about your projects, practices and education programmes.

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Vielen Dank!