



INVENTORY PROJECT – Morhan – Brazil

1. Introduction

The Global Project on the History of Leprosy is the initiative of the International Leprosy Association. The project is fully funded by the Nippon Foundation and it is based at the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine at the University of Oxford. The Project is developing a database of leprosy archives around the world, as a working tool for researchers who are interested in the modern history of leprosy, dating from 1847, when Danielssen and Boeck published *Om Spedalskhed*. It will also be of interest to those connected with leprosy and its impact.

The collections mentioned on the database have a wide range of organizational, policy, scientific and medical archives as well as leprosaria records, museums and libraries. Also included are private collections of those who have worked in the field and collections of testimonies from people affected by the disease. The project does not hold any of these records, but provides information of their existence and whereabouts. While the database creates pathways for researchers, the project will both encourage the preservation of archives and establish a network of researchers.

At this stage of the project, a survey of the available historical material in old the hospital-colonies of Brazil is being undertaken, under the coordination of the Morhan – the Movement for the Reintegration of the People Affected by Hansen's Disease.

This follows on from Resolution 41 of the *Relatório Consolidado do 1 Seminário Nacional de Antigos Hospitais. Colônia de Hanséniase (5-7 Nov 2004)* which called for documentation and research centres to be created to preserve the memories of the experience of leprosy. This resolution called for an inventory of the documents, books, patient records and photographs in the leprosy colonies of Brazil. The object of this was to make them accessible to the community.

2. Objectives

2.1 Immediate:

To make a survey of relevant historical documents held in the hospital -colonies of Brazil so that they can be entered into a database of that will be accessible by all those interested in the history of leprosy.

2.2 Secondary:

To provide digitalization of documents considered to be a priority for the preservation of the memory of leprosy in the hospitals and colonies.

To set up registries of oral history in each colony-hospital.

To establish a virtual museum that will display the digitalized documents.

3. Methodology

The description of the approach to identification, description and preservation of these documents is outlined in: [Portuguese Archive Booklet](#)

4. Participants

1. COORDINATION

Artur Custódio Moreira de Sousa: Morhan National Coordinator

Lavinia Schüler-Faccini: Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul

Silvania Rosa: Morhan Directory Board

Juliane C. Primon Serres: Museum of History of Medicine – Rio Grande do Sul

Éverton Quevedo: Museum of History of Medicine – Rio Grande do Sul

Paulo Roberto Pereira Pinto: Communication and Graphic Art

Alissandra Silva: Funding Department - Morhan

Artur Custódio Correa de Sousa: technical support

2. PARTICIPANTS AND STATE (alphabetical order)

Ana Maria dos Santos Martins Pinho: Maranhão

Carla Letti: Goiás

Carolina Cahu: Pernambuco

Elisabeth Poorman: Rio de Janeiro

Célia Rolim: Ceará

Claudia Schiavotello: Maranhão

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Lígia Valle Brito: Goiás

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