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Materials Characterization of Mexican Cultural Heritage: Recent Methodologies and Strategies

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Abstract content

Non destructive characterization of cultural heritage has been carried out in the last decade systematically in Mexico. An interdisciplinary group, the ANDREAH network (Red de Análisis No Destructivo para el Estudio del Arte, la Arqueología y la Historia), formed mainly by scientists, conservators and archaeologists of the UNAM and INAH has been developed to study all kind of materials: Pottery, metallic artifacts, manuscripts and codex, paintings, litic materials, pigments, etc. The methodologies used involve imaging techniques (IR and UV), portable spectrometers (XRF, Raman, FTIR), ion beam accelerators techniques (PIXE-RBS, PIGE), electronic microscopes (SEM, HR-TEM), and chemical methods. Some of the most outstanding collections and artifacts of the Mexican cultural heritage has been studied by our group. In the last year, several contacts and proposals of research has been aroused to develop specific studies in the Brookhaven National Synchrotron Light Source and in the SOLEIL facility. The aim of this talk is to present the state of the art of the scientific study of the cultural heritage in Mexico and some proposals of research that may be carried out with the Mexican groups in a Synchrotron facility.

Summary

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