



Piercentre, an information system of the stone, quarries and monuments of the Centre Region (France)

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The “PIERCENTRE” information system assembles and provides information relating to 82 construction stones extracted in the “Region Centre” of France along with the 664 original quarries, most of which are today closed or filled in, in addition to the stone currently present in the 565 classified monuments in the region.

With the desire to enhance the availability of data on as broad a base as possible, PIERCENTRE constitutes a data exploitation tool based on interactivity which, apart from a Windows environment, requires no particular knowledge, nor the installation of a specific computer programs.

Constructed around a consultation engine called « NAVIGASIG » developed within the BRGM, PIERCENTRE constitutes a specific program enabling both:

- Availability and presentation of data on a completely autonomous CD-ROM;
- Updating of the data using a very simple procedure.

Development of the system has been the results of successive phases of study described below:

- acquisition, compilation, analysis and processing of the information regarding stone in the region’s heritage edifices; inventory of the region’s stones, data acquisition regarding each inventoried stone, classification of the stone according to an order of importance, selection of stone for regional heritage edifice preser-

vation and of which the resource remains to be delimited and secured for the future:

- Construction of an Access 97 © data-base: elaboration of a Conceptual Data Model (CDM); construction of a Physical Data Model (PDM) using Access 97 ©; creation of data collection forms; creation of reports.
- realisation of thematic maps using MapInfo 6.0 ©: collection and compilation of the cartographic data layers required; ODBC between Access 97 © and MapInfo 6.0 ©, integration of the data base in the GIS software;
- Development of a tools enabling autonomous consultation of the Access 97 © data-base and the thematic maps developed under MapInfo 6.0 ©.

PIERCENTRE thus constitutes a tool providing:

- Knowledge pertaining to the regional stone heritage, restitution of detailed information on the construction stone employed in the edifices in which the stone was used, and the original quarries from whence the stone was extracted.
- Management of the regional heritage edifice stone, with restitution of information on the delimitation of stone resources, the preservation of which is indispensable for the maintenance and restoration of regional constructions.

Pierre centre addresses a broad base of the public:

- The public at large wishing to enhance its knowledge of the regional heritage edifices and the links with the regional geological heritage through access to technical data, location maps and photographic documents;
- Professionals operating in the area of traditional and heritage building stone and its conservation (contractors, architects, restoration enterprises, quarry operators, laboratories etc.), wishing to access precise and cross-referenced data regarding stone, monuments and quarries, and to access a tool which contributes to the decision-making process.