This research, which has been going on for more than four years, has made sufficient progress to be able to present some initial results that show the many research possibilities that the existence of a database of these characteristics would open up. The sample includes all the decisions issued by the Spanish Supreme Court between 1838 and 1866, which are the ones included in José María Pantoja’s first Repertory.

First of all, the judgments that were delivered and published over these years amount to a total of 3473 decisions. The most outstanding types of appeal during this period are:

- Appeal against the refusal of an Appeal
- Appeal in cassation in civil matters
- Questions of jurisdiction
- Other types of appeal

Throughout these decades, issues that could not be addressed from a technical or political perspective, had to be solved at a practical level. Hence the need to create a tool that allows us to analyze as a whole all the judgments delivered during the complicated process of transition between the Old Regime and the new liberal order. This will not only facilitate access to those decisions, but also make information retrieval much more effective and will open up new research possibilities for both historians and jurists.

Secondly, if we leave aside questions of jurisdiction, a brief analysis of the graph on the origin of the various appeals lodged before the Supreme Court during this period (2691 decisions) shows the wealth and importance of some territories over others. The contrast between the Overseas Territories is particularly striking.

Thirdly, each of these decisions is linked to one or more RULINGS through the different TERMS included in the ALPHABETICAL LIST. In the period 1838-1866, there is a total of 10778 rulings (“puntos de doctrina”). The average number of rulings associated with a resolution is 3.5, although the number varies between 0 and 17.

The terms related to these rulings amount to 2054: of these, 1362 are DESCRIPTORS and 692 are NON-DESCRIPTORS. The existence of these terms allows for a more efficient search of the legal information contained in these judgments and will help to build a THEAURUS in which reiterative or superfluous terms will be redirected and the different matters dealt with will be given structure, but without suppressing the original alphabetical list.

The INSTRUMENTAL OBJECTIVES of this proposal are basically two:

- To create a database that facilitates the consultation of the decisions issued by the Supreme Court and the Council of State throughout the 19th century, which will allow a better knowledge of the period from multiple historical and legal perspectives.
- To create a hierarchical thesaurus based on the alphabetical list of terms that were generated during the period, which will make the search for decisions more efficient.

On the other hand, the FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE will be to determine the way in which the judicial jurisprudence contributed decisively both to the (partial) unification of the Law in Spain: Regional Civil Laws (Derechos forales), Overseas Laws...; and to the construction of the liberal legal concepts and categories. In this sense, the judgements contribute to understand, through the casuistry, the dismantling of the Old Regime in Spain, the adaptation of some historical institutions to the liberal context, and the delimitation of the new institutions beyond the mere interpretation of the laws.

In this way, we will have a fundamental tool to understand a process of legal, but also political, economic and social transformation of Spain in the 19th century through the mass analysis of the set of decisions issued during more than half a century.