ABSTRACT

In the first part of the paper, as part of the background data and the setting created by the tradition and the prestige of the University of Heidelberg, we shall review some of the most important events in its history and in its universal romantic projection, which are so closely linked to the city to which it belongs. In the second section, we shall analyze the reasons why the University of Heidelberg is among the most important institutions of academic excellence in Germany and in Europe with regard to teaching and research. We shall further describe the innovative strategies being applied to consolidate and project its position as a world leader, such as the creation of the Heidelberg Center for Latin America inaugurated in April 2002 in Santiago, Chile.