REVIEW

TEMPUS PROJECT:
NEW LIBRARY SERVICES AT WESTERN BALKAN UNIVERSITIES

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Aim of this project is to achieve following goals:

1. Technical innovations of academic library network in Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina

2. Integration of the remaining faculty libraries into university library network

3. Implementation of the remaining ILS modules in higher education libraries for acquisitions, for serials checking, for management of library applications.

4. Building of the repository for university e-publications and documents with web applications for user storage of these documents and search of institutional and distant repositories.

5. Web portal of faculty curriculum with links to repository

6. Connecting institutional repositories with web services for creation of personal bibliographies of university staff and for OPAC.

7. Education of librarians, teachers and students for managing electronic material

8. Education of teachers, students and librarians for retrieval and distribution of electronic information from institutional and distributed repositories.

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1. Technical innovations of academic library network in Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Suggested technical innovations are based on integration of four new servers in each partner country. They should be used for functioning of COBISS3 applications, for Oracle database, for repository database and for the management of university e-documents within the existing library network in Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina..

2. Integration of the remaining faculty libraries into university library network

The project is intended to complete the library-information system at the universities. At the end of the project the following number of libraries will be capable of using all of the ILS services:

University of Belgrade - 12 libraries
University of Nis - 8 libraries
University of Kragujevac - 3 libraries
University of Montenegro – 10 libraries
University of Sarajevo - 9 libraries
Univerzitet of Tuzla - 13 libraries

3. Implementation of the remaining ILS modules in higher eduation libraries for acquisitions, for serials checking, for managment of library applications

COBISS2 and COBISS3 represent two generations of COBISS software designed for library automation and access to different databases on the Internet. The software, developed and maintained by IZUM, supports different functions of libraries and library information services, and provides user interfaces in several languages (Slovenian, Serbian, Bosnian, Macedonian and English).

With having shared cataloguing, loan and OPAC procedures on the COBISS2 platform satisfactorily automated (whereby cataloguing and loan do not have graphical user interfaces), the first to develop on the new COBISS3 technological platform would be the modules that had not yet been automated.

The COBISS3/Acquisitions software module consists of the following procedures for acquiring library materials (monographs) and managing financial resources in funds:

Pre-order selection (recording and processing of acquisition requests); Purchase, comprising orders (standard orders, pre-orders, on approval orders, blanket orders), order cancellation, prepayment for and receipt of items ordered etc.

The COBISS3/Serials software module includes the following procedures for acquiring serials and managing financial resources in funds: Pre-order selection; Purchase, comprising orders (annual and standing orders), order cancellations, prepayment and payment of publications, and monitoring of the funds balance; Creation of publication patterns;

Serials check-in using publication patterns with central recording or recording in individual library departments etc.

The COBISS3/Holdings software module allows complete management of holdings data, including: Downloading bibliographic records from the shared bibliographic database into a local database; Assigning accession numbers and copying holdings data; Setting up counters for accession numbers, running numbers and loan numbers, and the possibility of setting criteria for automatic selection of counters ect.

The COBISS3/Loan software module enables the following basic functions:

Entering, searching for and modifying membership card data or numbers; Lending materials outside the library, returning and renewing loans, changing due date etc.

The COBISS3/Interlibrary Loan software module includes all the procedures in which the

library acts as a library ordering materials from other libraries, and all the procedures in which the library acts as a library supplying materials from its own collection.

The COBISS3/Application Administration is a new software module which allows libraries to act as administrators of their own local applications for: Maintaining data on home libraries and partners; Maintaining data on employees and their username and passwords; Defining software user groups; Linking to the Central Register of Users.

Together with already established shared cataloguing system, OPAC and preparation of bibliographies, aforementioned services will round up the automation of library activities in higher education libraries. It will enable better and more efficient use of university libraries material.

Education of librarians for work with new Web services and for implement EU standards in user services is one of the major parts of the project. In projects framework all regional courses have been planned.

Regional academic library forum will be established within the regional network and it will have: web discussion groups for librarians, regional academic library blog, classic and web courses explaining use of ILS services in academic environment

4. Building of the repository for university e-publications and documents

This project is intended to give impulse to scientific and research work at each of the states and help faster and more efficient exchange of scientific information and knowledge in the region.

The project is part of information work at each of the universities that will first of all influence better use of scientific knowledge that could be found in university e-publications, like doctoral theses and dissertations. The importance of the project is also in electronic archiving and protec-

tion of these publications, although in the light of still undefined standard of archiving of electronic documents, the advantage is given to information side of the project.

Project enables fast and efficient exchange of scientific knowledge in the region where inter-university cooperation increases its importance. The intention of the project is to influence, with broader use of electronic archives and information services for their use, the other forms of scientific work and lecturing at the universities.

It is the beginning of the shaping of national archives of scientific work, which should be part of university portals, as one key precondition of the electronic education.

Project intention is building of a system that would be able to: manage large collections of multimedia data; provide controlled access to documents; provide controlled addition of new content to original form of a document; provide controlled permissions for use of digital documents; provide web service for entering of documents metadata together with addition of documents itself; connect metadata with digital objects; register technical metadata about documents with purpose of their final archiving by itself; search contents in full-text whether in PDF, DOC, RTF or any other format; display high resolution pictures and documents in multi-page way; provide federated search of distributed repositories.

Project should implement technology of the open source code, like Fedora, Apache, MySQL and McKOI. For metadata the use of Dublin Core, XML and COMARC has been intended while for federated search SRU/SRW is being planned.

5. Web portal of faculty curriculum with links to repository

In cooperation with faculty libraries data about reading lists for all subject areas taught

at the partner university will be gathered. Data about printed publication will be entered into e-catalogue of the library, data about e-material also, and the publications themselves will be available in a repository of the appropriate university.

Librarians of central university and faculty libraries will do this job during 3 years of project duration with expected entry of 500-1000 records pro faculty.

6. Connecting institutional repositories with web services producing personal bibliographies of university staff and with OPAC

System for archiving and use of e-documents should become the third one in the academic library network with full advantage for user if it is connected with the other two parts, with library automation system and information system of scientific work. This connection is supposed to be realized through:

– transfer of metadata on digital objects into OPAC,

– building of uniform search through OPAC and repositories,

– interconnection of service for producing personal bibliographies on web with repositories.

Integration of repository metadata with shared bibliographical database is possible by automated conversion of metadata in Dublin core into COMARC format within the service for controlled enter of data into shared bibliographical database. On the other hand, building of uniform search for bibliographical databases and repositories of e-documents will be enabled with implementation of SFX server.

It is of much importance for academic world to have a reliable system connecting archiving and use of e-documents with web service producing personal bibliographies of researchers and lecturers at the university.]

7. Education of librarians, teachers and students for managing electronic material

The aim of the project is for the librarians of the West Balkan countries to acquire necessary knowledge needed for work with e-documents. Within this project they should learn how to work in some very important areas.

Copyright protection.

This area is mostly for librarians who need to learn the basic ethical and legal principles of using e-documents and Internet and specific law regulations concerning good practice of use of e-documents in libraries.

Within this area it is planned to organize:

– 4 general lectures with 50 librarians,

– 5 two-days workshops with 12 people (Serbia 6X, Montenegro 2X i BiH3X).

– 1 distant course with 10 people who should specialize in copyright protection within their repositories. This course will result in a textbook on copyright law put on the repository server,

– publication of handbook Digital copyright law and libraries.

Descriptive metadata collections

This area is for a wider circle of librarians that intend to work or already work with digital colections. Wihin this area it is planned to organize:

– 5 workshops about Dublin Core, METS, PREMIS and OAI-PMH

– 3 workshops on conversion from Marc to Dublin core format

– preparation of Dublin Core to COMARC conversion scheme.

Management of repositories.

For the purpose of repository management around 10 librarians should be educated.

8. Education of teachers, students and librarians for retrieval and distribution of electonic information from institutional and distributed repositories

Part of the project is intended for education of librarians in search of distributed electronic repositories. Within this part of the project it is planned:

– workshops with 12 attendees about strategies of full-text retrieval;

– preparation of 2 web courses for education of teachers and students using electronic collections;

– preparation of presentational material about the ways of using federated search of bibliographical and full-text databases in higher education classes.

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* Results achieved in 2010 will be presented in the next issue of Infotheca in 2011.