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IAMC-CNR Online Public Access Library Catalogue (OPAC prototype)

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Technical Report NO.111-ISTTA-M.F.Library, Sept. 2004-09-20

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IAMC-CNR Public Access Library Catalogue(OPAC) Prototype.

#### ABSTRACT

A prototype for a on-line Public Access Library Catalogue (OPAC Prototype) has been given a “personalised” application for the catalogues of the IAMC-CNR, Sezione di Taranto, Istituto Talassografico library, in Italy.

KEY-WORDS: OPAC Prototype; on-line catalogues.

#### INTRODUCTION

This on-line opac prototype is based upon the model of ISTI-CNR in Pisa, (Italy) METAOPAC, which is available at this URL:

<http://leonardo.isti.cnr.it/metaopac/mop.mop.html>

The IAMC-CNR OPAC Prototype can be reached as a link to this URL:

<http://istiserv.isti.cnr.it>

It is necessary to give a concise description of Pisa Metaopac, in order to explain a correct usage of the catalogues. The description given here is taken from the help link by Giuseppe Romano. ISTI-CNR ,Pisa, Italy (1).

The welcome page is divided into two main parts:

1-Instructions area: which allows the user to make a search on the catalogues, giving a screen sight with all the abstracted indexes.

2-Results area: which contains results of the searches made.

There also some commands of:

1-Help

2-Forwards

3-Backwards

Then You have the main commands area, which is divided in two overlapping areas:

Search area: where the user can specify criteria for selecting bibliographic references;

Browse area: where the user can navigate among Authors Subject and Title cumulated indexes.

Search and Browse Areas are independent and can be used so.

#### SEARCH Area.

Within this area You can select from the top to the bottom:

- a) from a minimum of 10 to a maximum of 2000 documents. 100 is the default value;
- b) what the user gets is:
  - 1) titles list showing record contents in a hypertextual mode, where the first 100 titles selected are being ordered;
  - 2) titles list showing record contents in a hypertextual mode, where the first 100 titles selected are being shown;
  - 3) titles list showing record contents, where the first 100 titles selected are shown, as they are in the local database;
- c) the Boolean operators to be used among the research fields are: and, or, not. The default is: and;
- d) catalogues to be accessed for selection.

Search can be made on one or more fields at the same time.

Search can be made as follows:

- 1) For all fields: a general search of the word/s requested. When there are no operators among words, “and” is used.
- 2) Title: a specific search of one or more word/s put into the field “title”. “F” is used when there are no operators among words.
- 3) Author: a specific search of one or more word/s put into the field “Author”. “F” is used when there are no operators among words.
- 4) Subject: a specific search of one or more word/s put into the field “Subject”. “F” is used when there are no operators among words.
- 5) Publisher/Place and Year of publication: a specific search of one or more word/s put into the field “Publisher/Place and Year of publication”. “F” is used when there are no operators among words.

The operators are as follows:

- 1-“and” which is equal to the Boolean logic operator AND;
- 2-“or” which is equal to the Boolean logic operator OR;
- 3-“andnot” which corresponds to the Boolean logic operator NOT;
- 4-“(G)”- which is a restriction of “and”, applied to the same index/field identifier;
- 5- “F” which is a restriction of “and” within the same field.

You can truncate words by the operator \$.

Once You’ve started search, through the search keys, You click on “Start Your search”.

If You click on “Put the values” You go back to the kind of selection You want to use.

Search results are shown in the “Search results area”, in two lines:

- 1)The first one identifies the source (=service).
- 2)The second one may contain:
  - a) The number of documents selected. If more than zero, a link to the service giving records selected is connected.
  - b) The message “Error Connecting Server” means You cannot be connected because of technical problems.
  - c) The message “Timeout expired connecting <servername>” indicates the server can be reached, but cannot respond within a given time, owing to technical reasons.

If You make the “a” link active, You get the full list of documents selected on each service.

Each list contains minor tools for navigating inside the list itself:

- a)“Forwards” can be used in order to display a fixed number of titles which follow;
- b)“Backwards” can be used in order to display a fixed number of previous titles,
- c)“All” displays all titles available. The value given to “All” is 2048; therefore if titles selected are more than such value, it is necessary to use the minor tools for navigation: “Forwards” and “Backwards”.

Each element inside the list is made up of:

- a) a checkbox, which is a square You can make Your selection with;
- b) the bibliographic reference title, which is also provided with an active hypertextual link for displaying the bibliographic reference content.

Checkboxes can be selected singularly or clicking on “Select all”. Clicking on “Start”, documents selected will be shown, one after the other.

Clicking on “Go back” You cancel the preference upon the checkboxes already selected.

Each document is shown in its full content, with field names in bold letter, separated by “ “.

Some values can contain hypertextual links. When they are active, a new title list and checkbox is made up.

Hypertextual links are active only concerning the context where the links are referred to.

The Browse area operates upon Authors, Subjects, Titles cumulated indexes.

Indexes are generated weekly.

The field “Access to Indexes from” identifies the index starting point, which You want to select.

Then You can select the relative box. The default is “Author”.

Clicking on “Start the search”, You can access to the index and to the “Results area”, which appears from the specific key-word put in, up to a maximum of 100 items. “Forwards”, “Backwards”, “All” navigating tools become active.

They can be used just as the Search Navigating Tools.

Index values are numbered and contain a link, which is active within the Metaopac itself. Each time the link is active, a new window is opened and it contains the same results type, which can be found in the search results.

ISIS-GAS, a multiplatform system for information access.

This information given here is taken from a bottom foot-note of the help link by Giuseppe Romano, ISTI-CNR, Pisa, Italy(2).

ISIS-GAS is a multiplatform system for accessing to information memorized upon CDS-ISIS databases. This system is made up of four main elements:

The user interface; the gateway between the user interface and the local information access system;

the remote access information system and the software for local information access (BIREME-

ISIS). BIREME-ISIS is an open access software available at the following URL: [www.bireme.org](http://www.bireme.org).

The software which makes the first three elements up is open access too. You can get its source

code from the following URL:

<http://leonardo.isti.cnr.it/metaopac/IsisGasSystem.tgz>

Being a multiplatform system it can be used both in Windows and Unix (Linus,HP,UX,Sun solaris, IBM Aix).

The software BIREME-ISIS supports only the four Unix platforms in its open access version.

Besides Isis/Gas software, some utility programmes for managing and building indexes (indexed lists derived from the databases contents) are given.

They can be used for refining data and for giving a guided access to information.

There are also available some utilities for data conversion from ALEPH and LIBERO systems and their import to the format ISO 2709 upon the host system.

The name Isis/Gas is derived from the composition of the acronyms ISIS, (which is the host information system) and GAS which stands for “Gruppo Archivi Storici”(“Historical Archives Group”).

CDS-ISIS is an information retrieval system developed and freely distributed by UNESCO. Its last version on the market is a Microsoft Windows one.

The Gateway WAIS-ISIS, (made up by CNUCE-CNR in 1994), has allowed data open access on the net, using CDS-ISIS systems data archives.

The ISIS System has been completely re-written in C language, under UNESCO and BIREME supervision. BIREME is a Brazilian Scientific organisation ([www.bireme.org](http://www.bireme.org)).

BIREME makes the BIREME-ISIS software available, in order to access via web to the ISIS database at a very low cost.

The ISIS system offers a series of advantages, which are:

- High flexibility in building inverted indexes for information accessing.
- High speed for accessing to the inverted files and consequently high speed in searching the information within the database.
- A very powerful printing language.
- Indexes loading and generating procedures quite speedy.
- Very sophisticated mechanisms for data import and/or export .

If You use CDS-ISIS just for reading it, it is a very useful method for information accessing.

It can be easily used to export information on the net and to import information from other more sophisticated systems, at a very low cost.

IAMC-CNR, Sezione di Taranto , OPAC PROTOTYPE.

ISIS prototipe is a very versatile software.

When You start the search, You have a maximum of 100 records to select. On the top of the page You have the commands: "Backwards" and "Forwards".

You can select:

- a) a preordained title list;
- b) a title list;
- c) a proof format title list.

Then You can type Your request using the Boolean operators for these options:

All fields

Title

Author

Subject

Publisher/Place and Year of Publication.

Once filled the chosen fields You can start the search.

If You access the indexes by the "Author" field (You've got the choice of three fields: Author, Subject, Title); choosing for example the name "Benedetti", You get a choice of 3893 Records, the first two will be:

Benedetti A.

Benedetti D. et al. (Title)

The system visualizes automatically the first 50. If You click on the one You need, which is in our case "Benedetti A.", You get the full bibliographic record, which is:

Title: L'agricoltura ...e le sue prospettive

Author/s: Benedetti A.

Publisher, Place and Date of publication: 1965

Subject/s:

1. Agricoltura

2. Agriculture

3. Agriculture

Notes: In: "Riv." "agric." N.3"

If You want to start Your search using one word in the “title” field, in our case “alghe” You get 5678 titles. The system visualizes automatically the first 50. We click on the one we need, which is in our case: “A checklist of the benthic marine algae of corsica” and we get the full bibliographic record, which is:

Title: A checklist of the benthic marine algae of Corsica

Author/s: Boudouresque C.F.

Publisher, Place and Date of publication: Marseille (France), gis Posidonie Publ.

Physical description of volumes: vol. No.1, 121 pp.

Subject/s:

1.Alghe

2.Seaweeds

Pressmark(where the volume is located):

Biologia Cecere

If You want to start Your search by “Subject”, if You put the word which is “alghe” in our case in the “Subject” field, You get 2334 subject records. The system visualizes automatically the first 50 records.

If You choose one and click on the subject record no.9 “Alghe, ciclo alimentare”, which is the one we want, we get again the full bibliographic record which is:

Title: A chorella-daphnia food-chain study...

Author/s: Taub F.B.; Dollar, A.M.

Publisher/Place and Date of publication:1964

Subject/s:

1.Alghe, ciclo alimentare

2. Seaweeds, food cycle

3.Algues, cycle alimentaire

Notes: In: Limnol. and Ocean., vol.9, no.1, 61-74 p.

You can click on the three subjects (nos.1,2,3), but You just go back to the same record selected.

## CONCLUSIONS

So as it can be seen, ISIS prototype is a very versatile software and document search can be made not only by all the different records list (all fields ;title; author; subject ;publisher/place and year of publication ) but also by selecting words by Boolean operators, to refine the search. Besides, within each “word” selected for each field, You can see a 100 title records. The system also visualizes automatically the first 50 ones.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr. Giuseppe Romano of ISTI-CNR, Pisa ,Italy, for his precious and unique cooperation in this project, which would not have been possible to realise without his unvaluable help.

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2) Romano, Giuseppe- ISIS-GAS : un sistema multiplatforma per l’accesso a basi di dati testuali via Internet -ISTI-CNR, Pisa, Italy; link foot-note to :

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