

AMMCNT – CNR – Amministrazione Centrale

ISSN ITALIAN CENTRE
Consiglio nazionale delle ricerche
Ufficio sistemi informativi e documentali
Biblioteca centrale G. Marconi

Activity project Report

SAIISA Project
(Semiautomatic assignment of ISSN to Italian Serials based on ACNP records)
Partners:
ISSN International Centre, Paris
ACNP, Archivio collettivo nazionale dei periodici, Bologna
ISSN Italian Centre, Roma

Report prepared on the occasion of
ISSN Centres Directors Meeting, Bucharest, October 2013

Roma

September 2013

Abbreviations:

ACNP = Archivio collettivo nazionale dei periodici - Italian collective serials archive

Project "SAIISA" = Project *Semi-automatic assignment of ISSN to Italian Serials based on ACNP records*

ASDD = Area Sistemi Dipartimentali e Documentali (University of Bologna)

CNR = Consiglio nazionale delle ricerche - Italian Research Council

Partners	ISSN Network - ISSN International Centre, Paris University of Bologna - ACNP, Archivio collettivo nazionale dei periodici CNR - Centro italiano ISSN, Roma
CNR Units	In the preparatory phase of the project (2011-12): 4 units In 2013: 2 units

Phases

Project objectives and aims	International identification of about 30.000 italian serials - current and dead -, by ISSN assignation
Phase 1, Overview - 2011	Meetings for defining the project objectives, the operations areas and the general procedures
Phase 2, Institutional - 2012	Legal and administrative procedures to create the institutional agreement between the partners (signed in November 2012)
Phase 3, Pre-operative - 2012-2013	Analysis and choice of "objects" to be treated [typology and characteristics of catalographic data coming from ACNP]; definition of the different steps and the global workflow
Phase 4, Operative - 2013	Processing the first block of data

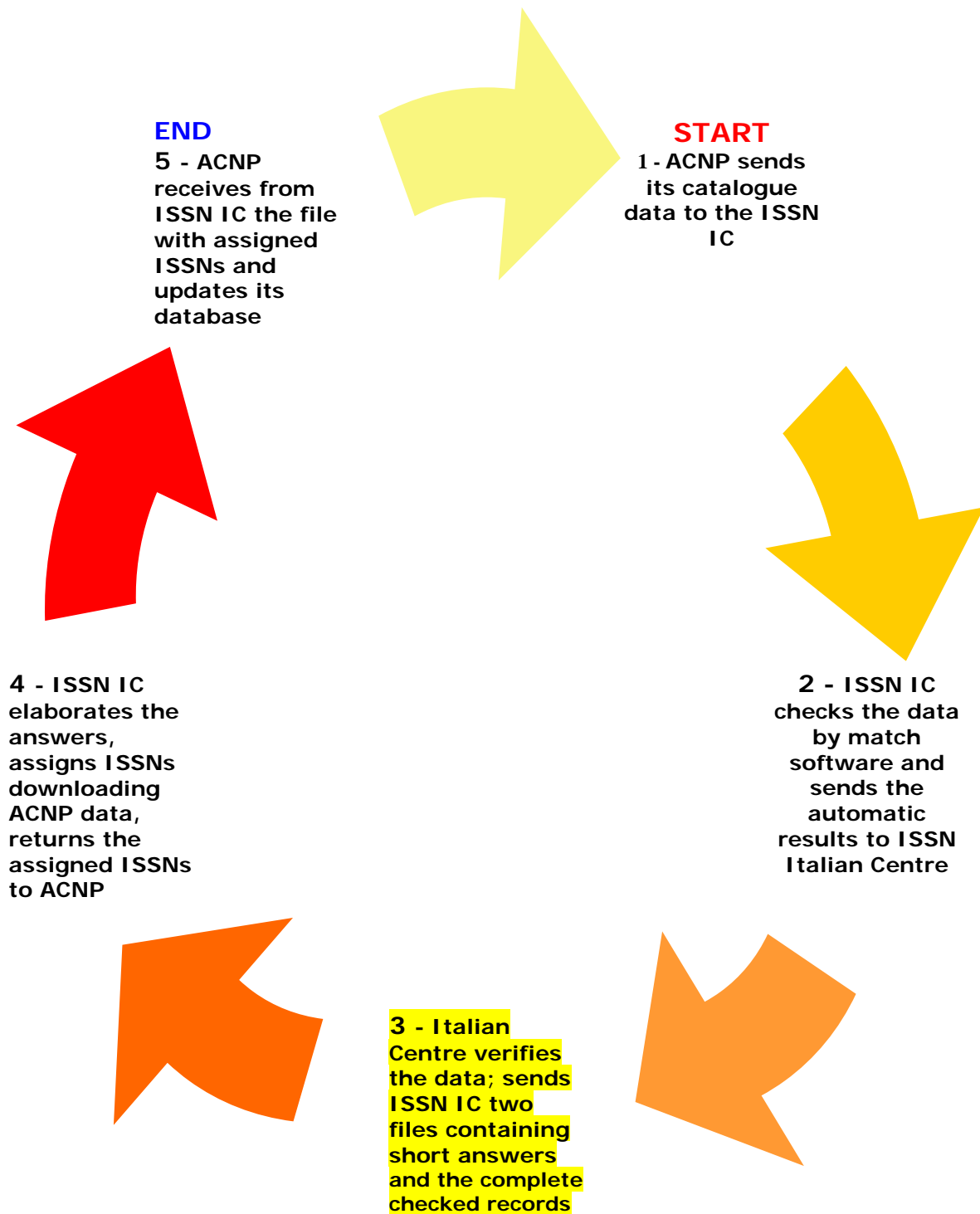


**Evaluation
Phase 4**

Presentation of the results of the first block in the Bucharest Meeting 2013, and forecast for next operational phases

Presentation of Phase 4, Operative

Data path for each records block 5 steps



Phase 4: Operative Step 3

The Italian Centre activity

Statements from previous phases

In the decisional phases of the Project (Phase 1 Overview, and Phase 3 Pre-operative), the Partners decided to start the operational activities processing catalogue records containing data of dead serials only.

The partners decided that the records containing data of current serials will be processed in the second part of the Project, when each work step and the complete workflow would be carefully tested by implementing check-procedures for the dead serials.

The Italian Centre has collaborated in all three initial phases in defining the confines, the characteristics and the procedures of the Project.

In the different five steps of this Operative Phase, the Italian Centre has its main role in the [third step](#).

Italian Centre role and functions - analysis -

1)

Receiving the list containing the ACNP records sent by International Centre (already elaborated by first automatic match).

The list is formed by:

1 synthetic file (xls) containing *id number*, titles, answers by automatic match [issn code already found or not]; at the end of the treatment this file will contain also the final answer sent by Italian Centre;

1 large file (html) containing the complete records coming from ACNP, supplemented by the complete answers coming from the automatic match [all the occurrences found in ISSN database in case the ACNP titles have matched similar titles in the ISSN database].

2)

Analyzing each record to decide if:

- A) the results of the automatic match are unambiguous and they could be accepted;
- B) the results of the automatic match show multiple options and a deeper bibliographic search is necessary (in ISSN database, but also in other catalogues, to remove ambiguities);
- C) independently from the results of the automatic match the characteristics of the ACNP record suggest some more bibliographic analysis, to decide the correctness of the bibliographic information, or to complete or improve the record before it is downloaded in ISSN database.

2.1)

**The analysis phase is formed by the following different procedures
a, b, c:**

- a) The automatic match says that a title is not present in ISSN database, so it can be ISSN-assigned and the ACNP bibliographic description can be downloaded in ISSN database.

The Italian Centre completely agrees with the automatic match and registers the short answer in the xls file: **ok**;

- b) The automatic match says that a title is not present in ISSN database, so it could be ISSN-assigned.

The Italian Centre make other bibliographic searches to be completely sure about the correctness of the description, and then:

b. 1 - agrees with the automatic match and registers the short answer in the xls file: **ok**;

b. 2 - agrees with the automatic match and registers the short answer in the xls file: **ok**

but also

in the html file **modifies the bibliographic record** that will be downloaded in ISSN database, to make the record unambiguous [e.g.: adding the title qualifier] or more complete [e.g.: adding a preceding title] or correct [e.g.: emending an issuing body];

b. 3 - doesn't agree with the automatic match and registers as short answer in the xls file: **no**, or **ISSN code [writing the 8 digits of the relevant code]**.

The answer "no" means that the ACNP title

- can't be correctly or definitely identified without checking the effective publication, or
- it is not ISSN-assignable or eligible (e.g.: it is a variant title; it is a monograph publication - as a supplement - and not a serial; it is not relevant to Italian Centre, etc.)

The answer "no" is completed by a synthetic note containing the refusal justifications - as memorandum in case more following enquiries could be necessary.

The answer *ISSN code* is necessary when the title has been already ISSN assigned and this datum has not been registered by automatic match (for instance because the ISSN number has been assigned after the match operations).

- c) The automatic match says that the title is already present in ISSN database: the ISSN already assigned will be communicated to ACNP.

If there are doubts about the correct identification the Italian Centre starts with the check procedures as in point b).

c. 1 - If the ISSN code is in **Register status** the short answer in the xls file is: **ISSN code [writing the 8 digits]**. In this case the ACNP record will not be downloaded in ISSN database, and ACNP will receive communication about the code.

c. 2 - If the ISSN code is in **Legacy status** the short answer in the xls file is: **ISSN code L [writing the 8 digits]**. In this case the ACNP record will be downloaded in ISSN database and will replace the old ISSN record.

2.2)

The analysis phase is based on the following different bibliographic search tools and itineraries

During this search phase the Centre tries to find out not only different bibliographic or catalogue evidences that support the data contained in ACNP records but sometimes

also the digital reproduction of the original publications, that could be crucial in deciding the appropriateness of the catalogue record.

The bibliographic resources searched or used by Italian Centre to check the data are:

a) National catalogues

SBN - Servizio Bibliotecario Nazionale, <http://opac.sbn.it> (collective catalogue for many thousands of Italian libraries, managed by Cultural Heritage Ministry; in spite of the original core of the catalogue had been formed by libraries depending from this Ministry, since many years all types of libraries are involved in the catalogue. It contains also a short number of link to digital reproductions, available through the *Internet culturale* platform);

Azalai, <http://azalai.cilea.it> - Metaopac managed by the Associazione Italiana Biblioteche, that searches library catalogues both in and out of SBN; all types of libraries are investigated);

URBE, Unione Romana Biblioteche Ecclesiastiche, <http://www.urbe.it> (metaopac or aggregator grouping the catalogues of several religious institutions located in Rome);

URBS, Unione Romana Biblioteche Scientifiche, <http://www.web.reteurbs.org/> (metaopac grouping the catalogues of several scientific institutions located in Rome, particularly specialized in the human sciences areas);

Other Italian catalogues of one library or one library system only, that are not grouped in SBN (e.g.: central catalogue of the different libraries and sites of Università Cattolica, <http://millennium.unicatt.it>; portal for several different catalogues of Consiglio nazionale delle ricerche, <http://polarcnr.area.ge.cnr.it/>, etc.).

b) International catalogues

When the information has not been found in national catalogues the catalogues of other countries have been searched, especially if the publication searched shows cultural links with other countries (e.g.: the issuing body or the language are not Italian).

c) Other resources

Internet search engines, particularly to reach in a very short time the digitizations of old publications publicized in the websites of bookshops;

Free repositories of digitized serials;

Requests by e-mail to specific libraries for obtaining the necessary publishing evidences.

3)

Updating the work files (the "xls" and the "html") that will be sent definitely compiled to the International Centre at the end of the block; **making the files available**, by e-mail or by web sharing.

The SAIISA Project

**Italian Centre role and functions
*- charts and graphic -***

Italian ISSN Centre activity analysis

Initial prospects

[2011-2012]

<i>Total amount of the 1st block</i>	<i>Human resources</i>	<i>Work time</i>	<i>Type of work-procedure: "A"</i>
1000 records	4 (2 full-time; 2 part-time)	3 months	The results of the automatic match are accepted without other checks
			Bibliographic checks must be done only for records that the results "doubts" in the automatic match
			Synthetic answers [ok, ISSN code, no]; updating of 1 work file

Adaptations during the Project development

[2012-2013]

Total amount of the 1st block	Human resources	Work time	Type of work-procedure: "B"	
			Procedures	Explanations of the changes
1000 records	2, part-time	6 months	The results of the automatic match are all checked one-by-one	1 - the time gap between the automatic match and the records exam could make possible that ISSN code has been already assigned
			<p>All the records have been checked by catalographic searches, using the strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cross-checks in other catalogues; • if other catalogues don't offer unambiguous answers, direct request of publishing evidences to ACNP library that own the title 	<p>2 - the "yes" answer coming from automatic match can't totally exclude that the ACNP record contain some incongruity to be evaluated by deeper examination [e.g., when ACNP registered the title in an alternative or variant form, but anyway the serial is already present in ISSN database]</p>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthetic answers + detailed explanation in case of refusal (<u>updating the work file xls</u>); • Catalographic modifications in the records that should be downloaded in ISSN database [e.g.: adding the qualifier in key-title tag; adding tags for links with other ISSN records, etc.] (<u>updating the work file html</u>) 	<p>1 - the details could be useful in a later revision phase</p> <p>2 - the modifications done in the records that should be downloaded in ISSN database simply "anticipate" the following refining work that nevertheless the National Centre should do.</p>

Evaluation of Type of work-procedure "B"

Positive:

the detailed examination of the titles guarantees a high identification and cataloguing level;
the risk of necessity for corrections / modifications / deletions of records already ISSN assigned after the conclusion of the Project is strongly reduced.

Negative:

Work-time increases significantly.

General suggestion for ISSN Centres interested in similar operations

This detailed work type is recommended for Centres that want to:

- work on limited amount of records [max: 10,000];
- have human resources exclusively for this activity;
- treat records of dead serials [the bibliographic details are "consolidated" in the library catalogues and easier to be found];
- own the effective publications to check, or can easily find them, or have partners (as in the case of ACNP) that make the publications available, if necessary.

Forecasts for 2014 activity

The activity will continue with the same characteristics (number of records in each block; number of human resources; cadence of releases).

The type of work-procedure will be light modified (for example, avoiding the direct requests to libraries, because these contacts need too much time to be completed, and make the activity excessively fragmentary).

Total amount of the 2nd block	Human resources	Work time	Type of work-procedure: "C" <i>more detailed than "A", less than "B"</i>
1000 records	2, part-time	6 months	The results of the automatic match are all checked one-by-one
			All the records will be checked by catalographic search, using only one strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cross-checks in other catalogues
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthetic answers (<i>without detailed explanation in case of refusal; <u>updating the work file xls</u></i>); • Catalographic modifications in the records that should be downloaded in ISSN database (<u>updating the work file html</u>)

SAIISA project results 1st block

Table of results

Total amount of "ACNP records 1st block" checked by Italian Centre,
elaborated and sent to International Centre for assignment:
1000

Total 1st block	1000	100 %
New titles and new Issn assigned	779	77,9 %
Not assigned	221	22,1 %

Because

Titles already identified by Issn [66 register; 10 legacy]	76	7,6 % [34,4% of "not assigned"]
Titles not Issn-assignable or - eligible, e. g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • titles not completely unambiguous [the real publications must be checked, the library records is not sufficient]; • titles not issn-eligible [e.g.: one-issue; index; supplement; title variants of serials already issn assigned, etc.]; • titles not relevant to Italian Centre 	145	14,5 [66% of "not assigned"]

