

Parallel Sessions D
D3 – Initiatives with the Medical Portal

Saturday, September 21, Room C, 9.30

CILEA / SBBL a Metacrawler Service

Ferrari, R; Avarti, P

Ferrari, Riccardo: CILEA, Scientific Data Bases, via Raffaello Sanzio, 4, Segrate (MI) 20090, Italy, rferrari@cilea.it

CILEA is an Italian non-profit organisation pooling nine Lombard Universities, and provides Information Technology services on behalf of universities, public organisations and enterprises.

In the Autumn of 2001 CILEA, together with SBBL, a consortium of 16 important Libraries in Lombardy a Region of North Italy, decided to develop an in-house service, called Metacrawler, which appears as an integrator of databases and electronic journals. This software is able to perform queries with a friendly interface using local or remote databases like if they were web services. It's allowed searching one or more databases contemporaneously.

At present the available databases are Medline (PubMed), Cancerlit and Cinahl. Medline has a remote connection with the National Library of Medicine for retrieving records while their thesaurus MeSH is located on our server in Milan. The other two are located in-house.

It has been realised an original and personal interface application that allowed retrieval, management of the queries and linkout functions to full-text resources. A very important function is the direct link with SBBL journals catalog which is placed in one of CILEA servers.

1200 Elsevier Journals (Science Direct on-Site or on-Line), 220 Lippincott Journals (Journals@OVID service), 330 Blackwell Journals and 170 FreeMedical Journals together with the ones subscribed by the single Libraries create the electronic collection of the Metacrawler.

CILEA is a CrossRef member and the Metacrawler uses that service to find the document full-text.

We are moreover carrying ahead contacts with products like SFX and databases like EMBASE in order to help our customers in the delicate phase of finding information.

CILEA Metacrawler service is offering to Italian researchers and universities the possibility to use in a unified system for searching and several mirrors for accessing the full-text resources.