

E-Journals at Istituto Superiore di Sanità: A Four Year Experience

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This paper is an overview on the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) library's efforts during the last four years to acquire and manage electronic journals. The changing serials landscape, resulting by the advent and Continuous increase of electronic journals in recent years, has modified the library management from the acquisition policy to the users' need satisfaction. This paper, although is dealing with benefits and drawbacks of electronic resources, particularly outlines technical and practical problems deriving from electronic journals' management: identification of the titles free-of-charge available on the Internet; relationships among editors, agent and library; subscriptions' activation; effects on collection development; accessibility to an up-dated information. Statistical data will be given to better evaluate these aspects. The main aim of the work is to draw step-by-step how our library has organized to keep up with the proliferation of electronic journals.

Up to now the library policy granted the access to those journals offering free on-line access upon a paid subscription to the print version, except some "core titles" which require an on-line subscription. The new service has been implemented by the acquisition of the Core Biomedical Collection (OVID) and by the participation to the electronic consortia Caspur (Consorzio interuniversitario per le Applicazioni di Supercalcolo per Università e Ricerca) which collects universities and research institutes allowing their members to connect to Elsevier ScienceDirect service.

The new trend is to increase the number of paid on-line subscription in order to offer users a well-organized worthwhile service.