

EAHIL Workshop

Implementation of quality systems and certification of biomedical libraries
Palermo, June 23-25, 2005

VOLUNTEERS WORK FOR QUALITY LIBRARY MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF BIOMEDICAL INFORMATION IN ITALY

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INTRODUCTION

The "Voluntary Service", recently established in Italy, is a new challenging opportunity for young people willing to be engaged in several fields of public services, including the assistance to elders and helping disadvantaged people.

This paper provides an overview on what volunteers can do for the enhancement of library accessibility through specific programmes.

Young and enthusiastic people may impact on almost every aspect of the librarian activity. We believe that, particularly for scientific libraries, volunteers' work may represent an important human resource and help for users and staff, as well.



IZS Library, main room



IZS Library



THE E-CIBUS UM PROJECT

The E-Cibus UM project is committed to provide to all volunteers an office environment, a network access with a computerised catalogue system with high efficiency to retrieve information from the most important scientific biomedical databases (CAB, ASFA, ANAB), a librarian staff assistance, training courses about library structures, the use of computer supported collaborative writing.

The Project E-Cibus UM at the "Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Umbria e delle Marche", engaged 6 people, all graduated or students who have accomplished their university degree.

Volunteers deal with the most important issues to improve the quality of library services like:

- help users in finding records through bibliographical research and use of scientific databases,
- managing their feedback,
- help the library staff in taking care of books, monographs, magazine management and registration.

In E-Cibus UM project volunteers are preparing and publishing scientific reviews about food safety, food quality, food biochemistry, food jurisprudence on the Institute e-magazine (Sanità Pubblica Veterinaria - <http://www.pg.izs.it/webzine.html>).

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Articles and reviews will be widely accessible to consumers and their associations, food specialists, Physicians and Veterinarians, improving the quality of the library service and the access to biomedical information.

Thanks to this work the Institute will set up relationships with several information repositories like Perugia University, local and regional research Institutes, food factories, industries, consumer associations, thus strengthening its role of information reference point within Umbria and Marche Regions.



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