



12th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries  
DISCOVERING NEW SEAS OF KNOWLEDGE

# **SAILING IN THE RESEARCH ACTIVITY OF ITALIAN BIOMEDICAL LIBRARIES : THE BIBLIOSAN ANALYSIS**

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# Objectives of the study

- Analyze data about research activity of librarians in Bibliosan System during 2008 and 2009
- Demonstrate the important role played by information professionals in modern biomedical libraries as teacher, researcher and author of scientific publications

# General Framework:

## Bibliosan birth

- BIBLIOSAN is the Italian National Network that groups all the libraries of Biomedical Research Institutes under the umbrella of the Ministry of Health
- It started in 2003 as a pilot Project
- In 2004 – 2005 realization of two important goals:
  - A shared catalogue of all current and historical journals subscribed
  - A service for the exchange and delivery of documents
- In 2006 it became a System with rules a lithe Management Committee and regular annual funding
- Actually 56 partners and 65 libraries are involved in the System: 43 Research Institutes and Hospitals, 10 Veterinary Institutes, the National Health Institute and 2 Government Agencies

# General Framework: Purposes

- Cooperation between libraries to favour sharing library resources
- Distribution and dissemination of biomedical information
- Reduction of print journal subscriptions
- Coordinated acquisition policy for databases and e-journals
- Updating and Continuing Education

# General Framework: The System

- In 2007 Biblioson received 1 million Euros in funding
- From 2008 Biblioson obtained a doubling of the sum (2 million Euros)

## Resources subscribed:

- Elsevier Journals (complete collection)
  - Blackwell STM & HSS collections (about 800 titles)
  - BMJ Group Journals
  - NEJM
  - JAMA & JAMA Archives Journals
  - American Society for Microbiology (11 journals)
  - Sage Journals (119 titles)
  - Mary Ann Libert (65 titles)
  - BioMed Journals (15 Journals + Faculty 1000 and Biology Image Library)
  - Cell Press Journals
  - Cochrane Library
  - Web of Science and JCR
  - Proquest Databases
  - RefWorks
  - EBSCO platform AtoZ
- More than 5,000 subscribed titles available as well as OA for a total of about 8,500 journals

# Survey

- During the summer of 2008 a survey was conducted to examine the activities of Bibliosan libraries and to recognize the number of staff.
- Distribution of an electronic questionnaire to librarians in the 65 libraries with a total of 195 work units.

The data acquired:

- documentary and instrumental resources
  - individual (functions, tasks, occupational status, education, professional development and teaching).
- Data showed that the tasks of librarians are not limited to library management, but they are protagonists of:
    - dissemination of knowledge
    - transmission and transfer of skills
    - **training and education activities** (organize courses, seminars and meetings)
    - **speeches at conferences and publish articles** in magazines and professional journals of international relevance.

# Training and Education Activities

- The dissemination of information on services offered and training in their use is essential for a widespread distribution of scientific knowledge among real and effective consumers.
- In 2008 a series of initiatives was continued by libraries to promote services to end users (physicians, veterinarians, researchers, etc.) through the use of tools and resources provided by the System.

| Training activity: a comparison of data 2007-2009

Year	No. Events	No. Participants	Institutions Involved
2007	13	500	12
2008	39	1221	16
2009	63	1746	20

**Total 56 Institutions**

# Training and Education Activities

- Alongside these traditional training sessions, publishers and producers organized *Webinars* online courses of electronic resources. Moreover, many librarians have decided to meet "*ad personam*" with researchers.

The screenshot shows the 'Bibliosan Training' website. At the top left is the 'BiblioSan' logo with the tagline 'Le Biblioteche in rete degli Enti di Ricerca Biomedici Italiani'. The main content area is titled 'Formazione' and lists three training activities:

Date	Activity Title	Details	Action
1/03/2010	PROQUEST NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH SOURCE. CORSO DI FORMAZIONE ONLINE PER UTILIZZARE LE BANCHE DATI FULL TEXT PROQUEST RISERVATO AGLI UTENTI BIBLIOSAN.	Corso online (webinars) tenuto dalla trainer Marta Estruch di ProQuest Il corso si terrà alle ore 14.30	per informazioni
26/02/2010	REFWORKS PER I LAVORO SCIENTIFICI. IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo di Pavia	Crediti ECM assegnati: 10 Trattasi di progetto di formazione sul campo per il personale della Direzione Scientifica del San Matteo. Il programma si svolge nell'arco di 5 incontri di 2 ore ciascuno nelle seguenti date: 26/02/2010, 16/03/2010, 29/03/2010, 26/04/2010, 17/05/2010.	per informazioni
	SEMINARI IN BIBLIOTECA ISS: REFWORKS. Istituto Superiore di Sanita'.		

On the left side, there is a navigation menu with links: Presentazione, Regolamenti, Risorse on-line, Formazione, News, Accesso remoto, and Area riservata. Below the menu is a search bar with a 'Search' button and options for Google and Yahoo/MSN. On the right side, there are three utility icons: 'Trova biblioteche' (magnifying glass), 'Statistiche' (line graph), and 'Area download' (download arrow).



# Training and Education Activities

Continuing Education courses for:

- end users
  
- librarians
  - before as a student
  - then as a **teacher**

# Scientific Activities

Librarians are processors and producers of an intensive scientific productivity. In fact they:

- organize seminars and meetings to facilitate access to biomedical information and to promote health;
- teacher in training courses also accredited CME
- coordinate and are partners in several regional and national projects;
- collaborate with other documentation centers and systems;
- organize events, conferences and are part of scientific council committees;
- play a regular editorial role in the production of customer information;
- publish articles in professional journals, including impacted, aimed at doctors, researchers and health professionals;
- participate and present their experiences and expertise at National and International conferences

# Scientific Activities

The contribution of the Bibliosan staff (195 librarians) in the production of scientific articles and active participation at National or International events during 2008 and 2009:

<b>Scientific Production in Bibliosan Libraries</b>		
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
No. articles published in journals with impact factor	2	2
No. articles published in journals without impact factor	11	38
No. of communications presented at International Conferences and published Congress Proceedings	4	16
No. of communications presented at National Conferences and published Congress Proceedings	4	37
No. of Posters presented at International Conferences	11	6
No. of books or chapters of books	2	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>106</b>

# Scientific Activities: Topics

To facilitate the analysis of content and monitor the trends of scientific production within the Bibliosan community for each publication we have identified some relevant topics and under these headings some subheadings:

1. **Document Delivery**
2. **Health Promotion**
3. **Food Safety**
4. **Library Service and Tools:** including, Spaces and Places, Qualitative and Quantitative Indicators, Statistics User, Search Strategy, Training...
5. **Patient Information and Education**
6. **Spread Information:** including Open Access, Web 2.0 ...
7. **EBM:** Evident Based Medicine and Librarianship
8. **Health Librarians:** including roles, competencies, occupations
9. **Health Technologies Assessment**

# Scientific Activities: Topics

Scientific Production in Bibliosan Libraries shown by topics 2008-2009

Topics	Inter. Conf.	Nat. Conf.	Articles	Articles IF	Poster	Books	Tot.
Document Delivery	2	4	1	0	0	0	7
Health Promotion	1	1	7	0	2	1	12
Food Safety	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Library Service and Tools	1	10	11	1	4	3	30
Patient Information	0	9	1	0	3	0	13
Spread Information	10 (6 OA)	8 (7 OA)	18 (8 OA)	0	4 (1 OA)	4	44 (22 OA)
EBM	3	1	2	2	0	1	9
Health Librarians	1	8	6	0	4	0	19
HTA	1	0	2	1	0	0	4
<b>Tot.</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>140</b>

(140 publications considered)

# Scientific Activities: Main Theme

1. **Spread of Information** with 44 contributions mainly related to the extension of Open Access
2. **Library Services and Tools** with 30 works
3. **Health Librarians** with 19 works
4. **Patient Information** was 13 contributions
5. **Health Promotion** with 12 publications.

# Scientific Activities: Results

Study results:

- Increase of library activity
- Enhancement of the role of librarians
- Libraries and Librarians as essential support to research
- Important contribution to increasing scientific productivity of institutes

# Scientific Activities: Conclusion

The data is the **expression and reflection of growth and professional maturity** that today is not yet a widespread practice and does not involve all stakeholders in the System, but soon it will become common practice thanks to the propulsive and exciting actions of the network.





**Le Biblioteche in rete degli Enti di Ricerca Biomedici Italiani**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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