



MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

on Information Infrastructure for Science, Education and Culture

COBISS 2009

11 and 12 November 2009, Kongresni center Habakuk, Maribor, Slovenia

General framework

During its Presidency, Slovenia stressed the importance of the synergies of science, education and culture for sustainable development, and has been implementing this approach in practice. In this, libraries play a key role, but only if they are, within an effective library information system, supported by modern ICT. For as long as a quarter of a century, IZUM (Institute of Information Science) from Maribor has been developing and maintaining such a system (COBISS – Co-operative Online Bibliographic System & Services), which has been highly praised by international experts. The most distinctive feature of the COBISS system is that it satisfies specific requirements of various user communities for bibliographic information on the basis of an integrated network, whereby it has established its position as a universal library information system. In addition to common library operations, it supports transparency of research results, research evaluation, habilitation procedures in higher education, overview of art production, payment of library remuneration to authors of literary works, education programmes, etc.

Since its very beginning, IZUM has been offering its know-how to other Western Balkans countries, and national library systems built on the COBISS platform form COBISS.Net, which is one of the largest European regional library networks. The COBISS.Net Project is a very important part of the development cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia in the Region.

As opposed to many other library automation equipment providers, IZUM concentrates on arrangements and joint implementation of national library information systems based on the COBISS platform. Consequently, the participation of relevant ministries and of national libraries in each country is required. The COBISS conferences form a constituent part of such discussions and cooperation.

Reasons

Europe has decided on a uniform research and higher education area and on a multicultural concept, which requires smooth information flow. In this respect, library networks are of utmost importance, not only as treasuries of past creativity but also as the basis for the transparency of current research, education and cultural achievements. All parts of Europe must be included in the information exchange and special attention must be given to regions that, for various reasons, face a delay in modernising their library systems. The COBISS.Net system already links a significant part of librarianship in the Western Balkans countries and represents a realistic possibility of its participation in European and global library networks, even more so as it has an adequate support of the governments and of the European Union. One must be aware of the fact that, without the provision of transparency, it is no longer possible to participate in exchange and mobility programmes in the fields of science, education and culture. Because of this, already many years ago, the Republic of Slovenia acknowledged the COBISS.Net Project as a very important regional initiative and has generously co-financed it within the framework of international development cooperation.

Goals

The main goal of the Conference is to strengthen the awareness about the multifaceted significance of the availability of information on creative potentials in science, education and culture in the country as the basis for setting the direction of social development and for the exchange of experience in setting up library information systems and research information systems and in the operation thereof. The COBISS.Net Project is a project that is under way and the Conference offers the possibility of its assessment. An additional impetus for the development of national information systems for continuous monitoring of research results would be most welcome as, in many countries, the level of development of these systems is in the initial stage and an accelerated pace of their development is a prerequisite for the implementation of objective evaluations in the research and higher education sectors.

Conference content

The COBISS 2009 Conference will be held in Maribor on 11 and 12 November 2009 and will be, in view of its content, organised in the context of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation. The Conference will have a ministerial character, particularly so when dealing with the availability of information on research potentials and results for the cooperation in the region. This is a vital topic in the time when a way out of the economic recession is sought and when all countries turn to science and knowledge, whereby a comprehensive and regularly updated overview of one's own knowledge potential represents a decisive factor. A panel on this topic is aimed at showing that, based on the integrated COBISS library information systems and SICRIS/E-CRIS research information systems, it is possible to provide effective support and tools for this purpose. In this respect it is clear that an innovative research contribution represents only a part of much broader cultural creativity in a certain environment and that developing open and artistic mindset is important also for science and development breakthrough in general. Libraries collect documents from all areas of creativity and, provided they have adequate ICT support, they can offer a continuous overview of this part of community life. At the Conference, the second panel will focus on these issues, with the expected participation of highly competent panellists. The second day of the Conference will be dedicated entirely to narrower librarianship topics, with the participation of renowned foreign and domestic experts.

Preliminary programme

Tuesday, 10 November	
18.00	Registration Welcome address
Wednesday, 11 November	
9.00	Registration
10.00	Welcome addresses <i>Tomaž Seljak</i> (Director of IZUM) Welcome address on behalf of the Organiser <i>Vojko Volk</i> (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Slovenia: Towards bringing the Western Balkans countries closer to the European Union <i>Stamenka Uvalič-Trumbić</i> (UNESCO, Paris) New Dynamics of Higher Education and Research for Societal Change and Development
11.00	Panel: Accessibility of Information on Research Potentials and Results for Cooperation in the Region Chair: <i>József Györkös</i> (State Secretary, Slovenian Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology). Participants: representative from the ministries of science, technology and higher education from the countries that have so far expressed interest in participating in the COBISS.Net Project
13.00	Lunch
15.00	Panel: Library Information Systems for Creativity Overview Chair: <i>Majda Širca</i> (Slovenian Minister of Culture) Participants: representatives from the ministries of culture from the countries that have so far expressed interest in participating in the COBISS.Net Project Section: NREN <i>Tomaž Kalin</i> (senior advisor) European Computer Network for Research and Education <i>Marko Bonač</i> (Director of ARNES) Academic and Research Network of Slovenia Location: Dvorana Priol (Priol Hall) Language: English
16.45	<i>Sir John Daniel</i> (Commonwealth of Learning, Canada) Responding to the Library Needs of Distance Learners
19.00	Concert of the group Terrafolk at Union Hall and reception in Vinag's wine cellar
Thursday, 12 November	
9.00	<i>Karen Calhoun</i> (OCLC, USA) Traveling Through Transitions: From Surviving to Thriving <i>Marshall Breeding</i> (USA) Next Generation User Interfaces Workshop: WBC-INCO.NET Information Integration for the Promotion of Research and Development Potential Workshop leader: <i>Boris Cizelj</i> (Director of SBRA) Location: Kristalna dvorana (Crystal Hall) Upon invitation only!
10.30	Coffee
11.00	<i>Mirna Willer, Marijana Tomić</i> (University of Zadar) Cataloguing Rules and Practice in the Region <i>Primož Južnič</i> (University of Ljubljana) Education Trends for Work in the Information Sector <i>Marta Seljak</i> (IZUM) How to Rationalise Cataloguing and Improve the Functionalities of the COBISS System? <i>Zoran Krstulović</i> (National and University Library, Ljubljana) COBISS.SI and DLIB.SI for Access to Electronic Resources
12.30	Lunch
13.30	<i>Vesna Stevanović</i> (National Library of Serbia) Organisation of the National COBISS Centre in Serbia <i>Nadja D. Karačodžukova</i> (National Library of Bulgaria), <i>Simona Tušek</i> (IZUM) Conversion of the National Library of Bulgaria Catalogues into the COMARC Format <i>Miro Kolarič</i> (IZUM) Migration to COBISS3 Applications <i>Sponsor representative</i> (ADD) Modern IT infrastructure in libraries
15.15	Conference Closing
20.00	Farewell Dinner

Simultaneous interpreting into Slovenian, English, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian/Montenegrin, Bulgarian, Macedonian and Albanian will be provided.