Introduction to the ABCD software as an ISIS- and WWW-based integrated library management tool.
Overview

- Background information
- Technology overview
- Installation issues
- Modules overview
- Management and planning
ABCD = Automatización de Bibliotecas y Centros de Documentación

ABCD = WinISIS + KOHA

- ISIS database creation and structures definition
- ISIS PFT's creation with testing
- ISO-2709 import/export, import from text files and CSV with conversion tables
- All main library management functions: cataloguing, OPAC, loans, statistics, serials management, portal, acquisitions
ABCD is a BIREME initiative supported by VLIR/UDC

- BIREME avails not only their best existing web-based ISIS applications (SeCS, EMP, iAH) but also their experts coordinated by E. Spinak and hired G. Ascencio (Venezuela) to contribute from her Orbital Documental products.
  - All BIREME ISIS-technology culminates into ABCD!

- VLIR/UDC (Flemish University Development Co-operation) selected ABCD as preferred ILS and contributes funding and will provide French version plus training materials + pilot workshop through DOCBIBLAS project (E. de Smet)
ABCD aims at:

- Providing ISIS-users community with an integrated library system
- Which is suitable also for university libraries as per requirements of VLIR/UDC
  - e.g. MARC, AGRIS, METS, Z39.50, thesaurus-support
  - High volumes (at least up to 500K full records)
  - (close to) state-of-the-art functionality
- Which can be(come) an alternative to KOHA c.s. for ISIS-users building on the existing ISIS reality
Planning of the development:

- September 2008: first beta version distributed for testing at Rio ISIS3 conference, including:
  - Database management
  - Cataloguing in MARC + CEPAL structures
  - OPAC + Serials Management + Portal
- End 2008: full version 1.0
  - + Circulation + Statistics
- March 2009: Training materials in English, Spanish and French
Planning of 1\textsuperscript{st} phase users:

- University libraries in Latin-America, e.g.
  - UMSS (Cochabamba, Bolivia)
  - UCLV and public libraries network (Cuba)
- University libraries in Africa, e.g.
  - Moi University (Eldoret, Kenya)
  - Mekelle and Jimma University (Ethiopia)
  - Sokoine University (Tanzania)
- Some 4 – 5 other VLIR/UDC partner universities are queuing (Suriname, Peru, Ecuador, Mozambique)
- ... many others for sure!

\Rightarrow not just a newcomer on the scene...
WEB-based:

- The software runs as web-pages in a web-browser (IE, FF, Opera, Chrome, Safari...) served by a web-server (Apache, Xitami, IIS)
- Client-server can run on 'localhost' (127.0.0.1) on any PC with Windows or UNIX/Linux
- Pages are written in PHP (v5.2)
  - E.g. HTML Editor controls can be used
- PFT's can contain all HTML codes as literals
- Links are web-links (<A HREF>) and multimedia is provided by HTML
ABCD Technology 2

- ABCD is ISIS-based:
  - All data are stored in ISIS-databases
    - Until 2009: 'classic ISIS-technology' upgraded with CISIS extensions, i.e. MST+XRF with 1Mb records upto 4 Gb databases, IF with 60-character keys
    - From 2009: 'seemless' migration to NBP
  - ISIS-Script is used for data retrieval
  - (C)ISIS Formatting Language is used throughout
  - Existing ISIS-databases and their structures can be imported
ABCD Technology 3

- ABCD uses PHP:
  - Current version 5.2
  - Free OS software with large developers community and very wide usage
  - Easy installation, often together with Apache, e.g. WAMP, XAMP, EasyPHP...
  - Already offers a wealth of 'controls' (existing codes for almost any popular function), e.g. calendar, HTML Editor etc.
  - Strong links with e.g. (MySQL and) Postgres e.g. to be used in future Loans module

- ABCD uses JavaScript
  - as part of its HTML-capabilities
Client-server with 2 options:

- CGI (Common Gateway Interface): if $url variable is defined in config.php, this 'classic' protocol will be used to call the wxis-server to serve ISIS-pages
  - Advantages: widely used, more secure
- Direct executable calling: if no $url variable is defined in config.php, PHP will directly 'exec' the wxis-server as a call to the OS
  - Advantages: (a bit) faster
  - Disadvantage: less secure, e.g. Windows 'cmd' needs 'executable rights' on WWW-sharing
Web-server : Apache

- Both are free OS softwares, most resp. very widely used web-server resp. scripting engine
- Both can be installed independently or as part of packages such as WAMP, XAMP, EasyPHP
- Apache needs PHP-modules to be included (in httpd.conf)
  
  ```
  LoadModule php5_module "c:/wamp/bin/php/php5.2.5/php5apache2_2.dll"
  ```

Apache needs 'Alias' declared in httpd.conf for :
- 'abcd' for the folder `\abcd\www\htdocs`
- 'bases' for the folder `\abcd\www\bases`
- ScriptAlias for the folder `\abcd\www\cgi-bin`
ABCD Installation 2

- If not working: open in your browser \abcd\www\htdocs\php\test\test.php
  - Test on PHP installation
  - Test on WXIS being available, executable and having access to users-DB
- ABCD-users can/should be created first (by administration super-user: login 'abcd', password 'adm'):
  - Create user
  - Link to pre-listed DBs as 1 of 4 possible levels
ABCD Installation 3

4 user levels for added security:

- System Administrator: 'access to all areas' (superuser, be careful !!)
- Database Administrator: can change, modify read and write the given database
- Database Operator: can read and write the given database
- Loans Operator: can read and write only the Loans database
ABCD Modules 1

- Database management
  - Creation and modification of database structures
    - Internal and external database ID
    - Can be copied from existing WinISIS-databases or from existing ABCD-databases
    - Can be created 'from scratch' with FDT, FST, FMT and PFT-editors
  - Updating of created database structures
    - FDT, FST, FMT, PFT + record validation
    - Advanced search form (for cataloging) definition
    - Help files
ABCD Modules 2

- Database management : Utils
  - Initialise DB
  - Delete DB
  - Lock/unlock DB
- Help pages and translation editing
- Browsing database folder
- OPAC configuration for DB
Cataloguing with main handy (!) toolbar:
- Browsing MFN's
- Searching by form, A-Z browser
- New or copied record, Z39.50 downloading
- Edit, stop edit, save or delete record
- Print, tools (import/export, GMOD, locks, IF)
- Help pages, Home
Serials Management with SeCS module
ABCD Modules 5

• OPAC searching with iAH

ABCD - Sistema integrado de automatización de bibliotecas

Búsqueda en el ABCD

Entre con una o más palabras

salud

Buscar

filtro de búsqueda

Bases de Datos de la Institución

MARC
CEPAL
REVISTAS
DBLIL
ABCD Modules 6

- The ABCD interactive portal: allows 'localisation', news/messages
  - future development: links with NBP/Plone CMS-environment
ABCD Modules 7

- Loans administration
ABCD Modules 8

- Statistics and reports
ABCD Modules 9

- Acquisitions management
Timing:

- Test version (beta) to be tested September-December 2008
- Loans, Statistics + Acquisition modules to be developed by December 2008
  - Loans/statistics: 75% ready now (September)
  - Acquisitions: simple 'pre-cataloguing' module will be produced by end of 2008
- Training materials (in En, Sp, Fr) to be produced by March 2009
Other additional developments:

- Loans module using Postgres with dynamic coupling over LDAP to existing user-registration systems
  - UMSS (Cochabamba, Bolivia) is interested to do this
- French version to be produced (by DOCBIBLAS project from VLIR/UDC)
- Arabic version? => is being planned
- ...
- ???
ABCD Management

- Separate from ISIS co-ordination or not?
- Communication through ISIS-list or dedicated OS-tools?
- Co-ordination through BIREME
  - Who?
  - How?
- Migration to NBP in 2009: how, guidance?