

Virtual Library of Rio Grande do Sul: Making Available ISIS Databases on Web

Israel J. Cefrin da Silva¹, Tânia L. Angst¹, Luciano Zanuz¹, Helena Leiko Endo¹

¹FEE – Fundação de Economia e Estatística Siegfried Emanuel Heuser
Rua Duque de Caxias, 1691 – 90010-283 – Porto Alegre – RS – Brazil
{israel, angst, lucianozanuz, helena}@fee.tche.br

Keywords: standard formats; multi ISIS databases; MARC21.

Abstract

Completely built in accordance with the CDS / ISIS standard, the Virtual Library of Rio Grande do Sul (BVRS) stands out for promoting the cooperative work between information units from different state public institutions and for maintaining an accessible catalogue over Internet to exchange bibliographic records in MARC / ISO / XML format. BVRS, which currently has more than 100,000 records, is a portal that provides the catalogues where you can perform searches by author, title and subject in one or more participating libraries, getting the information about the existent items description in the libraries collection. If the intended item is in an electronic mode it can be accessed directly otherwise the library that has the material should be contacted.

Aiming to interoperability between different libraries and to quickly populating bases, we provided a solution based on ISIS standard databases using MARC21 format. This standardization has brought many benefits to the workflow and to the library data. Among them, it allowed just one basis initially in the first BVRS version but, even with the growth in number of bases, when we realized the need to maintain the physical separation of them, allowed to kept unchanged in its structure. The standardization was not limited only to the field of information technology, but in its current version BVRS managed to cover the concepts of standardization according to the requirements of the W3C and become fully accessible regardless of platform or device.

As next targets, we plan to provide decentralized update, where each participating library will handle its database directly into the central bases repository, thus towards to less centralized information control and more update capability. In addition, we plan to provide some kind of web service or API to search inside the bases, which can be used through forms parameters (or through URLs) as wxis-modules scripts, aiming to return manipulable data (XML).

In this paper we introduce the BVRS (<http://www.bibvirtual.rs.gov.br>) situating it in its informational context as a central repository of libraries database of Rio Grande do Sul state. Moreover, we detail the lessons learned and future perspectives, as well as the separated databases strategy issues which we opted, always keeping in mind the standards maintenance according to ISIS / MARC21 for a future proof shared databases update.