

## **THE APAT LIBRARY EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES: CHARACTERISTICS AND PERSPECTIVE OF DEVELOPMENT.**

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The library-owned documents acquisition generally happens through the direct purchase of serials and monographs or through the gift and the exchange activities.

By means of this last procedure the APAT Library collected a lot of number of scientific serials, monographs, geological and thematic maps (hydrogeological, geomorphological and so on) realized by universities, research institute, geological surveys and public administrations in Italy and in the foreign countries.

The APAT Library has inherited the exchange activity from the Geological Survey of Italy. Lately the activity lessened owing to many reasons. It is necessary to take into consideration the intrinsic characteristic of the activity which generally happens only if a scientific object (publication, paper, map, CD Rom) has been carried out, the reduction of the publications edited by the Geological Survey of Italy (Memorie descrittive della Carta Geologica d'Italia and Bollettino del Servizio Geologico d'Italia), the change of the scientific institutions address, the change of organization and institutional position of the Geological Survey of Italy and of the Library too, from the Ministry of the Industry, to the Ministry for the Environment (1986), to the Presidency of Cabinet Council (1989) and to the APAT (2002).

Through an accurate analysis using the web and its available search engines the list of the institutions that established a library exchange program with the APAT Library has been updated. Finally the exchange program has been started during the 2006 with about 300 scientific organizations in Italy and in the foreign countries within universities, scientific structures, museums. The exchange program is now in progress.

The note describes the general characteristics of the exchange activity and deepens some specific aspects. The evolution of the exchange program has been investigated carefully through the examination of some papers published in Bollettino del Servizio Geologico d'Italia and in other scientific journals. The presence or the absence, the consistency and the gaps of the scientific documents sent from other partners has been carried out in some opportunely selected cases through the OPAC (On-line Public Access Catalogue).

Moreover the paper supplies some advices in order to increase and to improve the activity.