

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS IN LIBRARIES: THE CASE OF THE ITALIAN AGENCY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES

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Key terms: APAT; Library; Technologies; Innovation

The Agency's Library, open to the public, is a scientific library specialized in Earth Sciences and environmental themes. The task of the Library is to ensure and safeguard the protection of the bibliographic, cartographic and photographic resources of the Library itself, thus ensuring its enjoyment by the public.

Resources

v 61.988 magazine headings volumes

v 33.158 monographs

v 44.801 articles from magazines and monographs

v 51.516 Geological maps

v original lithological and geological cartography currently available in digital format (3982 pictures)

v 63.000 frames of a national territory photographic library

The prestigious collection of maps includes more than 1000 ancient and valuable geological and geo-thematic maps, 700 of which are available also on the online catalogue.

The Library contains also more than 500 valuable works dating back to the Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries.

The most significant stages

1992-1995: The *GEODOC* project: a project worth approximately EUR 20 billion, providing for the stocktaking and cataloguing of the entire bibliographic and cartographic resources of the former Italian Library of the Geological Service.

1995: With the establishment of the Polo GEA, the Library joins the National Library Service. The first information catalogue of the Library of the Department for National Technical Services of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers starts operating. In particular, bibliographic data are stored in the National Library Service (SBN) package, in VMS-Digital environment, while cartographic data – not yet covered by the National Library Service – are stored in BIBLIO, a kind of database created ad hoc.

1999-2000: Project for a system aiming at querying and spreading data from the DSTN Library over the Internet: **OPAC** (www.opac.apat.it). The online multimedia catalogue of the library allows the access to the entire bibliographic and cartographic resources.

2001: Acquisition of the SEBINA System: it ensured the permanence on the network of the National Library Service (SBN) Index as well as a significant reliability and efficiency, in that

- it gave the possibility of managing magazines, excerpts and loan procedures that the Digital SBN software did not allow
- it allowed to obtain the necessary update implementation of the procedure regarding the acquisition, processing and management of cartographic material with a view to adapting it to the Library requirements
- it contains a module for the management of thesauruses which has permitted the revision of the *Italian Thesaurus of Earth Sciences* and the development of a new multilingual thesaurus of Earth Sciences

2006/2007: Sebina Open Library (OPAC): the objective of the adoption of the OPAC module proposed by Sebina is to unify management, with respect to the current two modules, so as to achieve saving and optimisation of costs and human resources and to improve services

regarding the internal and interlibrary loan system.

Apart from ensuring the access to the entire documental heritage, the new OPAC may offer users a range of services that include:

1. the chance to know the situation of pending loans, reservations, loan requests and purchase suggestions
2. the creation of a list of queries made by users, so as to allow a further activation of them without redigitizing any parameter
3. the development of a personal bibliography
4. recommendations to library administration on the purchase of new material
5. furthermore, browsing the *Italian Thesaurus of Earth Sciences*, published by the Agency for the Protection of the Environment and for Technical Services in 2006 and used for indexing and consulting, provides a semantic approach to documents.