

MIUR Ministero dell'istruzione,
Università e Ricerca
DGS



MIT Ministro per l'innovazione
e le tecnologie
DIT

Project



In collaboration with

CASPUR

CILEA

CINECA

2004-2007

Project “Biblioteche nelle scuole”

Libraries at Schools

Schooling at the library

Connecting schools with the local context and the library world, providing innovative services, granting access to information, by the means of co-operation and the services of the Italian National Library Service (SBN), are the main goals of “Biblioteche nelle Scuole” (“Biblioscuole”) project.

This national three-year pilot project is funded and supported by the Ministry of Education, University and Research, Direzione Generale Servizi Informativi (MIUR-DGSI) and Department of Technology and Innovation (DIT), in collaboration with National Centre for the Union Catalogue (ICCU) and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage (MiBAC). It was launched in April 2004.

<<http://www.istruzione.it/innovazione/progetti/biblioteche-nelle-scuole.shtml>>

Aims

The main aims of the project are: providing a wider access to information; enhancing information literacy, and promoting reading. The overall goal is to contribute to lifelong learning, for a continuous cultural development and the social inclusion.

Objectives

- Connecting schools to the National Library Service (SBN, www.iccu.sbn.it/Ehomepag.htm) for its services: interlibrary loan, document delivery, shared cataloguing.
- Educating and training school librarians in a blended learning context, by the means of a dedicated software, accessible through the project portal: <<http://www.biblioscuole.it>>.
- Implementing several services, such as educational thematical paths, and an access to relevant historical and cultural interest (digital) documentation held by the school libraries.
- Setting up the portal “biblioscuole.it”, in order to provide information about the project and access to its on-line services: e-learning platform, forum, FAQ, community, VRD, repository, collective opac, school libraries registry, hosting etc.

Participants

More than 2,500 school librarians and teachers involved in the educational and training program; about 850 schools at different levels (from pre-school to high-school), organized in 120 local school networks.

Partners

The three Italian interuniversity supercomputing Consortia - CASPUR, CILEA e CINECA - signed a contract with MIUR on 2003 and are now offering their technological skills in order to fulfil the project requirements. Their involvement is as follows:

- Caspur (www.caspur.it) promotes the project; implements and updates the collective schools' opac; maintains the SBN main node for Central and Southern Italy school libraries; designs and implements the monitoring system for the project assessment;
- Cilea (www.cilea.it) deals with school librarians' and teachers' education and training; implements and maintains the SBN main node for Northern Italy school libraries; maintains the Trouble Ticketing and Virtual Reference Desk (VRD) systems; designs and manages the school metaOPAC and the digital objects repository;
- Cineca (www.cineca.it) provides and manages the web based learning platform; maintains the school libraries registry; implements, manages and updates the portal.

State of the Art

Education

The training has been organized in two educational programs on a blended approach, after a three-day project introduction.

The “Percorso A” (i.e. “Path A”) took place from April 2005 to January 2006. This programme is called *The Digital and Multimedia School library as an information and documentation center off/for the school* devoted to the digital library; multimedia school library; meta-data; school library management etc.

The “Percorso B” (i.e. “Path B”) has been launched at the beginning of March 2006. This programme is devoted to *SBN education and MIUR Project core services* (the National Library Service; Repository; Virtual Reference Desk, Trouble Ticketing Service; MetaOPAC) and to BiblioScuole portal usage.

The Portal

Everybody can access the project Portal at www.biblioscuole.it (except for some restricted areas devoted to the BNS learners). Visitors can find information and documents in different sections of the portal: “Aree tematiche”, “Vetrina”, “VRD” and “MetaOpac”. A communication section has been implemented in late 2005: it gives information about events and press releases related to the Project.

RABIS

Caspar has recently developed the RABIS programme which enables data recovery into the National library service (SBN) from bibliographic data bases, formerly created using a variety of library software (e.g., WinIride), exploiting the work already done by the school librarians.

Perspectives

School information, documentation and resources will be exploited by the BNS Project, while integrating them in the National Library Service. In the meantime, BNS will enhance the professional development of school librarians and teachers, and contribute in a better way to the learning process.

This will ease the school library transition to a learning and cultural environment, as stated by several international bodies (IASL, IFLA, UN, UNESCO etc).

School libraries, actually, play a crucial social and cultural role for information literacy and social inclusion, as e-Europe 2005 Action Plan underlines with reference to libraries responsibility.

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Project Portal

<<http://www.biblioscuole.it>>

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(The Art School "Calcagnadoro" of Rieti, Italy, has kindly provided the BNS project logo)

"The school library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to functioning successfully in today's information and knowledge-based society. The school library equips students with life-long learning skills and develops the imagination, enabling them to live as responsible citizens."

(IFLA/UNESCO School Library Manifesto)

"It's vital to choose a library catalogue system which is applicable for classifying and cataloguing the resources according to accepted international or national bibliographic standards. This facilitates their inclusion in wider networks. In many places around the world, school libraries within a local community benefit from being linked together in a union catalogue. Such a collaboration may increase the efficiency and quality of book processing and make easy to combine resources for maximum effect."

(The IFLA/UNESCO School Library Guidelines)

"It has been demonstrated that, when librarians and teachers work together, students achieve higher levels of literacy, reading, learning, problem-solving and information and communication technology skills."

(IFLA/UNESCO School Library Manifesto)

"Literacy is crucial to the acquisition, by every child, youth and adult, of essential life skills that enable them to address the challenges they can face in life, and represents an essential step in basic education, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the societies and economies of the twenty-first century."

(United Nations Resolution on Literacy Decade 56/116)