

PORTUGAL

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003 – 2004

THE NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY

NDL is an initiative that emerged from the involvement of the National Library of Portugal in international cooperative projects. The challenge of developing new services and collections of digital resources is now faced by every national library and it constitutes a motivation for cooperation, technology reuse and services integration. The emerging requirement is interoperability which opens standards and technology sharing.

NDL is an initiative which will be totally operational by the end of 2004 with three simultaneous fronts: content creation, digital deposit and infrastructure building. NDL's architecture is made to support services for deposit, registration, storage (for preservation and for access), resource discovery and access, all of this for a potentially large diversity of genres of objects (in size, type, technical characteristics, conditions of use, etc.).

The framework for NDL is an integrated one which means that NDL is to be considered as a part of the National Library. One of the components that already exists is the On-Line National Union Catalogue – PORBASE. This has over 1 million bibliographic records and more than half a million authority ones. The records come from the National Library and from 154 Portuguese libraries.

Each digital object in NDL must have a standard UNIMARC record available in PORBASE. Complex objects such as deposited or harvested groups "blogs" which normal cataloguing would not make immediately effective, will be registered in PORBASE at the collection level.

Another component of this integrated architecture is the Name Resolving service. Each object on NDL receives a URN which is the identifier registered in its available record on PORBASE. The resolving service is based on the PURL concept which ensures that the URL made for these objects will still be valid in the future.

Within NDL's framework there is the Repository composed of one for access (R-A) and another for persistency (R-P), both running in Linux systems. R-A is developed around the FEDORA framework and uses the LUSTRE file system. R-P is supported by two ARCO nodes, a GRID solution for storage of large amounts of files and data. R-A is conceived for fast access and R-P- for secure storage.

One of the services in the top of NDL's framework is the Deposit and Registration which supports the workflow for the verification, cataloguing (interfacing with PORBASE and the Name Resolving) and storage of objects (interfacing with the Repository).

All the objects sent to the Repository are structured in METS which is the structural metadata format used in NDL.

The service for Search and Browse includes an OPAC for searching the digital collection (using PORBASE). It includes also a specific Content Index which provides full text indexing especially for the digitized objects structured in METS.

Finally, the Access services which include a User Workspace where registered users can maintain virtual collections made out of their own indexes of references for the objects and have other advanced services (e.g. order a virtual collection on a CD-ROM or DVD).

NDL has a flexible and integrated structure and the National Library provides guidance to libraries, archives, museums or other heritage institutions that have digitization projects, also by sharing with them the technological tools that are being developed.

The National Library of Portugal has been recognized as a Centre for Excellence regarding digital contents.

IFLA UNIMARC CORE ACTIVITY

MISSION

The IFLA UNIMARC CORE ACTIVITY succeeds UBCIM (Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC) Core Activity in the part related to International MARC.

Its office, established in March 2003, is at the National Library of Portugal. IFLA UNIMARC is closely linked to other IFLA professional units, namely Division IV – Bibliographic Control and alliances such as ICABS – IFLA CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards.

ICABS took the Universal Bibliographic Control part of UBCIM, merged with the former UDT (Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications) and updated its scope with other bibliographic control activities

Although an independent IFLA Core Activity, UNIMARC is also a member of ICABS thus contributing to an integrated vision of Bibliographic Standards.

ACTIVITIES IN 2003

During last year the most important issue was the transfer and installation of the Core Activity. UNIMARC as a standard is maintained by the Permanent UNIMARC Committee who now continues its activities connected to the National Library of Portugal.

In October a new format – UNIMARC for Holdings – was posted on IFLANET for world wide review. Adjustments to the Bibliographic format to be harmonized with ISBD (CR) also took place as well as development of Guidelines for using UNIMARC for Music and a revised version of UNIMARC/Authorities. The relationship with ICABS has gone rather well and not only will UNIMARC be represented in the ICABS session during the IFLA Buenos Aires Conference but also MARC 21, which is an activity within ICABS, will participate in the UNIMARC session dedicated to the topic “The Holdings Record as a bibliographic control tool”.

Collections (31 Dec.2003)		
Books	2.505.074	volumes
Serials	372.189	volumes
Manuscripts	86.600	items
Microforms	28.761	units
Cartographic materials	13.036	items
Graphics	120.966	items
Music	24.400	items
Electronic documents	460	items
Other (incl. audio-visual)	2.951	items
Users		
Number of readers		
Number of items consulted	58.846	users
Interlending and document supply	265.071	users
Research in databases	1.785	
Staff	7.500	
Budget Euros	315	
	8.231.012	

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