

SLIDE 1

ACNP: deriving the Italian Union Catalogue for serials from the ISSN Register by Vincenzo Verniti, revised and translated by Alessandra Citti

Introduction.

The Italian Union catalogue of serials is changing its structure and working methods to become a derived catalogue from the ISSN Register. In Italy, this is one of the main outcomes from CASA, a European project which will be described tomorrow morning by prof. Di Cocco. Before describing the phases which will lead to this result, we will shortly outline the Italian situation concerning union catalogues for serials. **SLIDE 2** There is not a single union catalogue in Italy, but many catalogues, each based on different automated cataloguing systems and adopting different standards. The two main catalogues are ACNP, the Italian Union Catalogue for serials and SBN, the National system for Italian Libraries.

SLIDE 3 ACNP has been promoted and carried out by the Institute for Studies on the Research and Scientific Documentation of the National Research Council since the 1970s. It is composed of 94.000 bibliographic descriptions with more than 485.000 holdings in about 2.000 libraries. The libraries, participating in ACNP belong to Universities, research bodies, local government units and industries. The catalogue is accessible on the Server of the Interlibrary Centre of the University of Bologna and can be searched on line via the INTERNET; it is hosted in and updated with Basis plus-Techlib. Presently, it is the main Italian source for the national and international community to locate a serial in Italian libraries.

SLIDE 4 The SBN catalogue is a national catalogue which contains both monographs and serials. It was created during the 1980s by ICCU, the Central institute for the Italian union catalogue. It contains about 130.000 serials held by 800 libraries throughout Italy. Many libraries belonged to both catalogues for different periods and therefore their data are in both databases. This anomalous situation forced some libraries to update both databases - which adopt different standards - or, in some cases, to stop updating one of them. The use of different bibliographic standards made it difficult to merge the two databases, although this was considered as an important objective and, moreover, it also made it impossible to feed and align them periodically with batch procedures.

SLIDE 5 The CASA project aims to overcome this situation through the virtual merge of the two catalogues, using the ISSN identifier. Actually, ACNP will become a real derived catalogue from ISSN, and its descriptions will therefore gradually be discarded, whereas SBN will maintain its descriptions. Therefore, in this case, the SBN derivation will be indirect, more similar to the NOSP model, I think.

ACNP and SBN will become the first nucleus of a single Italian union catalogue of serials, however, each will continue independently, but will differentiate their roles and become complementary. This will make less burdensome and more reasonable for libraries to participate in both catalogues. On one hand, SBN, integrated with BNI, the Italian National bibliography, will become the main tool for interactive cataloguing of new titles and for old titles held by libraries and not yet recorded in the ISSN Register. On the other hand, ACNP will become a derived catalogue, therefore it will not be adopted for direct cataloguing. However, it will be possible to use it to send proposals to the ISSN Register. It will be a distributed catalogue fed with some minor catalogues such as Aleph or Dobis, using batch procedures. It will act as a reference guide for information about serial services as well.

Other Italian catalogues will not be excluded from this project, since they will be able to participate in ACNP or to send periodically their holdings of serials having ISSN. Such integration of catalogues will produce new proposals of recording which will feed the ISSN national Register and therefore the International Register.

SLIDE 6 *Towards a derived catalogue*

The workflow which will change ACNP into a derived catalogue from ISSN will not be easy and will have to take into account difficulties due to the small number of serials having ISSN in the catalogue. The procedure for updating ACNP on line already derives bibliographic descriptions from the ISSN Register. If librarians find a serial in the ISSN Register, they capture the title, by copying it to ACNP and only add holdings information. This procedure reduces the burden of cataloguing activities which are presently carried out only for titles not in the ISSN Register. However it also creates an heterogeneous situation in the catalogue, since ACNP and ISSN Register do not use the same cataloguing standards. Of course this is a temporary situation, which will be overcome when ACNP is a derived catalogue. During this temporary phase the co-operation between the ISSN centre and the management and development group of ACNP is essential. **SLIDE 7** Until now, management of ACNP has been carried out independently from the ISSN Centre both for historical and practical reasons:

- ACNP started before the creation of the Italian ISSN Centre and therefore titles input in ACNP before the creation of the ISSN Centre could not have ISSN;
- most records input after the creation of ISSN Centre do not have ISSN either because it had not been assigned yet or because such titles were no longer published. As it is well known in this case the ISSN Centre was not supposed to assign an ISSN.
- since the ISSN Centre could only operate on data sent by libraries, ISSN code could be assigned if libraries had sent the preliminaries of the serials, at least until the publication of the ISSN Register on CD-ROM and then on line.

SLIDE 8 Therefore over 86.982 serials in ACNP (excluding the titles derived from the ISSN Register and having therefore the ISSN) the situation is the following:

- 3.439 Italian serials with ISSN
- 30.357 Italian serials without ISSN
- 16.320 non Italian serials with ISSN
- 36.866 non Italian serials without ISSN

Therefore over 75% serials in ACNP (67.223) do not have ISSN either because it has not been assigned yet or because it has not been input yet. **SLIDE 9** Before ACNP migrates from the present management procedures to the CASA ones, all ISSN numbers - already assigned to serials, but not yet recorded in ACNP - will have to be added to serials. This will have to be done using an automated match between the ISSN International Register and ACNP. Then all serials not having ISSN - and most of them are Italian titles - will have to be assigned an ISSN. This will be the heaviest operation, but CASA will make it easier. To ensure this step ISRDS developed a procedure for the automatic match between Italian titles in ACNP and titles in the ISSN Italian Register. This procedure delivers a list of most probable correspondences and ISRDS reports ISSN codes in ACNP, after a manual control of the list.

SLIDE 10 The situation which resulted from this procedure is the following:

- 3.749 ACNP titles not having ISSN have been identified on the Italian ISSN Register;
- 7.258 ISSN titles are not yet in ACNP;
- 27.366 ACNP titles have not been registered in the ISSN Italian Register.

Data of 1997, since then further 1.000 titles.

An analogous operation will have to be done also for non-Italian titles, possibly with the collaboration of the national centres of the countries where the titles have been published.

SLIDE 11 As indicated, another important step to achieve a complete derived catalogue is to record all new Italian serials, all titles in the Italian National Bibliography, in ACNP and SBN in the ISSN International Register.

To ensure this there will be an agreement between the Italian ISSN Centre (managed by ISRDS-CNR) and the central national library of Florence who carries out the role of national bibliographic agency. This activity should also constitute a new co-operation between the two bodies (ISSN national agency and bibliographic agency) as it happens in most European countries.

Two procedures will be adopted:

- an interactive procedure for new recordings
- a mixed procedure (batch for old titles, allowing the doubtful cases to be solved on line after the automatic matches)

Due to long times necessary for controls, titles not yet recorded (interactive proposals and descriptions captured from catalogues) will feed a temporary register of serials being recorded which will be accessible for many uses. Proposals of modifications will be operational only when accepted by an authority level higher than the proposer.

For a quick input of the retrospective titles, the national bibliography will be matched with ISSN Register and titles not present will be recorded as proposals. Such proposals will first be converted into the ISO3297 format and then will be assigned an ISSN which will be sent as an official proposal for validation to the International Centre. The same procedure will apply for titles recorded in union catalogues.

To achieve quick results, semiautomatic procedures will have to be able to resolve a high percentage of cases, leaving a little percentage of open cases for human checking.

Records captured will be sorted by country of publication. The foreign ones will be sent as proposals to the national centres competent for the territory; the Italian ones will be sent to the National Central Library of Florence and will follow the procedure already described for the national bibliography.

At this stage ACNP will become a completely derived catalogue and only further local information which can not be treated in the bibliographic description of the ISSN International recordings, will be loaded in specific fields.