

# ISTEC

## LIBRARY LINKAGES INITIATIVE

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Library Linkages (LibLink), the information and knowledge management program of ISTEC, is evolving into four distinct initiatives.

- The original *Document Delivery project* continues to be strong; but will need a commitment to find funding solutions for documents not available at member institutions. This is a role for LibLink members in each country or region. The CISTI project proved very successful, but at an annual cost of over US \$50,000, this service was too expensive to continue without additional funding. The Executive Committee (ExCom) approved the discontinuation of this service and established a pay-per-use system to replace it. Currently there are 5 member libraries signed up for this service. To ensure 2-4 day turn-around times, the Document Delivery office at Centennial Library was reorganized to utilize fewer staff and more students. Bonnie Roach returned to CSEL and was replaced on a part time basis by an existing ISTEC employee, Juan Larrañaga. The turnaround time for items from Centennial is currently 1-2 days, and 4 or more days from collections farther away. There are currently 36 LibLink member libraries, an increase of 7 from the previous year. The document delivery statistics is appended below for the CSEL operation and for LigDoc, PrEBi, and REBIDIMEX. These are regional LibLink organizations.
- *Consortial Content Acquisition* is the second initiative. Work has just begun to explore possible cross-national electronic content purchases with vendors. During 2000 we met with executives of:
  - *SilverPlatter Inc.* (vendors of many scientific and other citation databases)
  - *Ebsco Co.* (vendors of citation databases and electronic content)
  - the *Institute of Physics* (vendors of some of the most important physics journals in electronic format)
  - *Engineering Information Inc.* (vendors of the *Compendex*® engineering citation database).
  - We continue discussions with *Academic Press* for their *IDEAL* electronic journal package. This has been presented to the ExCom in 1998 and 1999 as a project that needs US\$15,000 in startup funding and the agreement can proceed as soon as such

funding is in place. Various grants have been written to accomplish this. Thus far unsuccessfully.

- ***Library and Information Science Manpower Development*** is the third focus of LibLink. Training has always been an important component of the program but it became clear that there is also a need to assist library workers to obtain graduate education through distance education. There is a critical shortage in some Latin American countries for librarians qualified at the Masters level as well as for leadership and management internships. During the past year we have had opportunities to meet with Directors of library schools in Brasil and Costa Rica. We have also investigated two library schools in the USA that provide distance education in this area: Emporia State University and the University of South Florida (USF). From these various discussions we decided to partner with USF's School of Library and Information Science (Tampa, Florida). The School has most of its coursework in web-based format already and the University has extensive experience in and infrastructure for electronic distance education. A "*Pre-Proposal for delivery of Library and Information Science education to South American countries*" has been developed by the school and approved at a meeting on October 26, 2000. This is under active further development and will be available at the General Assembly for discussion by the LibLink representatives. Consulting with current and potential members of ISTEAC on development of their libraries and creating digital projects increased during the past year. The LibLink director consulted on a variety of library projects with the Rector of the University of Andora, Representative of the Electrical Engineering department at the Universidad de Chile, Representative of the Universidad de Savana (Colombia), and so forth. LibLink library representatives in Latin American countries also provided consultation and advice to local libraries.
- The fourth focus of LibLink is the ***Digital Libraries Initiative***. This was started in 1998 and has been very successful in bringing librarians and computer scientists with similar interests together to plan joint projects. Workshops have been conducted in México, Colombia, Costa Rica, Brasil and New Mexico between July 1999 – November 2000. Johan van Reenen is editing a book to be published by the Organization of American States on digital libraries and virtual workplace development in Latin America. It will be translated into Spanish as soon as the English version is completed. Most of the chapter authors were drawn from ISTEAC member organizations. LibLink representatives are continually exploring the potential of new technology that may benefit members. During March 2000 we tested and demonstrated the SunRay® network stations from Sun Microsystems Inc. and will be demonstrating these at a future ISTEAC meeting. We are also working with the developer of a data visualization system, VxInsight, that may prove a useful tool to understand citation information.

During the past year LibLink staff at Centennial Library also participated in the ISTEAC Portal program and attended database classes given by Soraya Abat Mota from Universidad Simón Bolívar in Venezuela. We migrated the LibLink web site to the new

ISTEC web site and reorganized the site to be more useful to members. This will be demonstrated at the General Assembly meeting.

The Goals for 2001 are the following [Bel, Marisa, Angela Maria, Enedina please add your ideas here]:

1. Continue to improve the LibLink portion of the ISTEC Portal with input from all LibLink members
2. Continue to find alternative funding for CISTI document delivery and to encourage LibLink members in the various regions to do the same
3. Continue to encourage and participate in digital library initiatives at members organizations and at regional meetings when appropriate
4. Find additional libraries in the US to augment the **free document delivery service** provided by UNM
5. Develop regional consortial proposals from database vendors
6. Implement the statistical program developed by the Universidad National de la Plata and create a web site that will display statistics from all LibLink regional and central document delivery services
7. Continue providing leadership, management and risk taking courses when speakers are available
8. Create more regional and national LibLink operations, especially in the Andes and central American regions
9. Recruit more LibLink Members, especially in Chile and Argentina.