



5,600 Copies of UNESCO's CDS/ISIS Distributed During Last 12 Months

During the last twelve months, UNESCO has distributed upon request more than 5,600 copies of its information storage and retrieval software CDS/ISIS. Most of the requests for the software, that is available in version 1.5 for Windows, were received online.

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"We are impressed by the number of requests" says UNESCO's CDS/ISIS project manager Davide Storti. "The high demand of CDS/ISIS shows that free software is very much needed for managing databases in libraries and information centres." 40 percent of the requests have been received from these institutions, he adds.

UNESCO also successfully distributes several CDS/ISIS-based open source packages responding to particular needs, such as IsisMarc, for advanced bibliographic cataloguing or WEBLIS, for web-based library management, including loan.

Micro CDS/ISIS is an advanced non-numerical information storage and retrieval software developed by UNESCO since 1985 to satisfy the need expressed by many institutions, especially in developing countries, to be able to streamline their information processing activities by using modern and relatively inexpensive technologies.

The software was originally based on the Mainframe version of CDS/ISIS, started in the late '60s, thus taking advantage of several years of experience acquired in database management software development. Several partners contributed to its development through the years.

UNESCO has accumulated significant experience in facilitating the development of some key software tools for processing information. These software tools are distributed free-of-charge and the objective is to empower the users by giving them access to some key technology for development and knowledge sharing, that most of them otherwise could not afford.

The development model is based upon international cooperation and the software tools are continuously enriched, modified and updated with the co-operation of a community of experts from different countries. The most popular UNESCO software tools are CDS/ISIS, Greenstone and IDAMS

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