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NILDE, Network Inter Library Document Exchange: An Italian Document Delivery System

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Abstract. This poster presents NILDE, a document delivery system supporting the exchange of documents via the internet. The system has been set up by the Central Library of the National Research Council of Bologna (Italy) in order to make use of new internet technology, to promote cooperation between Italian university libraries and research libraries, and to achieve quick response times in satisfying DD requests. The Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory Library was the first astronomical library to join the NILDE project from its earliest days in 2002. Many were the reasons for this choice: automation of the DD processes, security and reliability of the network, creation of usage statistics and reports, reduction of DD System management costs and so on. This work describes the benefits of NILDE and discusses the role of an organized document delivery system as an important tool to cope with the difficult constraints of the publishing market.

1. NILDE: From Project to National Service

In 1999 an internet-based document delivery service was developed at the Research Area of Bologna Central Library within the framework of the the Italian National Research Council (CNR). This project was called BibliomIME.¹ In 2001 all Italian libraries were invited to join the pilot project and NILDE (Network Inter-Library Document Exchange), the web-based system was developed and tested in 2002 (see Figure 1). In a few years NILDE became an active network for DD service and in 2006 had an important transition: the project was completed and NILDE became a national service. So the libraries were no longer partners in a project, but subscribers to a service.

¹<http://www.bibliomime.cnr.it>



Figure 1. The NILDE home page.

2. NILDE: Functions and Characteristics

NILDE aims to promote reciprocal exchanges among libraries and to facilitate the use of homogeneous quality standards in order to develop inter-library co-operation in document delivery services. NILDE allows libraries to:

- send requests to a specific lending library;
- send requested documents in a secure way via the internet or fax or surface mail;
- archive all transactions in order to provide statistical reports;
- manage their own users' archive;
- get accounting reports.

Libraries belonging to NILDE must:

- agree to supply documents on a reciprocal basis;

- facilitate access to their holdings;
- supply documents in 2 days average, and in 5 days maximum time;
- supply documents at no charge for the service, and, eventually, ask for compensation at the end of the year;
- distribute their requests equally among all the other libraries (sending a maximum of 5 requests per week to the same library).

In 2005, 438 active libraries in NILDE have exchanged 86,450 documents! (See Figure 2.)

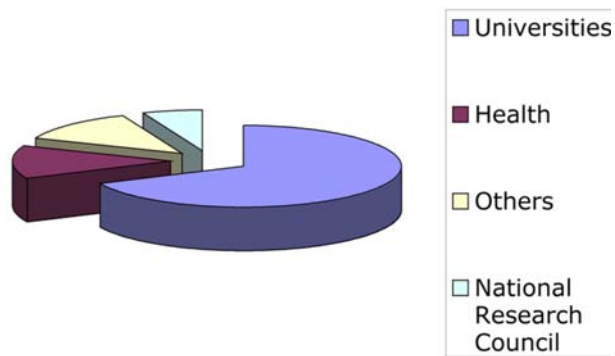


Figure 2. NILDE participants.

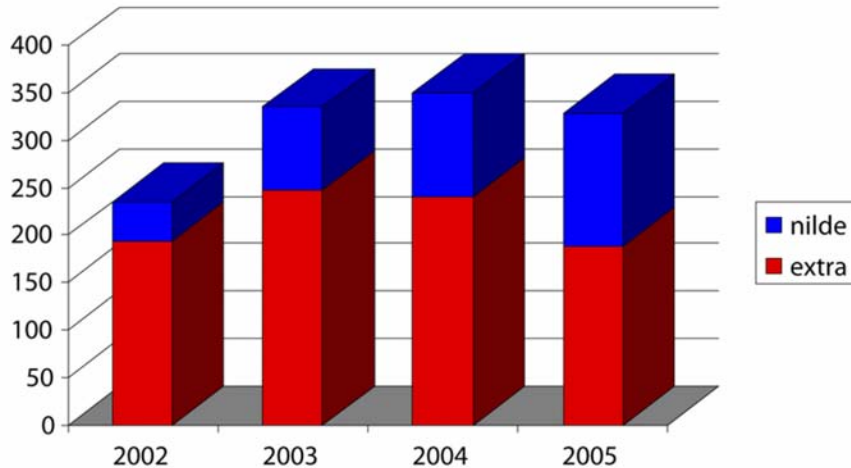


Figure 3. The DD transactions in Arcetri Astrophysical Library.

NILDE is a free of charge system based on reciprocal exchange and for those libraries that have to pay (due to their internal rules), the cost of an article is independent of the length. Possible charges will be based on the number of articles borrowed between libraries at the end of the year.

3. NILDE in the Arcetri Astrophysical Library

Currently seven INAF (National Institute for Astrophysics) libraries have joined NILDE : Catania, Firenze, Napoli, Padova, Roma, Torino, and Trieste. Arcetri Astrophysical Library, in Firenze, was the first to be a part of NILDE in 2000.

The Arcetri Astrophysics Library has the highest traffic of DD transactions among the Italian astronomical libraries and NILDE is the most important channel for DD requests for non-astronomical subjects (mathematics, physics, geophysics) (see Figure 3). For the retrieval of astronomical papers the channels ADS and Astrobib (the Italian Astronomical Libraries mailing list) are able to fulfill every request. An important aspect to be considered is that NILDE makes cooperation with universities and other research institutions more effective and permits a real collaboration.

4. Conclusions

With NILDE the librarian's life is easier!



Figure 4. There is a better way to provide document delivery!

All DD transactions are managed automatically.

We save time!

We are more efficient!

We guarantee the quality of the service!