African Index Medicus (AIM)

The challenge of the bibliographic control and actions

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African Index Medicus (AIM): Content

1. What is AIM
2. Value of the Bibliographic control in AIM
3. Challenge of the Bibliographic Control in AIM
4. Actions taken for the Bibliographic Control in AIM
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1. **African Index Medicus (AIM)**: What is it?

The objectif of African Index Medicus is:

« to improve access to bibliographic and other information resources relating to health issues of African countries through cooperation at a national and international level »

(WHO/AHILA, 1993)

- Available online at: [http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/](http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/)
1. **African Index Medicus (AIM) : What is it?**

More specifically:

- To become a vehicle for access to information in full text published by the African Medical Journals
- To integrate African health publishing into international information networks
- To reduce the cost of health information access in African countries
- To strengthen medical libraries and health information centers capacity by providing them technical support
- To develop and encourage collaborative work and health information sharing in the African region
1. African Index Medicus (AIM) - Organization

- National Focal Points 41
- Regional Adviser
  - AIM Coordination
    - 1 Ref Librarian Manager
    - 1 Technical Support staff
- BIREME
- WHO/EMRO
- SCHOLAR GOOGLE
- BIOLINE
- African Medical Editors
  - 135 Medical journals
  - Available some with Full Text
- Indexing
  - 1 Librarian
  - 2 librarians in charge of other activities
1. African Index Medicus (AIM): Tools

- CDS/ISIS (Computedarized Documentation System / Integrated Set for Information System) for database management

- CISIS (administration level) and SWK (Swiss knife) for quality control

- IAH and WWWISIS for database publication on the web under APACHE web server

- Future: GHL platform is under development for AFRO Region

- MeSH for data indexing and DECS (for Portuguese)
2. Value of the Bibliographic Control

- The Bibliographic control provides a system which makes the identification and localizing of information sources recorded in AIM.

- The publication on its own is of no value to the information community without the records indicating their existence and giving access to the content.
2. AIM: **Bibliographic control**

- Reception of articles from editors or Bibliographic references from NFP
- Indexing (or merge) in AIM using CDS/ISIS
- Control of references tomographies and duplications using SWK (Swiss knife)
- Correction of references using CDS/ISIS or CISIS on checking mandatory fields
- WEB publication using IAH + WWWISIS
  - Next AIM web portal will be based on BVS platform as a CMS
- Google Scholar Search engine
- DB sent to BIREME for GHL update
- Merge references and update DB locally and in the server
- WEB publication using IAH + WWWISIS
  - Next AIM web portal will be based on BVS platform as a CMS
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3. Challenge of the Bibliographic Control in AIM

Challenge

4.1. Data quality
- One of the most important challenges for AIM is the quality control of records sent by national focal points
- Only one staff (librarian) is in charge of indexing and data entry at the coordination level

4.2. Multilingualism
- AIM Team receives data in English, French and Portuguese

4.3. Journals sent by Editors
- AIM Team receives a lot of medical journals sent by editors as PDFs
- All editors see their journals as first to be indexed
4. Actions taken for the Bibliographic Control in AIM...

5.2. Role played by BIREME...
- BIREME has provided AIM team with tools helping in the bibliographic control: - SWK (Swiss knife) and ISIS Family applications

5.3 Use of multilingual tools
- Bilingual MeSh is used to index materials in English or French
- DeCs (descritores em ciencias da Saude, http://decs.bvs.br/) prepared by BIREME is used to index materials in Portuguese
- A link containing all these tools as been created in AIM (Tools for cataloging and indexing in http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int)
5.4. Interpersonal relationship

- The indexer does not work in isolation. She often works closely with:
- The chief Librarian who very often check the records
- The AIM Coordinator who works closely with the medical editors and national focal points
4. **Actions taken for the Bibliographic Control in AIM...**

5.4. **Interpersonal relationship**

- The Databases administrator who masters the computer side of AIM management, adds full text of articles or other publications, merges data in the main database and manages the web server
- The Cataloger and the library assistant in the choice of descriptors and the classification used
- colleagues advise each other, and discuss work issues on a regular basis or through meetings
5. Conclusion

- It is quite clear that the bibliographic control will always be necessary in AIM.
- A collaborative network has been created to reach this goal.
- More on AIM: http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int

Thank you!