

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
5. Conclusion

1. African Index Medicus (AIM) : *What is it?*

AIM : Introduction and objective

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)

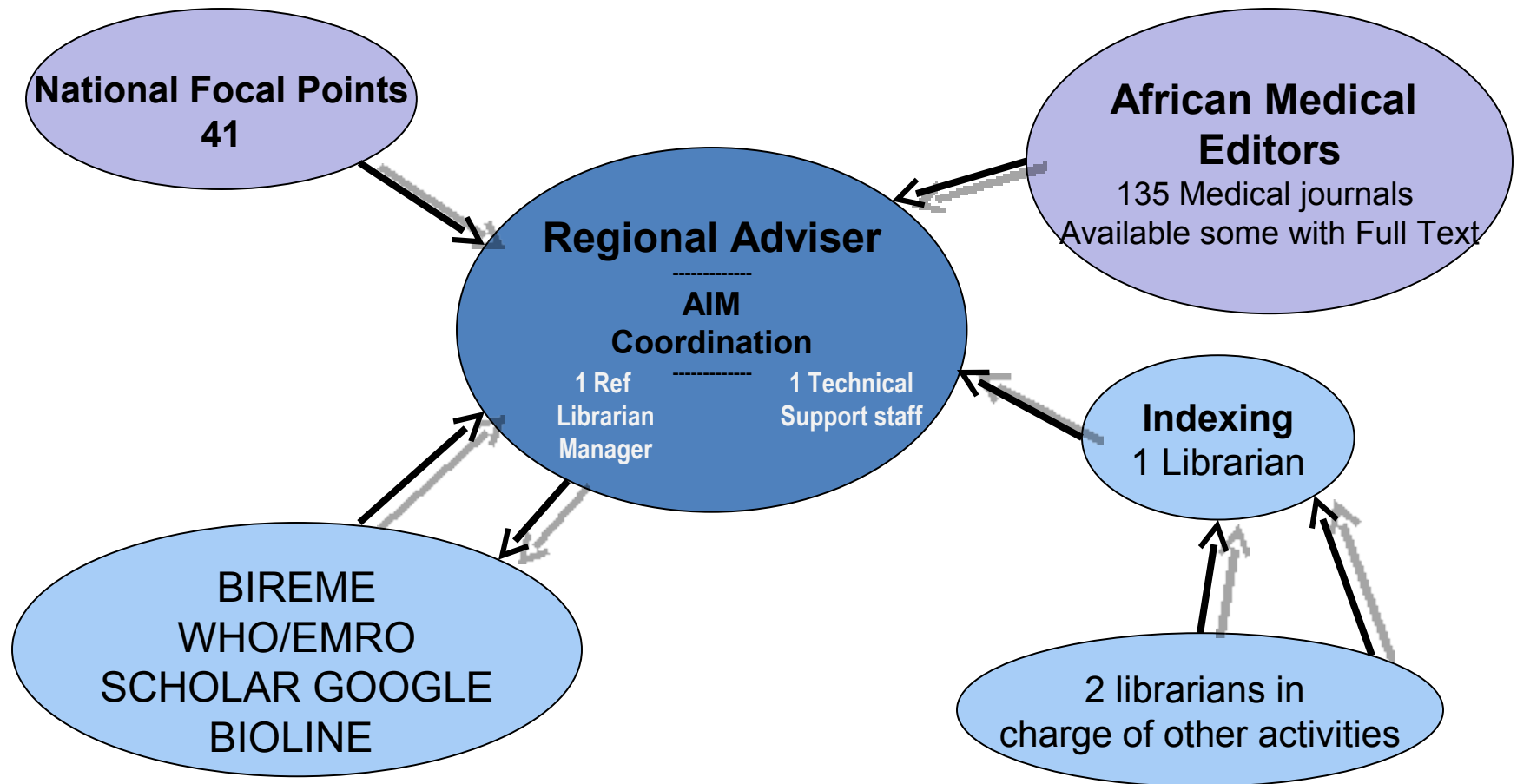
- Available online at:
<http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/>

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



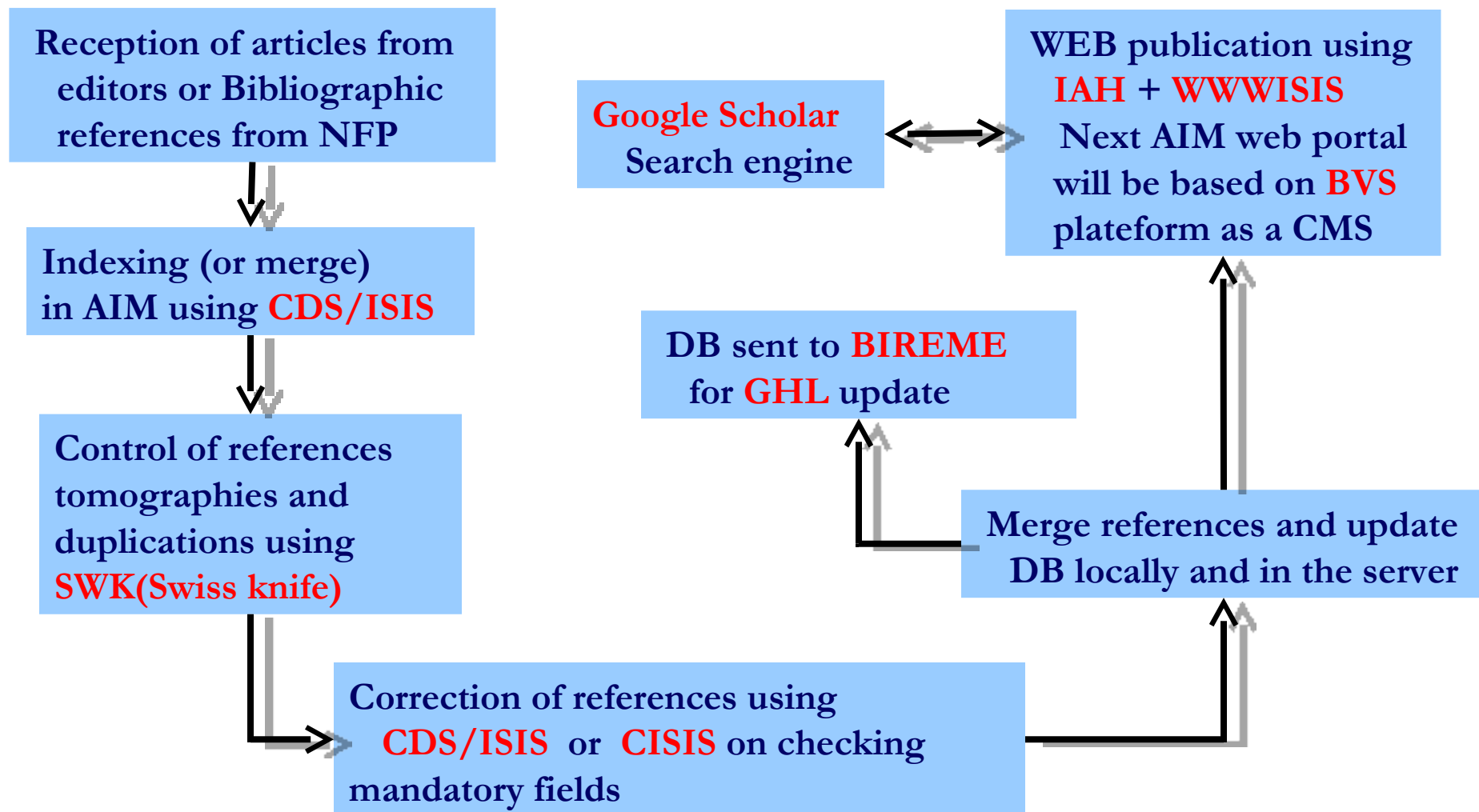
1. African Index Medicus (AIM) : Tools

- ✓ CDS/ISIS (**Computerized 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 platforme 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*



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. Multilinguism

- 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>)

4. Actions taken for the Bibliographic Control in AIM...

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!