

Progress Report

Author's Information

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Report

1. Mission statement

The International Labour Organization is the UN specialized agency which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. Its strategic objectives are :

- to promote and realize standards and fundamental principles and rights at work
- to create greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment
- to enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all
- to strengthen tripartism and social dialogue

The primary goal of the ILO Library is to support the development and recognition of the ILO as a knowledge-based organization through its research and publications. This is achieved by providing access to key information and knowledge on social and labour issues, and enhancing the ILO's role as the core repository of ILO documents and other publications essential for the ILO's work in member States.

2. New automation developments at the ILO Library

WorkGate

In January 2002, the ILO Library released WorkGate (<http://www.ilo.org/workgate>), the ILO's gateway to selected Internet resources on the world of work. The gateway includes approximately 350 high-quality Internet sites. A team of eight staff members agreed to share this additional work and developed a selection policy, selected sites and wrote site

Progress Report

descriptions. Sites are organized using a taxonomy developed by the Library to cover all the fields of activity to the ILO. The computer application, which consists of administration, editing and public access modules, is entirely web-based. Using Oracle as the underlying database, the application was developed by Library systems staff using PL/SQL (the current standard Oracle programming approach within the ILO). Though WorkGate is currently available only in English, the software was designed to support a multilingual interface.

Labordoc implementation of Voyager

In late 2001, the ILO concluded an agreement with Endeavor Information Systems for the purchase of the Voyager integrated library system as well as the ENCompass and LinkFinderPlus products. The Voyager system was intended to replace, for library management, MINISIS (the minicomputer-based system in use at the ILO since 1980). The implementation of Voyager, completed in late 2002, has meant that for the first time Labordoc, the ILO Library catalogue and bibliographic database, is available free of charge over the Internet; it can be consulted virtually 24 hours a day and 7 days a week at <http://www.ilo.org/labordoc>. The OPAC interface, accessed exclusively via the Web, is available in English, French and Spanish (the latter two being the first publicly available Voyager interfaces in these languages). Subject access is also provided in these three languages. Voyager at the ILO runs on a SunFire280R server with 4 GB memory and two 2x36 GB disk drives.

ENCompass/LinkFinderPlus

Library staff are currently implementing ENCompass, a digital library product, and LinkFinderPlus, an OpenURL resolver. ENCompass will be used both for cross-database searching of information resources available over the Internet (such as bibliographic and citation databases and library catalogues) and for the management of selected local digital collections. The initial phase of deployment is expected later in 2003.