

DEBATE AND DISCUSSION

University Publication Database

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Abstract

Information technology plays an important role in the strategic initiatives of higher education institutions. Information systems are used to support accreditation efforts, integrate curriculum, solve administrative information problems, etc.

The article briefly describes the information needs of higher education institutions, specifically the needs for data on publication activities (Fig. 3, Ref. 1).

Key words: database of publication activities, bibliographic system, Web interface.

Information Needs

Managing faculty/university requires the collection, aggregation, and dissemination of large amounts of data on the publication activities. Faculties are regularly evaluated to determine promotions and raises. This determination is made by examining how productive the faculty has been, which is based on the publication activities, among other efforts.

The faculties are often asked to provide the same information on several different occasions, using different formats. The amount of time spent on providing and managing this information, takes away a lot of time.

Using information technology to build a database of publication activities provides several advantages to manage the evaluation and accreditation. The advantage of such a database is that the desired information is provided only once. Once the data are entered and stored, they can be modified and updated easily.

Evidence of Publications at the Comenius University (CU)

Comenius University in Bratislava – comprises 13 faculties: Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin, Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Roman Catholic Theological Faculty of Cyril and Methodius, Evangelical Theological Faculty, Faculty of Management, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences. Every faculty has its own faculty library for supplying information and

library demands. Comenius University determined a need for a university publication database and in 1991 has started project **EviPub – EVIDence of PUBlications**.

The concept of the EviPub arises from the demand of bibliographic data for faculty/university evaluation and accreditation, qualification promotion and to improve the visibility of the scientific output.

EviPub is an ongoing project with the goal of providing information on the publication activities of all university members.

In 1991 CDS/ISIS software package by UNESCO was adopted in the libraries of particular faculties as the archiving software for the database, in 1993 this software was replaced by FoxPro application and the database has started to offer open access on the Internet.

From the 1999 the database EviPub is created in the integrated library system Virtua/VTLS (Virginia tech Library System).

The database provides a comprehensive overview of publications produced by university members: monographs, monographs chapters, textbooks, textbook chapters, CC (Current Contents) journal articles, other journal articles, CC journal abstracts, other journal and conference abstracts, full text conference pub-

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SEARCHES **Browse** | **Keyword** | **Expert**
Broadcast | **Reserve** | **Heading Keyword**
Set Search Filters

Browse Search

Words: Search Type: **Author** Database: **EviPUB** **Search**

Fig. 1. Entry screen of the database EviPub.

lications, books, book chapters, academic thesis, research reports, patents, internet publication, etc.

The database is daily updated and maintained by the faculty libraries, which ensure the accuracy of publications currently accessible in the database. The faculty libraries are knowledge collectors, organizers and disseminators in this project.

Bibliographic records are created according to the international standards and norms ISO 690, MARC format, AACR2, etc.

Documents are evaluated according to the qualification criteria set up by the Ministry of Education in August 2005.

The university database currently comprises more than 151000th records, for which reprints have been sent to the faculty libraries by the authors.

The database EviPub also provides a digital archive of full-text documents. There are more than 1800 records with full text electronic copies (PDF format) available online. These documents are stored in the database permanently with open public access.

Features of EviPub

The database provides current, comprehensive and accurate information about publication activities and scientific productivity inside specific subject fields (such as medicine, law, chemistry, physics and so on) of the University:

- full text archive of documents,
- the source of reference which scientists can use when writing their publications,
- institutional bibliography (all papers published by authors who are employees of a certain institution),
- personal bibliography,
- increased visibility of research,
- provide national visibility.

Access to the University Publication Database

- 1) from web page of Academic Library of the Faculty of Medicine CU – <http://www.fmed.uniba.sk/library>

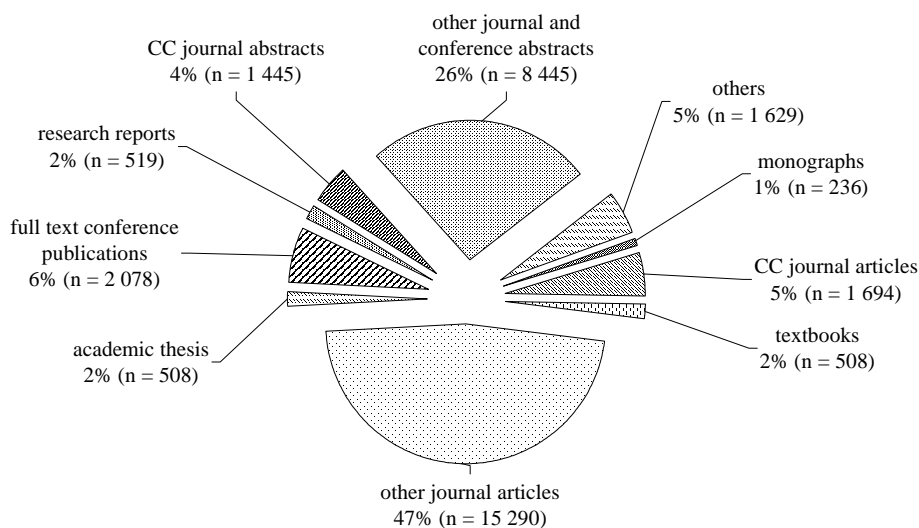


Fig. 2. Documents according to the publication category, n – number.

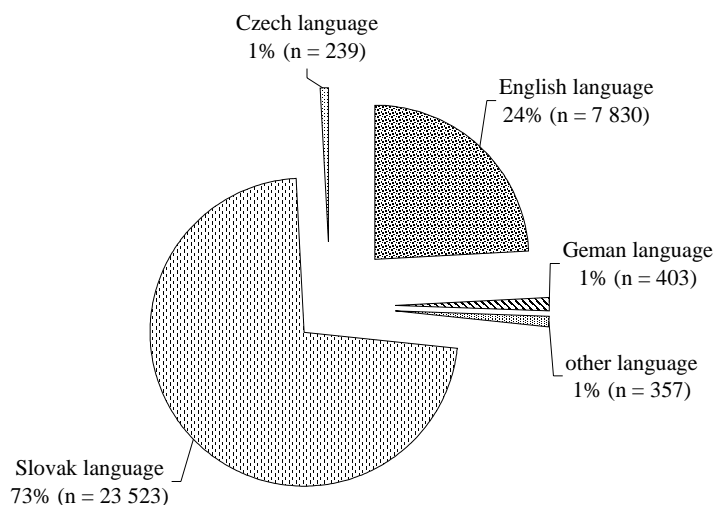


Fig. 3. Documents according to the language.

2) from web page of Virtual Library of Comenius University – <http://vili.uniba.sk/>

Using the Internet browser, EviPub can be accessed by typing an address for the Web application.

Figure 1 shows the entry screen. Here, users can enter EviPub through one of five options with a single click: Browse Search, Keyword Search, Expert Search, Broadcast Search, Search Heading Type.

By clicking on Set Search Filters, user can choose the format filters, language filters, place of the publication, the publication date or location filters.

The database is also equipped with filtering and sorting tools, is an easily accessible and available source for different analyses.

A navigation system is well supported by detailed instructions and examples, promotes user-friendliness by making the site easier to use.

The reports allow the data to be displayed in a various format: short, full and marc format.

Records allow a user to view intellectual contribution for documents in the publication categories as well as the reference information and code of faculty department (determined by the university).

Feedback on EviPuB

EviPuB has become an important part of faculty/university information. It is providing quality and easily accessible information to respond to all sorts of inquiries and surveys regarding publication activities. It is used in recent evaluating and accreditation maintenance process and personal qualification promotion. The standardization of information on all university members is helpful, as the various statistical reports on publication activities are needed.

Evidence of PUBLICATIONS at the Faculty of Medicine of Comenius University (CU)

Faculty of Medicine CU currently comprises 32 283 (September 2006) records in the university database EviPub (Figs 2

and 3). Publications are from present going back to the fifties. The database also includes publications of former staff members of the Faculty to facilitate users in research studies.

Conclusion

The support of university bodies is listed as one of the most important area for strategic success.

The key advantages of the database EviPub are currency, accuracy, open access; data collection and management tasks include the following:

- Faculties are motivated to take responsibility for keeping their own publication activities up-to-date and ensure that the database is current and correct.
- Database EviPuB has made information-gathering process much more efficient, has transformed the manual processes of collecting, aggregating, and reporting faculty data into a real-time, Web-enabled, university information system.
- Reports from the database reflect the latest information.
- University has an adequate database system in place to readily capture, store, aggregate, and disseminate faculty/university information.

References

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NEW BOOK

Presentation of the Monograph by Assoc. Prof. MUDr. A. Prochotsky, PhD.:

Carcinoma of the Colon and Rectum

The official character of the IVth Slovak Surgical Congress and the common XXXVth Surgical Congress of Slovak and Czech surgeons in Nitra was supported by presentation of the long expected publication by Associate Professor MUDr. Augustin Prochotsky, CSc.: *Carcinoma of the Colon and Rectum* (Bratislava, Litera Medica Publishing House 2006, 652 p. (ISBN 80-967189-4-0)). The author presents very topical and still very complicated issue of colorectal carcinoma based on his clinical experience and also from the critical reviews of the world professional literature. It is generally known that the incidence of colorectal carcinoma permanently grows, particularly in advanced countries. Until recently the treatment has been generally surgical and was focused on surgical removal of the tumor, first the rectum, then the colon, and so it is obvious that the surgeons have vast experience with this problem. Introduction of new diagnostic and treatment methods was preceded by extending the knowledge on the essence of the tumor process-up to the biological, molecular, and genetic level. One of the greatest benefits of the presented work is the broad coverage of the author having succeeded in integrating the theoretical knowledge on the tumorigenesis, the results of epidemiological monitoring, analyzes of the causes and connections up to the level of genetic background of this disease, and extending the mosaic of the current knowledge in diagnostics, treatment, and also preventive programs aimed at detection of early stages of the disease. Today, it is obvious that this demanding field is mastered by surgeons, and therefore, we pay tribute and acknowledgments to the author of the presented book, as he has coped with this demanding task with exceptional brilliance.

The size of the book is given by the broad coverage. On 652 pages of 36 chapters, the author describes all issues, from the incidence and epidemiology of the colorectal carcinoma, through aetiopathogenesis, risks, symptomatology, diagnostics, and differential diagnostics, management of treatment, classification, and treatment. In separate chapters, he deals with the issues of progress, soothing the tumoral pain, estimate of the post-operative risk, and also the issue of dispensary. The broadest descriptions cover the treatment surgical approaches which are presented by the author in logical sequence from general treatment, treatment of carcinoma of the colon, rectum, local treatment, adjuvant treatment, locoregional recurrence, treatment of metastatic and disseminated colorectal carcinoma. In this part, the author describes in detail also the surgical approaches and available treatment of the colorectal carcinoma. He describes stents and the available laser recanalization in obstructions of the colon and rectum by carcinoma, deals with preparation of the colon before surgery, describes in detail possible colon anastomosis and com-

plications thereof, ostomy, and laparoscopy. Based on many year surgical experience, the author deals also with possible complications and prevention thereof, presents calculation of surgery risk, and algorithms of dispensary of the patients with carcinoma (follow-up).

The author, the formal, the language, and bookbinding of the monograph deserve our appreciation. The monograph contains 530 pictures, many of them are full-colour, 90 figures which support the given issue, the book of a standard of scientific monograph contains also 1930 quotations, mostly the latest knowledge. Connection with the text and 2500 entries in the index is given not only in the classical reference to the relevant page of the monograph, but the author has prepared also a CD as a part of the monograph, where the key words of the index are connected to the relevant references. Also this elements, which is normal in the latest works monographs, represents a significant feature and challenge for our authors. The The bookbinding of the monograph, the cover (prepared by a world-famous photographer Tibor Huszar), the binding, the used paper and format, and the clear script present a unique uniform form and substance of the book. The reader takes the book in his hands with respect and appreciation.

In the end, allow me to use the words of some reviewers: „*The concentration of facts and life experience in correlation with modern surgical methods*“ (Prof. Benuska), „*Complex review on the issue of colorectal carcinoma.*“ (Assoc. Prof. Danis), „*Significant Work of contemporary surgery, which unifies the latest diagnostic methods.*“ (Prof. Bilicky), „*The book contain maximum works and effort. It will be an aid for doctors and all who fight everyday with this hard disease.*“ (Prof. Vavrecka), „*The book should be the „guidelines“ in algorithm of diagnostics and treatment of this disease.*“ (Dr. Jancula), „*Unique publication in view of the complex character and professional benefit thereof.*“ (Dr. Salek), „*The monograph fills-in a long-term vacuum in the Slovak professional literature. It will certainly become a priceless source of answers to many questions brought by life.*“ (Prof. Bober).

The book is a unique work exceeding the framework of what we normally find in our professional literature. I and the other reviewers recommend this book monograph for all surgeons, internists, gastroenterologists, oncologists, and general practitioners who will find there the latest knowledge on one of the most serious disease of not only our population, and also for any other health workers who take care of the patients with this serious disease. The monograph is available at the address of the publishing house (Litera Medica, Sulovska 38, SK-821 05 Bratislava, Slovakia, or Phone: +421.2.43630853).

Assoc. Prof. MUDr. M. Bernadic, PhD.