

Subject Gateway KIV: Librarianship and Information Science

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Subject Gateway KIV (Knihovnictví a informační věda = Library and Information Science) is a tool for Czech librarians and information professionals or LIS students for their study, lifelong learning, qualified work, LIS research and management.

KIV is a gateway and a signpost to LIS sources of high quality, both traditional and electronic.

A subject gateway is often referred to as a portal of the new generation. The common error is to mistake a subject gateway for a searching engine, such as Google.

Now then, what is a subject gateway?

- An Internet-based service.
- A signpost to electronic online resources. Typically, resources are catalogued in a database, using standards (such as MARC format, cataloguing rules for electronic documents etc.) There's a field in the record that contains a hyperlink to the full text on the Internet.
- Resources aren't harvested but selected, using strict quality criteria (originality, substantiveness etc). The gateway not only points to the sources, it recommends them. This is the main distinction between a gateway and an Internet searching machine.

The gateway KIV has got another important feature: besides the online electronic resources, the gateway maintains also databases.

Databases are subject databases, not library catalogues, comprehensive databases, union catalogues etc.

There is a difference between electronic online resources and databases from the standpoint of the collection management:

Electronic online resources (such as articles, web sites or their parts, conference proceedings, e-journals) are catalogued in a bibliographic database. Records are hosted by the KKL database, which is the

catalogue of the Library and Information Science Library combined with specialized databases of articles, grey literature etc. Records can be discovered via searching this database, KKL and sources are accessible via the hyperlink to the full text.

Databases (including KKL) are searched by the searching engine. They are described in a reduced form into the knowledge database, not into the bibliographic database KKL. Both Czech and foreign databases are acceptable, free or licenses. The licensed databases are accessible just for the authorized users. Databases contain records of articles and books, traditional or electronic. This way, the gateway includes traditional documents too.

The work with the subject gateway consists of two stages:

- The first stage is a search. The gateway enables a federated search. The result is a bibliographic record or a set of bibliographic records in selected databases. As for the record of the online electronic sources, the user's work attains its end: one click on the full text offer leads to the document itself.
- If the result of the search is a record of a traditional document, the user needs to get a full text. This is the second stage. So called added services enter their function.

After the user calls the added services, the system starts the new search. This time the gateway uses another source than in the first stage. The search for getting the copy or the full text requires full text databases, large comprehensive databases, library catalogues, the union catalogue etc. Some sources are used in both stages - the database KKL is the case. It is the source of bibliographic records and the source of information about accessibility of books and journals in the LIS Library as well.

The LIS gateway project is a continuation of the project of the JIB Gateway (UIG - Jednotná informační brána, Universal Information Gateway). It was the cooperative project of the National Library of the Czech Republic and the Charles University in Prague. The goal of the new project (2004-2008) has been the net of subject gateways, under the roof of the JIB gateway, each of them devoted to a special subject area. Uniform designed, with the common software solution. The project tackled the methodology, not the software solution completely taken from the JIB gateway: Systems MetaLib plus SFX and Plone. The use of the KKL database as the auxiliary database of the gateway requires the use of the some standards valid for other databases of the National Library: library system

Aleph500, MARC21 format, cataloguing rules AACR2R and the authority files of the National Library.

The LIS gateway is intended for the Czech professional users. It is tailored for them according to the surveys of their information needs, competencies, language skill and the license policy of the Czech libraries. Hopefully the gateway will be used by the Slovak colleagues because of the absence of the language barrier. The simple English version is being prepared, but the full use of the gateway KIV depends on the Czech environment (licenses, holdings in the Czech libraries or emphasis placed on the Czech sources). Anyway it would be interesting for the KIV to be not only a part of the net of the subject gateways, but also a part of the LIS gateways in Europe.