# The information base for educational research in Italy: the role of INDIRE

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# Highlights

- INDIRE presentation
- INDIRE information systems
  - information architecture
  - knowledge management system
  - retrieval system / technologies
  - examples of databases and information sites
- Research at INDIRE
- Research in Italy
- Open source policy and copyright
- Portals for educational research

### Indire... a short presentation

INDIRE is an autonomous **national research institute** supervised and financed by the Italian Ministry of Education.

The Institute's main task is to provide students, teachers, scholars and decision makers with information about educational resources, projects and technologies in order to facilitate educational innovation and dissemination of best practices.

### Indire... a short presentation

The Institute is responsible for the development of:

- Italian school libraries/resource centers
- the Italian agency for the SOCRATES projects (including Erasmus, Eurydice etc.)
- European projects and networks (as a partner)
- e-learning platforms for the in-service training of teachers and school personnel of all educational levels and school types. Until now (September 2006), Indire has trained about **200,000 teachers** through its e-learning platforms.





02/08/2006

cerca nel sito

cerca

Cerca Avanzato

### www.indire.it

Didattica l Documentazione Comunicazione Europa Formazione INDIRE journal "IR -Innovation and INIZIATIVE PER LA SCUOLA formaz Research" La motivazione all'apprendimento Re-mediare la scuola: lo spazio e il tempo futuri dell'apprendimento <u>Le piattafo</u> MIII Online l'ambiente con gli atti del Convegno Internazionale organizzato da Indire 👑 NECC 2006 Documenta Gli argomenti e le linee guida emerse alla National Educational Computing Conference ...

ECER Conference 2006

# Type of users

- Teachers of every educational level and school type
- Head-teachers
- Decision makers
- Teachers trainers
- E-tutors
- University teachers
- School personnel
- School students
- University students
- Parents

# Type of information

- Bibliographic information (monographs and journal articles)
- Historic information (school archives)
- Research reports (INDIRE journal + university partners papers)
- Best practices of teachers (tacit knowledge)
- Educational policies (European networks)
- Conference proceedings
- International information (partnership with European Schoolnet and other European school networks, i.e. ENIS and e-twinning schools; researchers working for Indire at a distance)
- Educational material (LOs, exercises, images, ICT tools an tutorials)
- Documentation information (databases on educational software, websites, etc.)

# Flow of information & knowledge construction

- Top-down: the information is selected, collected and described by expert clearing houses (∠ DB BIBL) or by experts on the subject (∠ DB Software, Websites). Then it is offered to the users.
- Bottom-up: the information/knowledge is selected, collected and described by users (mainly teachers), then it is judged by experts and afterwards it is offered to users (∠ DB GOLD, HANDITECNO, community PUNTOEDU)
- Mixed: the information is selected, collected and described by both experts and users. Through a collaborative work it become shared knowledge (
  EDULAB) and redirected to users. This modality is the most constructivist one.

# Information/knowledge architecture

- Full-text databases (best practices, images, LOs)
- Bibliographic databases (offering services of Document Delivery)
- Structured environments without a database but with a strong human interaction for retrieving/creating information and knowledge

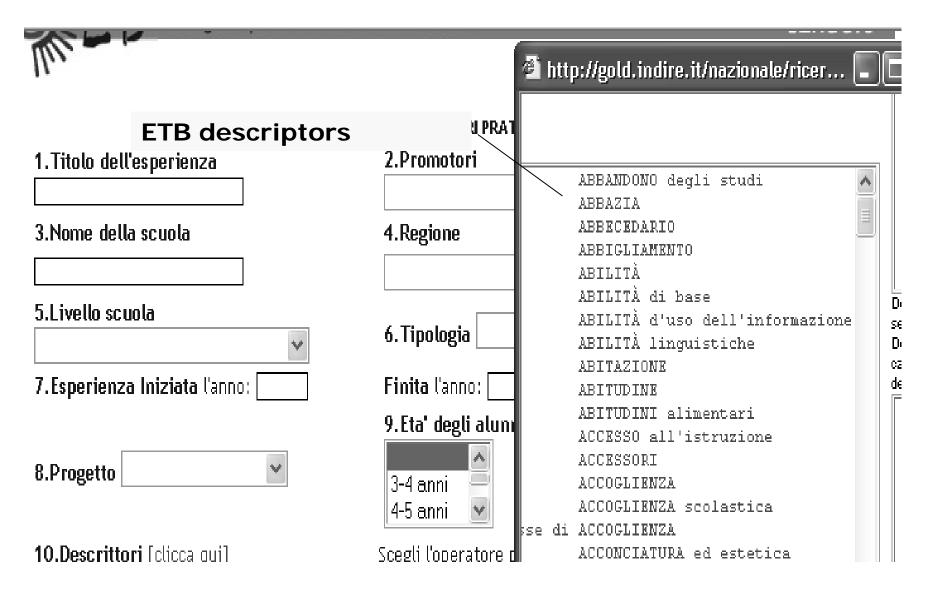
# Information description

- The majority of information is described through metadata
- All databases have a subject indexing through either
  - a thesaurus (4 thesauri: EET, ETB, TESE, Youth literature thesaurus)
  - an authority subject list
- The metadata schema used are standard ones (or subset of them):
  - LOM for Learning Objects
  - <u>Dublin Core</u> for other resources (i.e. websites)
  - ISBD (International standard for bibliographic description)

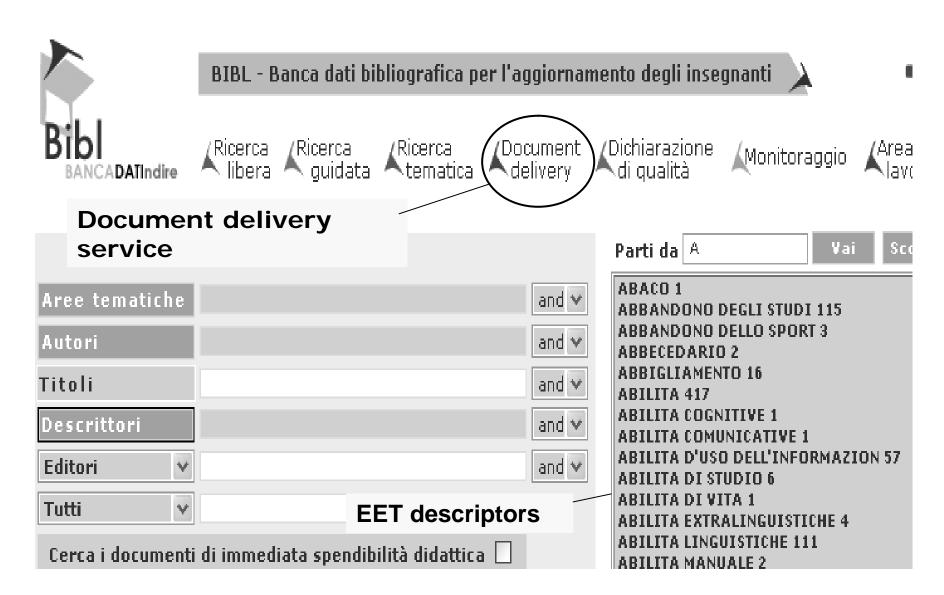
# Types of search

- Google-type: free search on semantically relevant fields
- Advanced search
- Search through authority files (i.e. titles, thematic areas, authors, publishers, keywords)

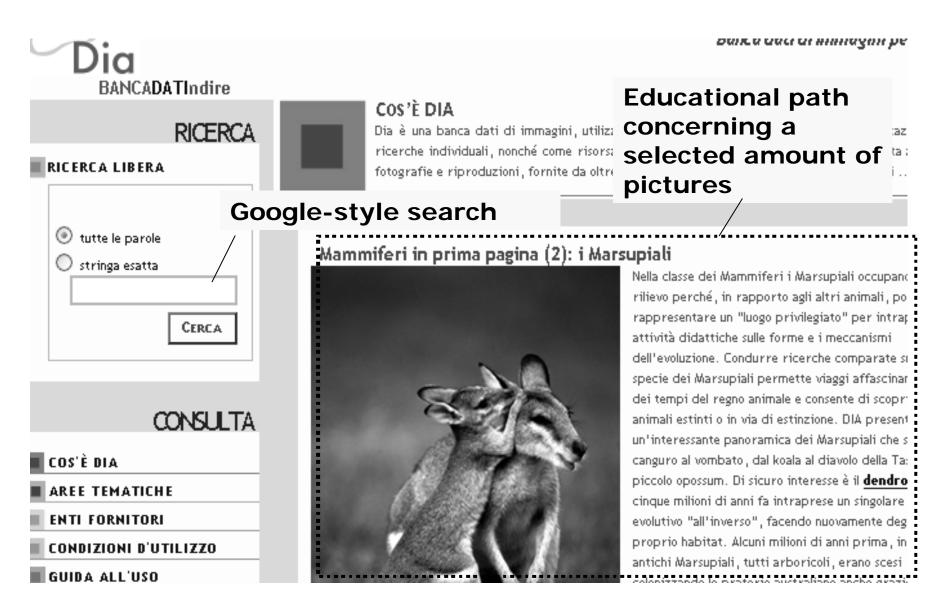
Research on semantic web applications (ontology-based) is being carried out in order to build a bridge between natural and controlled languages.



THE GOLD Database on educational best practices, <a href="http://gold.indire.it/nazionale/">http://gold.indire.it/nazionale/</a>



The BIBL Database on bibliographic information on educational sciences, <a href="http://www.indire.it/bibl/">http://www.indire.it/bibl/</a>



The DIA Database on images for curriculum subject teaching, <a href="http://www.indire.it/dia/">http://www.indire.it/dia/</a>

Cerca nel sito

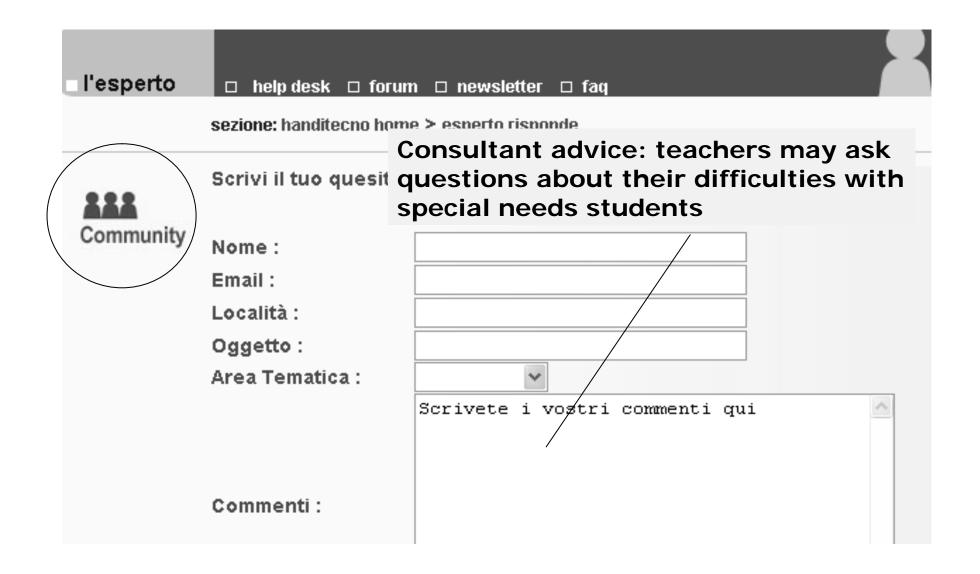




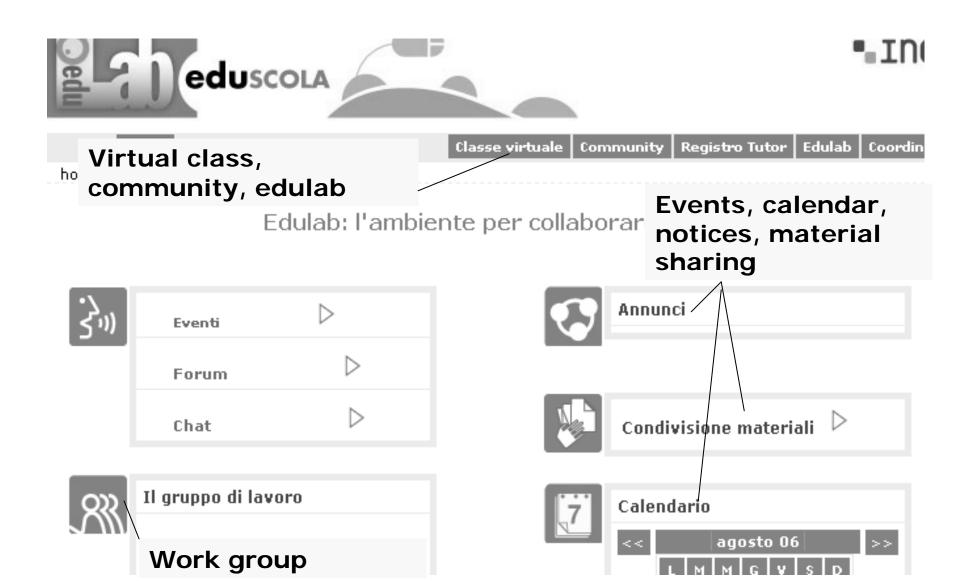
The information pages of AS – Abitare la Scuola (best practices in school construction), <a href="http://www.indire.it/aesse/">http://www.indire.it/aesse/</a>



The database on educational software, <a href="http://www.indire.it/software/">http://www.indire.it/software/</a>



The database on disability information for special needs teachers, <a href="http://handitecno.indire.it/">http://handitecno.indire.it/</a>



One of the collaborative environments of Indire e-learning platforms: Edulab (Access with login and password).



One of the tools of the collaborative environments of Indire elearning platforms: Breeze.

### Technologies in INDIRE

- INDIRE databases support ISIS technologies and Microsoft SQL technologies
- Interoperability is an important objective for INDIRE. For example, recently the Italian Ministry of Culture has ruled out that school libraries should use the SBN system (that is the national library system software). Thus, INDIRE has studied a way to make the WINIRIDE software for school libraries interoperable with the Ministry SBN system. In other cases, Indire uses XML records to exchange data with other system (i.e. within the European context).

### Research focuses in INDIRE

- E-environments: what factors have an impact on elearners? What is important for maintaining a permanent community of practices? What kind of knowledge do Italian schools need? How can innovation be spread from school to school?
- Knowledge management and representation: what is knowledge for the educational system? How is it shared and created? What representation best fits the various users? How is it structured a KM system? What are the existing models for KM systems?
- Languages/rhythm/time of the network: what languages for educational communities? How does the rhythm of learning change due to the Internet? Does the Web impose a new way of writing (web writing)? How does the reticular structure of the Web affect our way of speaking, thinking, communicating?

### Research in Italy

- Research in Italy is mainly done by Universities and public research institutes (i.e. National Research Council, CNR institutes);
- Research activities are partially financed by the Ministry of University and Research, but the funds are not sufficient. The major part of research is funded within applied research initiatives (big industries, pharmaceutics etc.)
- In INDIRE, research is linked to the national and international projects that are carried out. The Italian Ministry does not provide INDIRE with research funds.

# Open source policy and copyright

- Indire adopts an open-source policy, though sometimes services are not addressed to everyone but to specific communities (of teachers, students, etc.);
- Indire is studying a way of applying Creative Commons licenses to some of its objects in order to facilitate their re-use;
- In order to protect intellectual property, Indire is evaluating the possibility of adopting the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) identification system

# Other Internet portals for educational research

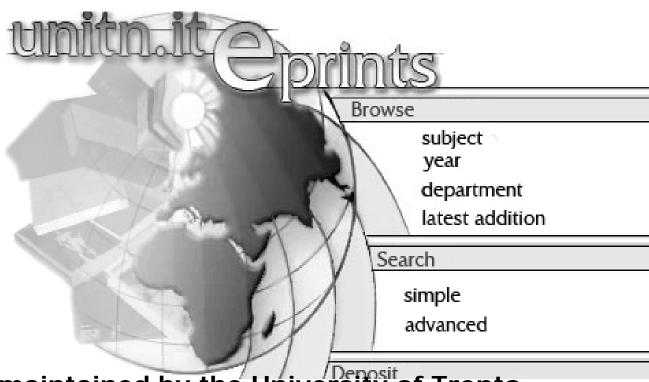
- E-prints (4 Universities in Italy)
- OAI (Open Archive Initiatives, <u>E-LIS</u>, CILEA 

   University consortium)

Universities are using a system of information storing in order to re-use information and access it freely. Moreover, before they had to pay for accessing research information they produced, since research reports were published on subscription journals (!).

# 

titles, abstracts, key



The e-prints maintained by the University of Trento, <a href="http://eprints.biblio.unitn.it/">http://eprints.biblio.unitn.it/</a>



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#### Cosa vuoi fare?



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	Tutti, in qualsiasi ordine 💌	

#### Autori

Inserire il cognome, o il cognome seguito da virgola e nome, o l'iniziale del nome. I cognomi composti e i doppi cogn

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# copyleft-italia.it

#### il primo sito italiano dedicato al fenomeno copyleft

#### news

 Venerdì 12/05 ore 18 presso il Cantiere di Milano: presentazione di Teoria e pratica del copyleft > clic

° Su LinuxMagazine di maggio '06 un'intervista a S. Aliprandi > clic

#### in primo piano

E' uscito il nuovo libro di Simone Aliprandi **Teoria e pratica del copyleft** Una guida ragionata ed esplicata all'uso delle



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Le principali licenze copyleft (per software e per contenuti)

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i link ai principali archivi di opere creative rilasciate in regime di copyleft: software, musica, immagini, video, ecc.

The open access movement in Italy, one example, <a href="http://www.copyleftsitalia.it/olta, INDIRE-Italy">http://www.copyleftsitalia.it/olta, INDIRE-Italy</a>
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# Thank you for your attention!

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