

Information System in the Culture Collections of Fundação Oswaldo Cruz

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Abstract:

The management module of the Information System for Collections of Biotechnological Interest (SICol) has been adopted by culture collections at the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz). The SICol Network has been developed by the Centro de Referência em Informação Ambiental (CRIA) and was launched in May 2002 integrating information from different culture collections in a centralized online information system. Through the project SICol 4 – FINEP: Biological Resources Center Network for Conformity Assessment of Biological Material (2006-2008), the first culture collection at Fiocruz to have the management module of SICol running, was the Leishmania Collection of Instituto Oswaldo Cruz (CLIOC). Having this culture collection as a model, through another project (MCT/FINEP/Ação Transversal – MODERNIT – 03/2006), SICol was adopted by another five culture collections at Fiocruz. These collections required new features and therefore more support for SICol's further development. With the expansion of the project [Project SICol 5 - FINEP: Biotecnologia – Expansão do SICol (2009-2011) - Implementation and Structuring the Biological Resource Center in Health and Environment of Fundação Oswaldo Cruz.], these five original collections together with another five, all from Fiocruz, got resources in order to continue this work. All eleven culture collections are now integrated through the Fiocruz-BRC Network. These culture collections were already computerized, using Excel or Access worksheets, however the data were spread among different worksheets. A reorganization of that information in a single worksheet has been performed to facilitate their insertion into SICol's online network. Through SICol's implementation process, all preservation procedures are being documented in detail to allow traceability of the isolates within the culture collection and ensuring that the stock is properly controlled. For external users who access the collection data, SICol provides an online catalog, which must be prepared through specific configurations for each collection. It is important to emphasize that the SICol system will help improve the quality of the services provided by these collections, enabling them to act as a Biological Resources Center. The system is also being designed to permit the integration of non sensitive data with other international information systems.

Key words: Culture Collections, Information System, SICol