

## FRANCE - COUNTRY REPORT

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### OMER : the French Group

To encourage a larger participation in IAMS LIC-EURASLIC's conference in Brest the French group (almost 60 libraries and information centres) has not met in 2001, but the network is busy. Personal relations established over a long time ensure that problems are resolved and projects can be achieved

During the 18th annual meeting of the "Groupe Bibliothécaires et Documentalistes des Sciences de la Mer et des Eaux " (Marseilles, Station marine d'Endoume, March 30, 2000, about thirty attendees) it was decided to create, via a discussion list on the Internet, an exchange of information. The rapidly organized OMER list, (in charge: our colleagues of the Association Villes et Ports, Le Havre) allows fruitful exchanges of information.

Among the subjects evoked during the meeting, one can quote aspects of documentary data processing, practical applications for our libraries, access update of electronic publications in the libraries of our group and the COUPERIN consortium (grouping of French libraries for access to electronic reviews).

Naturally, the massive arrival of electronic periodicals, coupled with budgetary cuts, puts collections in great danger. The solutions are only collective and national: the consortium of libraries for the acquisitions of electronic periodicals (COUPERIN). Cambridge Scientific Abstracts has also made an interesting proposition to our group considering us as an entity and so within the framework of a consortium, a certain number of OMER libraries signed up for internet access (multiposts) to Cambridge Scientific Abstracts Internet Data Base Service for ASFA - Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts, and Oceanic abstracts - in 2001.

The group, although of different administrative origins, is always keen to unite its forces regarding a documentary shared policy (even for subscription cancellations): namely regional title preservation and shared acquisition facilitated by the installation of the "Système Universitaire de Documentation" (SU-Catalogue) and the constitution of COLLECTIVE CATALOGUE OF FRANCE, piloted by the National Library of France (BNF).

OMER's next meeting is envisaged in 2002 in Cherbourg where a large participation is hoped for.

(OMER = EauxMer)