The Ethicsweb European Project

The Contribution of Istituto Superiore di Sanità

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Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy
The Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) is the leading technical and scientific public body of the Italian National Health Service. Its activities include research, control, training and consultation in the interest of public health protection.

Research and Trial

Inspection, Monitoring and Certification

Documentation, Information and Publications

Training and Scientific Meetings

International Activities
Documentation, Information and Publications

The Institute serves as a major source of information relating to public health and biomedicine in Italy through online connections to national and international scientific databases and data banks. It also serves as the national reference centre for MEDLARS (MEDical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System), a comprehensive international data bank coordinated by the US National Library of Medicine (NLM). The Institute produces numerous publications, including a quarterly peer-reviewed journal, technical reports, a monthly newsletter describing the Institute’s major research activities, and a national epidemiological bulletin.
**Documentation Service Website**

www.iss.it/sdoc

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### About us

The mission of the Documentation Service is online retrieval of scientific and biomedical information in databases, websites and other electronic resources.

### Data Banks

- **MeSH** - Italian translation
- **PIRAMIDE** - Biomedical journals indexed with MeSH, linked to Italian Libraries holdings
- **SIBIL** - Online information system on bioethics

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### Online searching

Technical-scientific information available online on a fee-basis or free-of-charge, can be searched for internal or external users.

- **External users**
- **Internal users**

### MEDLARS Center

Since 1979 the Documentation Service is the National Reference Center for MEDLARS (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System) of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) of Bethesda (USA), a set of biomedical databases, including PubMed.

### Electronic Resources

- NLM archives - Biomedical Information
- NLM archives - Topical information
- NLM archives - Health information for the general public
- Other archives

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**SIBIL**

SIBIL Online information system on bioethics

An integrated system based upon an ISS research project on bioethics. The project collects all Italian literature published since 1995.
Our SIBIL Project

- Started in 2001
- Aim: implementing an integrated system for data collection and exchange of documents related to bioethics
- Survey through a questionnaire sent to about 200 institutions, assessing the state of the art of Italian information resources in the field of bioethics
- Analysis of available Italian Web resources
SIBIL: the web site
www.iss.it/sibi

- SIBIL collects data from printed and electronic sources
- Information on courses, educational programs, events, and congresses
- News section on the National ethical debate
- Links to other relevant websites
SIBIL home page

The SIBIL Project
SIBIL is an integrated system which stems from a research project launched in 2001 by the Documentation Service of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Italian National Institute of Health). Its aim is to provide a complete and updated overview of all information on bioethics published in Italy since 1995: documents, Internet sites, university courses and masters, congresses and reports from the media.

About us
SIBIL is managed by the Documentation Service, whose main task is to retrieve information related to medicine, biology, chemistry and toxicology, by searching the main bibliographic databases and data banks. From 1978 the Documentation Service is also the Italian national

SIBIL database
The database gathers, catalogues and indexes documentary material on bioethics published in Italy since 1995. The documents are indexed using the Italian Bioethics Thesaurus (TIB).

The Italian Bioethics Thesaurus (TIB)
TIB was developed to facilitate indexing and access to documentation in SIBIL database. It is supported by an online manual, can be accessed through the database and is available in full text.

Events
Click on this section if you wish to know more about courses, congresses, meetings and workshops on bioethics both in Italy and abroad.

Press release
To view the press release, please go to the Italian version of this page "Rassegna stampa".
The SIBIL Database

- More than 7,000 records
- References from
  - Journal articles (from 124 journal titles)
  - Books and book chapters
  - Laws and regulations (most of them in full text)
  - Selection of International legislation
  - Electronic resources
  - Ethical committee opinions
  - Ethical guidelines
Information Sources in the Sibil Database

- Journal Articles: 4000
- Book Chapters: 2500
- Books: 500
- Serial Titles: 40
- Laws and Jurisprudence: 30
- Electronic Resources: 25
The SIBIL database home page
Record sample – Journal article

Localisations ISS - Settore Documentazione

Analytical title
Testo a stampa (moderno)

Author Alfano, Bruno
Coauthor Brunetti, Arturo
Thesaurus Soggetti di ricerca
Progresso tecnologico
Etica clinica
Cervello
Ricerca biomedica
Consenso informato
Privacy
Etica della ricerca
The Advanced Search Form

Catalogue Selection

- Modern book
- Ancient book
- Audiovisual
- Graphics
- Music

Submit | Reset

Creator/Author/Artist
Title
Word search
Results for page 20

Basic Search

Subject
Thesaurus
ISBN/ISSN
Publisher
Publication year from to
Language
Country
Document genre
Nature

Sort
Title

EthicsWeb GPD Meeting 13
The Italian Bioethics Theaurus (TIB)

- Developed by Istituto Superiore di Sanita (ISS) to facilitate indexing and access to documentation in SIBIL database [www.iss.it/sibi](http://www.iss.it/sibi)
- Links terms both hierarchically and by association to restrict or expand the search field
- Shows synonyms and other words similar to the search term to allow multiple access to the same concept
- Regularly revised and updated to keep pace with the development of Bioethics in the Italian debate
- It can be accessed through the database and is available in Italian and English.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Abbandono terapeutico</strong></th>
<th><strong>Refusal to treat</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SN</strong></td>
<td><strong>SN</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astensione o rinuncia, da parte del personale sanitario, a curare un paziente con le terapie dovute o con le cure palliative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UF</strong></td>
<td><strong>UF</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rifiuto di assistenza al paziente</td>
<td>Patient abandonment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rifiuto di trattamento terapeutico</td>
<td>Physician refusal to treat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RT</strong></td>
<td><strong>RT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistenza al paziente</td>
<td>Patient care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selezione dei pazienti</td>
<td>Patient selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sospensione della terapia</td>
<td>Withholding treatment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Aborto</strong></th>
<th><strong>Abortion</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SN</strong></td>
<td><strong>SN</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interruzione prematura della gravidanza, spontanea o provocata</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NT</strong></td>
<td><strong>NT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aborto illegale</td>
<td>Illegal abortion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aborto indiretto</td>
<td>Indirect abortion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aborto farmacologico</td>
<td>Drug-induced abortion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aborto selettivo</td>
<td>Selective abortion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aborto spontaneo</td>
<td>Spontaneous abortion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EthicsWeb Work Package 4
(Semantics Exchange schemas - Content Management - Thesauri and Ontologies)

The WP4 has the mission to:

- Collect different Ethics Knowledge Organization Systems (KOS)
- Release a prototype registry of KOS in Ethics
- Release semantic standards for different types of databases.
- Linking already existing databases and portals
Deliverables of Work Package 4 (1)

- Registry of Knowledge Organisation Systems
- Prototype version has been implemented
- Collecting semantic tools (thesauri, controlled vocabularies, ontologies) in the field of bioethics
EthicsWeb GPD Meeting

Controlled Vocabularies used in KOS in Ethics and Science

- TELS Thesaurus
  Ethics in the Life Sciences
- MeSH Ethics descriptors
- TIB Italian Bioethics Thesaurus
- Others LCSH Agrovoc ....
Deliverables of Work Package 4 (2)

- Release of standards for sharing information on Documents, News and events, Knowledge Organisation Systems (KOS), Learning resources, Experts, and Projects.

- Development of application profiles (AP) (i.e. set of metadata elements, policies, and guidelines defined for a particular application) as a mean of data exchange, in order to achieve interoperability among existing realities
EthicsWeb Architecture

Client (Harvester) → http request → http response

INTERNET

Client (Harvester) → http request → http response

http request → http response

ISS (Data Provider)
DRZE (Data Provider)
XML Metadata Exchange (OAI-PMH)
UMGOE (Data Provider)
Ethics Web Partner (Data Provider)

Ethics Web Portal (Service Provider)
OAI-PMH Open Access Initiative
-Protocol for Metadata Harvesting

- Is a protocol for automatically collecting data from a provider site
- The provider site needs to have an OAI-PMH module installed and configured to accept remote calls from the EthicsWeb Portal
- The Portal collects data via OAI-PMH at regular intervals
- Data should conform to the EthicsWeb XML schemas if possible
Integrating data with EthicsWeb

- Successful trials were already made in order to merge data from different databases in the field of bioethics
- PubMed [www.pubmed.gov](http://www.pubmed.gov) (Bioethics Subset)
- Belit database [www.drze.de/BELIT?la=en](http://www.drze.de/BELIT?la=en)
- The Ethicsweb application profile and the XML scheme for Document-like Information Objects were successfully used
- Bibliographic data from other databases, such as SIBIL (Sistema Informativo per la Bioetica In Linea), developed and maintained by the ISS [www.iss.it/sibi](http://www.iss.it/sibi) will be soon implemented as well.