

## **Preparing authors, publishers and librarians to work together building open access digital libraries**

by Dominique Babini

Providing web access to full-texts, and e-publications has dramatically changed the way research results are communicated and used for research, teaching, study and policy within developing regions. Building collaboration between the authors, the publishers and the librarian communities can provide innovative solutions to online publication and dissemination. Within Latin America and the Caribbean the CLACSO social sciences academic network is using a digital library model to provide a publishing platform for its member journals.

Extending the digital library model project into Central America and the Caribbean CLACSO has organised and run nine training sessions for 79 participants in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Cuba. Florencia Vergara, with the assistance of Paula Sadier and Flavia Medici from CLACSO were responsible for these presentations and training sessions.

The sessions included

- A general presentation (half day):
  - E-publishing trends.
  - Web access to e-publications: institutional websites and portals.
  - Quality issues in journal publishing.
  - Basic concepts about how to build a digital library with the open source software, Greenstone, to disseminate full-text documents with full search facility in metadata and in the full-texts.
  - How to participate in a cooperative digital library of full-text documents
- Practical session (half day):
  - Preparation of e-texts for publication: preparation of HTML and XML formats of the text, introduction of metadata in each text.
  - Uploading prepared e-texts to the cooperative digital library in Greenstone ([www.greenstone.org](http://www.greenstone.org)).

After attending the general presentation, each participating institution can send new metadata and full-texts for hosting on the CLACSO database/website. For those attending the practical session, a manual and an interface have been prepared to help processing each article from PDF or Word to HTML and XML, and adding metadata to the XML.

As part of the same project, a collaborative book about e-publishing, digital libraries and portals for the social sciences ("Edición electrónica, bibliotecas virtuales y portales para las ciencias sociales") has been prepared in Spanish, with the following contributions:

### **I: e-publishing**

- Introduction to open access (Peter Suber, SPARC Open Access Newsletter)
- Strategic planning for online edition (INASP: Pippa Smart)
- First steps in journal e-publishing (ALPSP: Sally Morris)
- How to prepare PDFs with open source "Open Office" (CLACSO)
- Editorial quality and visibility of journals, the experience of Latindex (LATINDEX)

### **II: virtual libraries for social sciences**

- Open access to social science produced in Latin America and the Caribbean: virtual libraries, portals and virtual library networks (CLACSO)
- How to develop a virtual library with open software Greenstone – the case of a virtual library for CLACSO's Virtual Campus (CLACSO)

### **III: regional open access portals for the social sciences**

- CLACSO's network of social science virtual libraries (CLACSO)

- SciELO methodology for quality journals open access publication (SCIELO)
- Redalyc network of scientific journals from Latin America, Caribbean, Spain and Portugal: a balance of three years (REDALYC)

This book will be distributed during July and August free of charge to librarians and editors of CLACSO's 173 research institutions in 21 countries of the region, and also to a selection of library schools in all the region. The book will also be available, open access, in the CLACSO virtual library which receives over 100,000 visitors each month ([www.clacso.org.ar/biblioteca](http://www.clacso.org.ar/biblioteca)).

For more information about this project, see Babini, D. and Smart, P. 2006 Using digital libraries to provide online access to social science journals in Latin America. *Learned Publishing* 19, 107-113.

The Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) is a 35 years old social sciences network gathering 173 social science research and teaching institutions from 21 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. See [www.clacso.org.ar](http://www.clacso.org.ar)

**Dominique Babini**  
**Coordinator of CLACSO's Social Science Virtual Libraries Network**  
**Email: [dbabini@campus.clacso.edu.ar](mailto:dbabini@campus.clacso.edu.ar)**