Training modules within NECOBELAC project (Network of Collaboration Between Europe and Latin American-Caribbean Countries) based on topic maps

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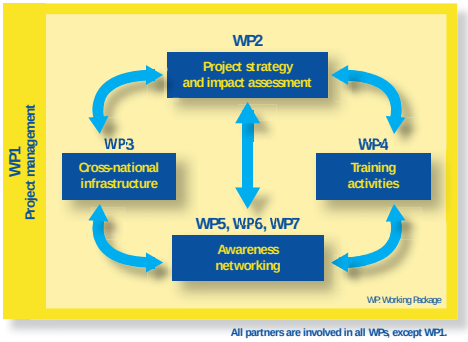
Abstract

NECOBELAC is a European project to improve the production and dissemination of scientific information in public health. NECOBELAC stands for a "Network of Collaboration Between Europe and Latin American-Caribbean Countries". One of the project working packages consists in developing training modules related to the scientific publication process and to open access. This poster describes the methodology applied to develop the modules based on topic maps, an ISO standard for describing knowledge structures and associating them with information resources. Training modules are composed by topics, each topic has its properties, including subject descriptors and resources (internal or external ones) that can be links to web sites or digital objects of different nature.

Overview

NECOBELAC Project



All partners are involved in all WPs, except WP1.

Partners

- The University of Nottingham, UK
- Project coordinator, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy
- Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain
- Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Instituto de Salud Pública. Colombia
- Centro Latino Americano e do Caribe de Informação em Ciencias da Saude, Brazil
- Universidade do Minho, Portugal

Training activities

WP4, leaded by CSIC + UNED as third party

Mission: Organization of training activities for trainers to spread know-how in health information production, dissemination and use in Europe-LAC countries

Tasks: The main tasks of the working group WP4 are the development of a web based modular system and learning materials addressed to trainers who participate in the NECOBELAC courses to be held at national level at different locations

Subjects: Scientific publication and open access in public health

Training modules features

• Modular, extensible, flexible, transportable and reusable in different contexts and applications

• The **course structure** is supported on the concept of "topic maps" and Ontopia technology (www.Ontopia.net) based on the semantic web.
A **topic map** represents information using topics (concepts, themes, people…), associations (representing the relationships between topics) and occurrences (representing information resources).

• **Ontopia technology** is a framework to represent and offer a graphical visualization of the structure of training courses, representing explicitly their relationships and the relationships between the different factors, actors and initiatives involved (see Figures 1 and 2).
Ontopia has three components: an editor, a browser (*omnigator*) and a visualizator (*vizigator*) of topic maps.

- Ontopia has also a navigator framework that is a JSP (java server pages) tag library and Java API which enables develop web-based interfaces based on topic maps (see figure 3)
- The ontology of the maps has been created partly with Dublin Core and Fedora own ontologies adding some other association terms. The relations are modelled and described using RDF

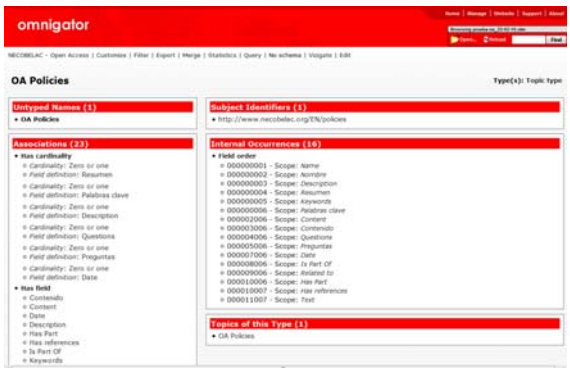


Figure 1. Example of a topic and its attributes seen from the "omnigator".

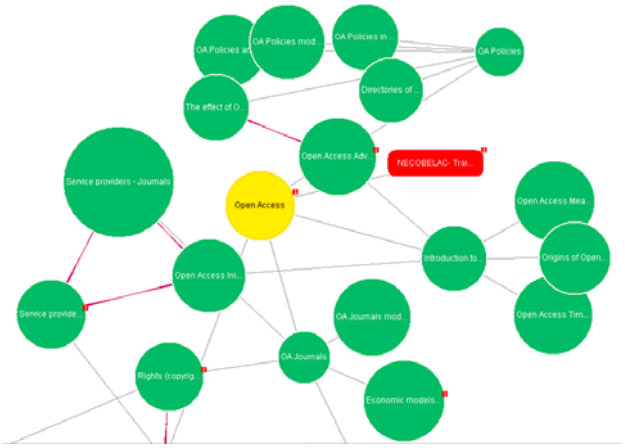


Figure 2. Topic map visualized with "ontopia's vizigator".

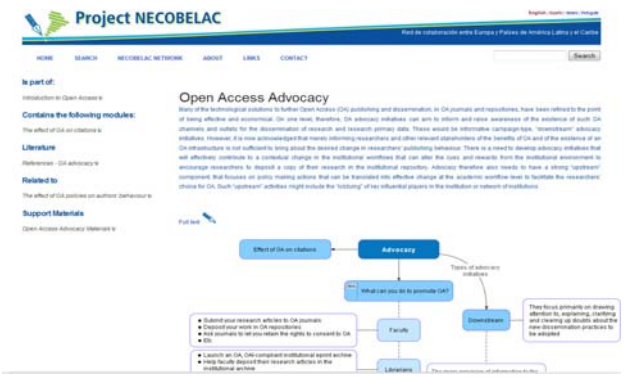


Figure 3. Dynamic page created from the NECOBELAC topic map.

Poster presented at **2nd International Symposium on Information Management in a Changing World,** September 22-24, 2010, Ankara, Turkey

Acknowledgements

Authors thank European Commission for funding NECOBELAC **(Project number 230583)**