

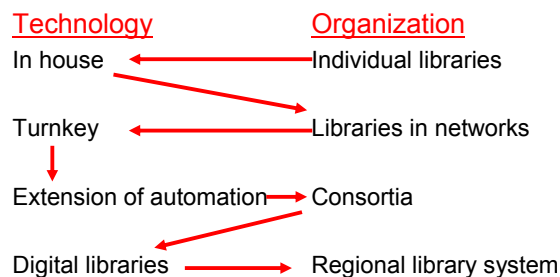
Twenty-five years of library automation in Catalonia

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Technological and organizational stages



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25 years of library automation in Catalonia

- The 80s: in house systems
- The 90s: turnkey systems
- Changes in the beginning of the 20th century
- A common tender
- Challenges for the future



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1979-89: in house systems

- Initially (1979): 2 universities + 1 saving bank
- Objective:
 - “to carry out a project of mechanization of the main libraries of Catalonia ... in order to **create a general catalogue of all the bibliographic records of the region** and to distribute it in an accessible format to all the libraries participating in the project.”



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80s: In house systems

- The first in house system was created collectively
- But, after that, 5-6 more in house systems created at a library level
- **The best:** international standards adoption (ISBD, AACR2, LCSH, MARC format...)
- **The worst:** poor extension of automation (in functions and in libraries)



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Late 80s / early 90s

- Organizational changes
 - Organization of individual libraries as networks (universities and public libraries and also some specialized libraries)
 - Creation of technical services in the big libraries and in the public library networks
 - Introduction of international standards and normalized process



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1989-99: turnkey systems

- 1989: the 1st turnkey system
 - Shift 1: from in-house to commercial
 - Shift 2: from single to together
- 1990-99
 - The same ILS system (VTLS) used in all university libraries + the 2 public library networks + National Library
 - Specialized libraries also moved to commercial ILS



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90s: Turnkey systems

- **Extension of automation and cooperation**
 - From just the OPAC to the whole ILS functions
 - From some libraries to (almost) all libraries
 - Retroconversion plans
- First exchange of bibliographic records (1991)
- **Creation of the Union Catalogue for Academic Libraries (CCUC) in 1996**



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In the 90s

- Some small but accumulated changes
 - E-mail, CD-ROM networks, Goopher ...
- Some radical changes
 - WWW (Internet, Google ...)
- New solutions
 - *Bundled e-* journals (the Big Deal)
- **Libraries were able to take advantage of new technologies level and created new organizations**
 - Library consortia



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2000-02: new scenario at a technology level

- New needs
 - Portal
 - Link solvers
 - Federated search
 - Management of digital objects
- New standards:
 - MARC21
 - Dublin Core
- From 'legacy' systems to a new generation of ILS



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The situation in 2000-02

- A good automation level in networks and big and some medium libraries
 - But it was necessary to migrate from the legacy ILS to a new one
 - But it was necessary to migrate from CATMARC to MARC21
- An inadequate automation level in some medium-small libraries
 - Not automated at all, or
 - Non standard bibliographic records



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Decisions (January 2003)

- CBUC decides to change the ILS in use, and
 - To include the MARC conversion in the system migration requirements
 - To split the software needs in 2 groups
 - Traditional ILS
 - 'Digital library' (link solver & federated search)
 - To create a common computer environment for the management of all the CBUC libraries



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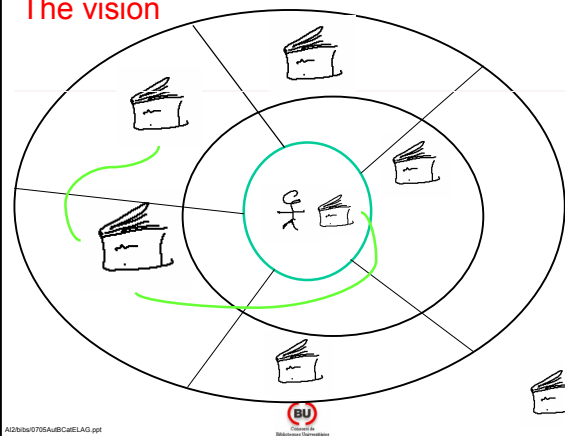
2004 Government Agreement

- Aim: to improve the Catalan Library System
- 6 objectives; objective number 2:
 - “To coordinate the joint selection and updating of the automated systems managed by public library services **in order to foster cooperation and the creation of national services.**”



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The vision



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How to coordinate an ILS updating?

- Different tenders?. Parallel tenders?
- **A common tender**
 - Collaboration agreement between the authorities / libraries involved (11)
 - 1 National library
 - 8 university libraries
 - 2 public library networks
 - CBUC as authorized institution to organize the public tender



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Common tender objectives

1. To form a powerful group of users that facilitates the implementation and creates synergies of innovation in services.
2. To facilitate the creation of instruments and services for the whole Catalonia.
3. To achieve economies of scale.



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Common tender dates

- First informal meetings, March 2004
- Common RFP preparation, May – September 2004
- Tender preparation (administrative), November 2004
- Tender publication, February 2005
- Tender, April – July 2005



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Board, technical groups and assessors

- 1 board committee (17 people) +
- 1 technical commission (17 people) +
- 4 advisory groups (30 people)

- 22 technical meetings + 11 information sessions

- A total of 1.906 person-hours



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The results

- Corinthian, as the ILS
- SFX, as the link solver
- MetaLib, as the federated search engine



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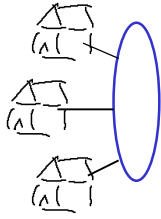
Challenges for the next future

- Library 2.0
 - We were in the vanguard in the 60s, in the 70s, in the 80s, in the 90s (but now, we are not)
- ILS
 - Libraries have been able to create a market niche, but perhaps this niche is too small
- Digital libraries & Institutional Repositories
 - Will be collaborative



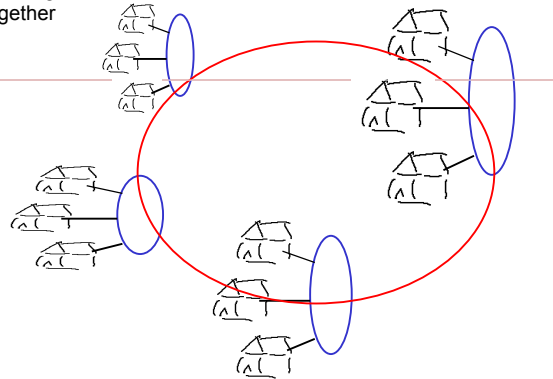
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Organized in networks



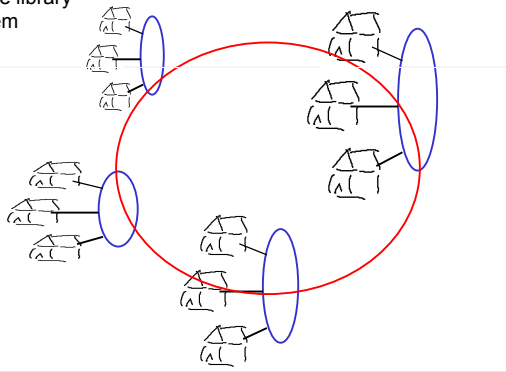
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Working together



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In one library system



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Because cooperation transforms libraries and allow us to be more powerful and useful for the citizens that we serve

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