

# A Call to Arms: Are We Up to the Task?

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# Abstract

In today's world of growing complexity in science, there is a need for systems to assist researchers, administrators, strategists, opinion-formers, entrepreneurs & innovators & the general public.

# Abstract

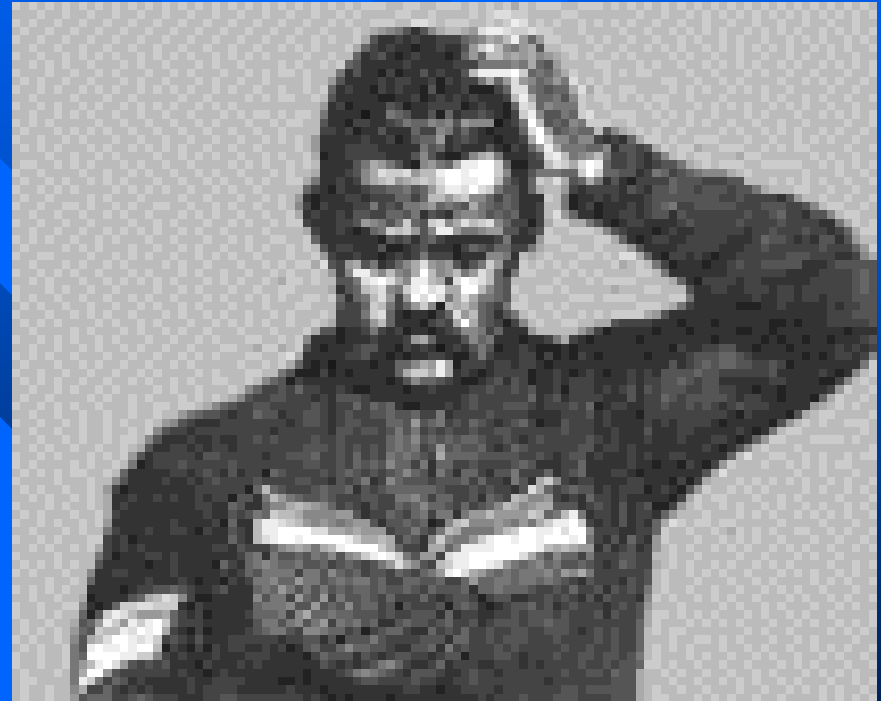
Systems are needed to provide  
both information for  
decision-making and support  
to the process of  
knowledge-creation.

# Defining CRIS

A CRIS contains information that documents an organizations' involvement in *science*. The information usually includes data describing people, projects, and/or organizational units.

# But do we need a (nother) term to describe this?

- Information system
- Research information system
- Current research information system
- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)
- Database
- Information Source
- Archive
- Directory
- Listing
- Repository
- Expertise Record
- CRIS
- Etc...



# Using Modern Tools for Practical Applications

Development systems for the support of R&D growth that will assist the work of scientists, facilitate cooperation between researchers, analyze and report on trends, advance scholarship in science, and increase the public's understanding and appreciation of science.



# *A Crosswalk in the Park*

- In with the new and out with the old

- OLD

- » Stringent, little-flexible standard(?) data sets, little used, and by a narrow group

- e.g. CERIF



But... will it work?

But is it possible to have practical data exchange and/or access to systems without a standard exchange mechanism or data models / datasets, such as CERIF ?



# Theory vs. practice

In other words, perhaps CERIF is the ideal way to move forward from an IS point of view. But what good is a standard if nobody is using it – and for good reason?

# *A Crosswalk in the Park*

–NEW

»» *Open Mapping Schemes*

■ e.g. Crosswalks

»» *Metadata*

»» *Harvesting Tools*

»» *Good (Best) Practices*

■ *Code of Good Practice*



# CRISs should work harder so that the user need not

Rather than force the user to choose the best query term, the system should be able to perform intelligent searches in a multi-lingual environment, with the assistance of a controlled vocabulary (e.g. ontology / taxonomy / thesaurus).

But, for this we need...

For ontologies to work well,  
we need well-formed  
(syntactically formal) data  
models. Without this we  
have confusion .

# Bridging the Gap



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# Bridging the Gap

Things to consider if we are to succeed:

- *Where's the beef?*
  - What is our purpose: our vision and mission?
    - » Are we unique? Too unique?
    - » What is our IP?
    - » What is our added-value?

# Bridging the Gap

- Keeping it *nice and easy*
  - The CERIF recommendation is difficult
    - »to write, to maintain, to train, to use
  - The Code of Good Practice is stale
    - »It must be updated and maintained

# Bridging the Gap

- Working with other communities of practice:
  - Open Archive and Open Access
  - Scientific Publishers
    - » Electronic Academic Journals and Databases
  - Bibliometric and Scientometric Communities
  - Information Management Professionals



# Bridging the Gap

- Working with the commercial sector
  - ERP Institutional Systems
  - Commercial Information Service Providers
- Working with government, NGO and funding agencies
- Balancing bolstering our varied strategic partnerships while remaining focused with user groups
  - EARMA, EC, CODATA, ALLEA, ESF, and ERCIM

# Bridging the Gap

- Working with the Web
  - *Google* should not be ignored
    - » We need a “CERIF” / “CRIS” DC metadata extension
  - Semantic Web and other IT innovations
- Working with other Regions
  - *e.g. Uncle Sam*

# Bridging the Gap

- Rededicating Ourselves
  - Mobilization of euroCRIS members
    - » Networking
      - One to One
      - Many to Many
    - » Pilot and Full Demonstration Projects
    - » Policy Papers
      - Securing of Funds

# Is there a Future for euroCRIS

- “CRIS”s, by any name, are used everywhere, all the time:
  - to support R&D management
  - and to produce management information for decision support

But we have to do better to get the big breakthrough of universal awareness!

# What to make of all this

There are many CRISs for many purposes. Almost all CRISs record projects, people, and organizational units. Almost all CRISs record results and publications, and most CRISs are multilingual or English. Hence, there is a strong need for interoperability.

# What to make of all this

Likewise, there are many classification schemes available as there are many computer hardware and software configurations. Hence, there might be a need for some level of standardization.

# The euroCRIS Challenge

Clearly, we are challenged to coalesce and push forward the work of CRIS, based on agreed-upon practices, best practice and shared experience.

# Positioning Ourselves

To achieve this, however, is  
euroCRIS rightly positioned  
to facilitate global CRIS  
development and  
networking?



Only you can answer this question

We need you to assist  
us in pushing  
forward this agenda.

Without your  
energetic hands-on  
involvement we  
cannot succeed!



# The 4 C's of CRIS

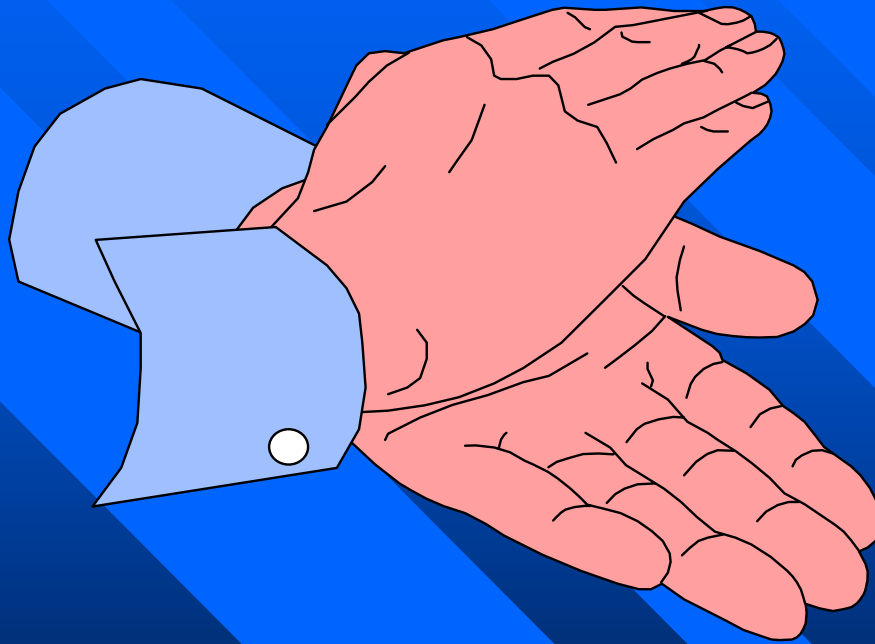
If we are to be a **cut** above the rest,  
we need **clarity** of vision,  
using a **carrot** approach with our  
constituencies  
to ensure a **colorful** future for our  
business.

# More on diamonds

If diamonds are a girls best frind, make CRIS your best friend as you manage your research information assets.

And... If diamonds are forever, let us hope that CRIS systems and euroCRIS are forever.

**Thank you for your attention.**



**I look forward, as usual, to a  
stimulating (and provocative)  
conference.**