

# IAC Library: some challenges

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## Introduction

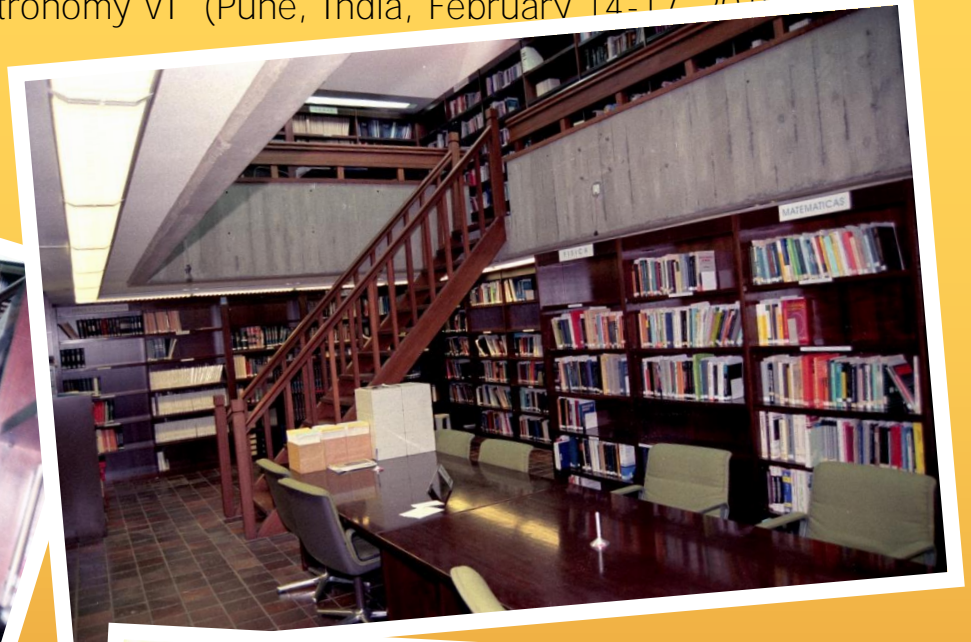
- **The Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC)**
  - A Spanish Public Consortium founded in 1982 by 4 partners:  
Spanish Research and Innovation Ministry, Canary Islands Government,  
Spanish Research Council (CSIC) and La Laguna University (ULL)
  - 4 sites on 2 islands:
    - Tenerife island: HQ in La Laguna and Teide Observatory
    - La Palma island: Roque de los Muchachos Observatory (Garafía) and Centre of Astrophysics of La Palma (Breña Alta)
  - Telescopes (> 30) and experiments belong to institutions from various European countries who have signed the “Agreement on Cooperation in Astrophysics”
    - IAC provides the infrastructure to facilitate telescopes construction and operation but is owner of only some telescopes

## IAC sites

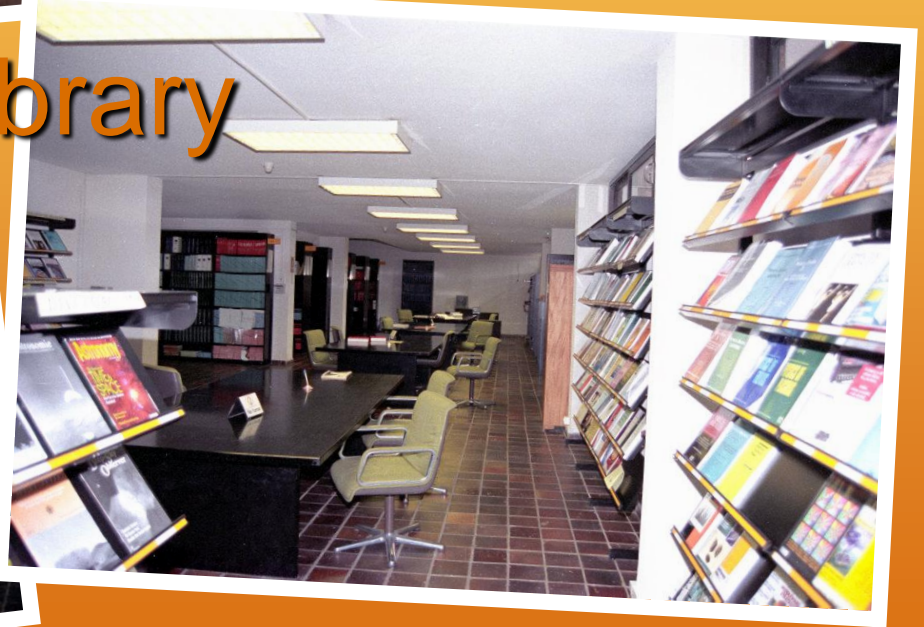


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# The library



1985-1992: the early years

or when life was simple.

- A library at HQ with a small annex at OT

- Serves IAC staff and visitors
- Growing annual budget to develop collections
- Acquisition of back volumes of journals
- Lot of space, many empty shelves
- Library staff → clear role
- Patrons go to the library
- Reference services → A&A Abstracts
- Astronomical Databases → access through librarian
- Interlibrary loan through British Library

The library was like a bookstore managed by librarians, frequented by patrons

## 1992-2003 : the technological years or when we got connections ...

- **Library automation**
  - Implementation of an integrated library information system
- **Internet and e-mail**
  - Access to ADS and reference databases by end-users
  - Electronic publications → institutional license → negotiation
  - Collaboration with other libraries → easier
  - Interlibrary loan services → faster
  - Less patrons in the library → more demanding
  - New roles for librarians
- **Collections**
  - Still growing → more shelving space needed

Library was a physical place and a virtual service

## 2004 : a decisive year


or when library changed directions...

- Two disconnected events
  - Construction of the CALP (Centre for Astrophysics of La Palma) in Breña Alta, La Palma island
    - ➡ IAC library must create an annex at CALP
  - FECYT (Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology) signed its first national license ISI WoK available to all public research centres and universities in Spain and started working on a national consortium for electronic resources

Library must serve a broader community...

## 2005-2008 : the “big works” years

### or how to manage a library in the dust ...

- Building works started at IAC headquarters
  - 06/2005: 1st space reduction in the journals room to build a lift  
     classic shelves replaced by compact shelves
  - 09/2006 : 2nd space reduction to create a provisional canteen in the library while IAC cafeteria was enlarged
  - 05/2007: Extension and remodelling of the library building
  - 06/2008: End of works

Library and librarians were trying to survive...

## 2005-2008 : the “big works” years

or how to manage a library in the dust ...



## 2005-2008: the alliance years or how to get more for less...

- First project to create a library at CALP
  - Essentially virtual and managed from headquarters in La Laguna
- Contact with Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes in La Palma
  - Agreement to share some institutional subscriptions
    - ➡ “hard” negotiations with publishers
- Contact and agreement with REBIUN (Spanish University Libraries Network)
  - ➡ IAC catalogue data included in REBIUN catalogue
- Contact with FECYT
  - ➡ Spanish Public Consortium don't progress

A lot of time and energy and few results...

## 2008: the working groups year or when life became harder...

- Two decisions with a high impact on library
  - Decision of IAC board to change IAC Information System for an integrated system; creation of a WG (IAC Gestión)
    - ➔ Participation of IAC library in the WG
  - Decision of the Spanish Science and Innovation Ministry to create a Working Group in charge of the “Access to scientific publications” participated by all research centres dependant of this ministry
    - ➔ Participation of IAC library in the WG

Would you like a cup of stress?...

## 2009-2010: The challenges

- What should we do with library new spaces and how can we make them attractive for patrons?
- How will the library system participate to the IAC global information system?
- How to deal with the ministry and the other affiliated research centres to set a library policy that will benefit IAC library?

## The first challenge : how to arrange new spaces and make the library attractive and useful for patrons

- Library Committee directive
  - Library has to be a pleasant place where patrons can meet, read and work
- Actions already done
  - Renewal of part of the furniture
  - Creation of 2 comfortable reading zones with natural lighting
  - A quiet zone with good temperature and great working tables in the journals room
  - Wi-Fi connection and plugs for lap-tops
  - Informal meetings welcome
  - Collaboration with Research division to host 2 weekly events, “Papers & Cookies” on Thursdays and “Scientific Coffee” on Fridays and the periodic “staff meeting”

## The first challenge : how to arrange new spaces and make the library attractive and useful for patrons

- Next actions under consideration
  - Working space for short term visitors
  - Locker to leave belongings ?!?
  - Coffee-machine ?!?
  - Specific “marketing” action towards younger patrons ?!?

Any free space at IAC can become an office, so...

## The second challenge : how can the library system participate in the global information system

### ■ “IAC Gestión” WG

— Analysis of IAC information system in collaboration with a Consulting company detects some weaknesses

- Regarding library information system and processes

- Information system works fine but totally independent from the global system; no possibility of data exchange.
- Acquisition process not included in the global system
- Budget control duplicated
- No implication of the library in the compilation of IAC scientific production

- Regarding information and document management

- No general archiving policy
- Records management not well defined
- No general rules to manage technical and scientific information
- Duplication of information
- Systems and processes mainly defined at service or department level
- Difficulties to share information between services or departments

## The second challenge : how can the library system participate in the global information system

- IAC Gestión WG proposal
  - All relevant processes have to be analysed and redesigned to implement an ERP software that will support the information system. To ensure success, it is essential to involve IAC staff at all levels managing change “gracefully”. The new software must support most of the processes of a Spanish public centre and facilitate information flux between different services, departments and even external agents
  - Proposal accepted by IAC Board and presented to IAC staff
  - First phase of project should start in March or April (Public contract)

## The second challenge : how can the library system participate in the global information system

- Implication of the library in the project
  - Role of the library has to be redefined because its “savoir faire” in information management can benefit the project
    - Library is not a bookstore nor a nearly invisible link between journal publishers and patrons.
    - Library can improve the process of compilation of IAC scientific results
    - Library can participate in the creation of an institutional repository
    - Library can participate in the definition of rules for the creation and management of the institutional archive
    - Library can prepare more systematically bibliometric studies to obtain indicators of quality useful to assess research policy
    - Library can help in the definition of the method to start compiling telescopes bibliographies for all facilities at OT and ORM and participate in their maintenance

## The third challenge : how to deal with the ministry and the other research institutes

- WG on “Access to Scientific Publications” of the Research and Innovation Ministry (MICIN)
  - 11/2008: creation of the WG and invitation to fill in a survey about our library resources
  - 03/2009: communication of Ministry decisions
    - Centralisation of electronic resources acquisition through a public contract managed by CSIC
      - No extra funding, no synergy, each research centre buys its own publications independently of the others
    - Adoption by all research centres of the software used by CSIC to access electronic resources (Metalib)

## The third challenge : how to deal with the ministry and the other research institutes

- Difficulties created by Ministry decisions
  - The 7 institutions included in the WG are different in number of scientists, in research domain and in number of sites
    - ➔ Library needs very different
  - Deadline too short:
    - to set up a common policy
    - to negotiate licenses as a consortium
    - to analyse future of collections and set an archiving policy
  - No analysis of software requirements
    - Is Metalib the right solution for all libraries?
  - Purpose of the decisions
    - Not clear

## The third challenge : how to deal with the ministry and the other research institutes

### ■ Actions done

- 05-07/2009: Preparation of the documentation necessary to publish the conditions of the public contract
- 09-11/2009: Publication and resolution of the public contract to buy online resources
  - IAC library has bought only 7 subscriptions through this contract

### ■ Future actions

- Creation of some kind of consortium to get cross access to publications
  - ➔ Time consuming and difficult to negotiate with publishers

## The third challenge : how to deal with the ministry and the other research institutes

- Questions not yet resolved
  - No WG meeting planned by the Ministry for the moment
  - No directive for 2010
  - Who will take in charge the coordination of the WG?

## Final remarks

- IAC library like most libraries in the world has evolved with the advances of information technology
- Its role as publication provider was very clear for everybody until Internet and online publishing diluted it
- The library has been object of a series of physical transformation but we have been able to convince authorities that the physical library has still a role to play and works recently executed have created very comfortable spaces
- With the creation of a small centre in La Palma island that serves as HQ for the “Gran Telescopio Canarias” as well as IAC staff who operate at ORM, the library has been driven to serve remote users and to collaborate with ING library

## Final remarks

- A ministerial policy has led IAC library to collaborate with some other research centres for the acquisition of online resources although this collaboration is very limited and don't benefit us clearly.
- Finally the “IAC Gestión” project that will implement a new software to support the information system is an opportunity for the library to participate in the global information system and bring its “savoir-faire” to the institution, reassessing positively the role of library and librarians

