

# BiblioCNRS Portal to share working resources

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## Abstract

As a scientific and technical information provider (INIST/CNRS), our aim is to provide researchers with a personal and customisable online working space built around Journal catalogues and databases that they can tailor to their needs.

We propose a new portal, BiblioCNRS, based on the *Netvibes* platform. This choice enables the integration of widgets based in most cases on a web2.0 technology. The main functionality of this kind of portal is to enable users to customize the delivery of online content and applications, including RSS feeds, podcasts, photos, videos, widgets and more. We develop widgets to access to full-text documents according to the different communities of researchers we serve (biologist, chemist, social sciences workers, ... ). We also use more general widgets from the Netvibes Library to present researchers a global Netvibes universe. After authentication, a researcher can select, fine-tune and create, from this global one, their own universe according to the community she/he belongs and to their personal needs.

This personalized portal is the place where researchers can organize content from the web as they like into a virtual desk, accessing it from everywhere.

## History

Until now, we (INIST-CNRS) developed portals dedicated to the different communities of researchers from the CNRS (French National Center for Scientific Research). These portals were BiblioVie (Life Sciences), BiblioSHS (Humanities and Social Sciences), BiblioPlanets (Earth Sciences), BiblioST2I (Engineering Sciences), Titanesciences (Chemistry) and BiblioSciences (other communities with no particular portal). These portals aggregated free resources and paid resources (access to specific databases, to publisher platforms or to electronic journals). Each portal has specific resources access according to the community but for all we give access to 7000 electronic journals, 30+ scientific databases and the web traffic is about 2 millions visits by year. Two years ago, we developed a seventh portal, named BiblioCNRS, containing only paid resources for all the communities.

CNRS has a distributed repartition among France and access is given to the portals to 80,000 researchers from everywhere. For authentication, we could not use IP address because of the greatest number of laboratories (about 1200). For this reason, we used a single login/password for each laboratory (each member of the laboratory share this single login/password). Actually, it is

easiest for us to manage connexion at the laboratory level rather than at the individual level (controls of “who is working where” and “who belong to what community” is not really part of our job).

## The final goal

With the development of BiblioCNRS, our main goal was to give access, everywhere in the world, to a personalized working portal containing shared resources paid by the CNRS and a lot of other resources helping researchers in their everyday work. More, it felt a great deal if we could get one portal gathering all communities and that everyone could access to its community through this portal.

## Working resources

For the definition of the resources needed by researchers for their everyday work, we organized meetings with a group of 10 young researchers from the CNRS. They were less than one year employees and were working in different areas of scientific research (biology, humanities, ...). The goal of the meetings was: “what will your favourite dreaming portal contain more than an access to scientific publishers resources?”.

Works were pretty easy: doing a list of resources of interest in the domain of scientific research and everyday researcher's life.

We met for the first time on October 2007.

We drew up a list until March 2008. Apart from CNRS resources, researchers' needs were grouped into seven categories:

- institution : all about CNRS news, CNRS personals
- actualities : news from each community
- tools : access to mail, documents, translation
- search engines : general search engines, specialized search engines (image), wikipedia
- congress preparation : flight, train, metro, hotel
- RSS for scientific publications
- help : for all the site, platform

## Intermediate goals

After collection of this items list, we got new goals for our problematic of making a working space.

First, obviously, it we had to use web services to access all kind of services researchers wanted. At this moment we looked to the web 2.0 technology platforms such as iGoogle, Netvibes, Yahoo or Portaneo. Within these platforms, everyone can easily integrate widgets (or gadgets) representing web services.

Second, aggregation of widgets in a platform is not really a portal, it is more a catalogue where everyone can take things she/he wants to construct her/his own universe. In our mind, we imagined a global universe that could be retrieving by researchers in one click to make this global universe their own and then personalize it according to the community they belong and to their needs.

Third, if we used a web 2.0 platform, it means that researcher had to connect with personal login/password to this platform and then, each time they want to access CNRS resources, they must connect to our services with a second login/password. We had also a problematic of Single Sign On.

## Platform choice

The choice was made over a list of available platforms: iGoogle, Yahoo, Netvibes, Portaneo..

We finally choiced the Netvibes Premium platform for three mains reasons:

- first, the Premium Netvibes Universe allowed an user to build its own Netvibes working space from a Netvibes start page we had previously built.
- second, SSO could be use with a Netvibes Premium Universe, allowing the connexion to users Netvibes page and to the CNRS paid resources with the same login/password
- third, we could use our own URL (belonging to our domain name) and not a Njetvibes URL for start page

The first test platform was presented for a test to our group of researchers in May 2008 with a single community. At this time it was just a catalogue of all the needs expressed by researchers in an example community (Humanities and Social Science) in order to see what looks like a working space within a classic Netvibes Universe.

Then, we build our Netvibes Premium Universe. A Netvibes page with 13 tabs: 7 categories (see earlier) and 6 communities (life sciences, chemistry, earth sciences, engineering sciences, humanities and social sciences, others).

Each of the categories integrated some widgets find in the Netvibes Widgets Repository (more than 180,000 widgets) and widgets we developed to access CNRS on-line resources.

This Netvibes Premium Universe is in test since June 2009 for 500+ researchers who can :

- connect for the first time to our Netvibes start page with single individual login/password, with these single login/password they automatically create their page at the first connexion and they have access to their community resources (only resources for the community they belong)
- build their own page from our start page: for that, they can delete first the communities tabs they are not concern with. Then, delete all the content they don't want and add content from the widgets repository, add widgets from their own if they have some, add tabs i.e. personalized this working space

# Conclusion

Tests are good for now, we don't have any negative return.

It works the way we imagined it: a start page allowing everybody to create its own page from this one and a Single Sign On to the working page and to the publishers resources.