

Country Story - Italy

Example Educational Resources Portal

Name: Science In Museums
 Type of Asset: Catalogue and website of educational resources.
 Country: Italy
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 Link: <http://scienza.sere-na.it/snmens/Index?me=homepage>
 (This is a partially translated version of the site, into English, for demonstration only)

Purpose of this Document

While this web-site was initially developed to catalogue museum educational resources, the model and layout could be applicable for Science In Schools and can be used for demonstration, or the code can be used as the basis for developing a similar Science In Schools web-site. It is the intentions in Italy to evolve this site for Science In Schools.

Description

Science In Museums started in 2005. It aims to address the need for improved visibility and access to information and educational resources of the many hundreds of science museums or similar in Italy. With the launch now of Science In Schools it is intended to extend this initiative and web-site to encompass collaboration across companies.

The need was initially identified by the IBM Italy Foundation and a local publisher and a working group of researchers of the AIMS (Italian Association of Science Museums) was set up. It was decided to create a physical book to collect and make accessible information on science museums. Given the very good feedbacks collected among museums, schools and, more in general, visitors, it was then decided to develop a web-site starting from the same information with the aim to create resources for teachers providing a bridge between schools and museums.

The web site has been created by a working group including representation from a school networks already involved in partnership with IBM and one of the most important Italian Science Center (Città della Scienza of Naples), in order to ensure that the web site can meet the needs of the selected audiences.

Uploading of content to the web-site is done by the contributors. Maintenance of the site and of the content is done by an editorial office supported by IBM Italy Foundation, schools involved and Città della Scienza.

The web-site has a simple layout and is searchable by different parameters: geographic, topical, teacher training etc. The web-site has been developed as a one-off application for Italy, but the basic functionality and/or code could be used by other Science In Schools countries as an example and to do something similar if they wish.

The official launch of the web site was October 2008.