

11th EASE Conference – Tallinn, Estonia – 8-10 June 2012

Publishing strategy with **MISTeR**

A specific program for **Inra** PhD students

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What is **MISTeR** ?

- ▶ **MISTeR** means in french : « **M**aîtriser l'**I**nformation **S**cientifique et **T**echnique **e**n **R**echerche »
- ▶ An educational program concerned with **scientific and technical research information and communication**, especially for **Inra** (France) PhD students , in partnership with several French university doctoral programs

Inra :

French National Institute for Agricultural Research

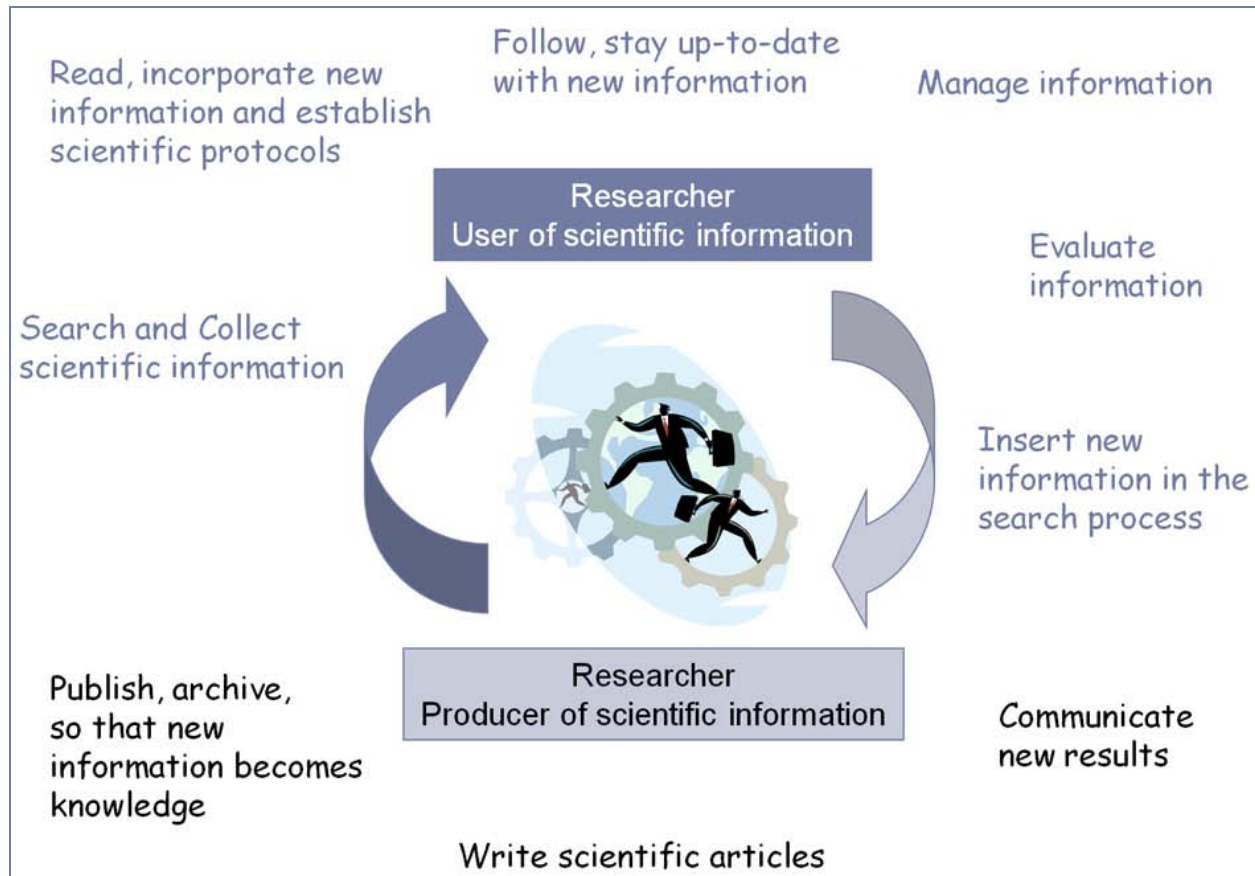
- ▶ <http://www.international.inra.fr>
- ▶ Approximately **8,490** staff including :
 - ▶ 1,840 scientists
 - ▶ 2,590 engineers
- ▶ Approximately **2,000 PhD students**, with 600 new students each year



The screenshot shows the INRA website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the INRA logo and quick access/search options. Below this is a horizontal menu with categories like 'The Institute', 'Partnerships', 'Research', and 'Join us'. The main content area features a large image of a green, glowing bacterial pathogen. Below the image is the article title 'What does a bacterial pathogen do after killing its host?' and a short summary. To the right, there is a sidebar with various links and news items, including 'French | Spanish', 'Press', 'INRA throughout France', 'Science in motion', 'Directories', 'Events', 'Fascination of Plants Day', and 'AgreenSkills'.

MISTeR : a program with 3 main modules

- ▶ Because the researcher is both **user** and **producer** of scientific information ...



MISTeR : a program with 3 main modules

- ▶ Because the researcher is both **user and producer** of scientific information ...
- ▶ ... we have developed **3 training modules** for teaching **scientific information and communication**, on **3** different days (1 module / day)

Staying up-to-date with the scientific literature



- Content alerts
- Saved search alerts
- RSS feeds



Managing information

- Organization of favorites
- Bibliography and document management



Searching and collecting information

- Familiarity with scientific information resources
- Searching information
- Evaluating sources

MISTeR 1



MISTeR 3

Communicating and publishing

- Publishing strategy
- Principles of publication ethics
- Choosing a journal
- Submitting an article to a journal
- Depositing in open access archive



MISTeR 4

Writing articles

- Rules and principles of scientific writing
- Organising and writing scientific papers



Why **MISTeR 3** in Inra ?

- ▶ Because **scientific writing and publishing** is rarely taught in French universities
- ▶ Because one of **Inra's missions** is to train doctoral students in all aspects of research from the beginning to the end i.e., **publishing results**
- ▶ Because « The goal of scientific research is publication » (Day & Gastel, 2006) : **we must improve scientific communication and writing** of our students and researchers

MISTeR 3 : program of the course

- ▶ **Main target** : teach « How to establish a strategy for publishing scientific results that respects publication ethics »
- ▶ 3 parts in the course :
 1. In introduction the **evolution** of scientific communication : from traditional scientific publication to **open archives** and **open access** and « The article of the future » ...
 2. Main notions about « **Ethics of publication** », with reference to the Guidelines and Flowcharts of the COPE (Committee On Publication Ethics) : <http://www.publicationethics.org/>
 3. Establishing a strategy for publishing scientific results : **six main questions**

1 - Why ?

- « The cornerstone of the philosophy of science is based on the fundamental assumption that **original research *must* be published ...** » (Day,1988)
- « If you haven't written it, you haven't done it » (Lindsay, 1995)

2 - What ?

- What can be published ?
- **New, original, significant, verified, interpreted results**

3 - When ?

- When is the best time to publish ?
- **Not too early ... but not too late !**

4 - How ?

- **What type of scientific article or document is most suitable ?** Original article or patent ? Review article, conference paper,...
- Definition and role of the different scientific articles and documents

5 - Where ?

- **How to choose and identify the best journal** for publishing the results ?
- **What are the main criteria of choice ?** Aims and scope of the journal, audience, prestige, impact factor, visibility, open access,...

6 - Who ?

- The question of **authorship** and affiliation
- Who should be included as authors ? What are the authors' responsibilities ?
- What about the « name » and the order of names ?

Assessment of **MISTeR 3** since the beginning of the program in 2007 (5 years)

Number of **sessions** :

- ▶ 2007 – 2011 : **54**
- ▶ between **10** and **16** sessions / year

- ▶ **Senior researchers** sometimes also attend these sessions : their presence is valuable because they often raise issues and questions that junior researchers overlook

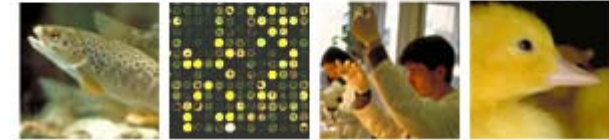
- ▶ The program is now conducted in the **19 regional centres** of Inra

Number of **trainees** :

- ▶ 2007 - 2011 : **727**
(with 70% to 75% PhD students)
- ▶ approximately **145 / year**

Evaluation of **MISTeR 3** by the trainees

- ▶ Judged « interesting » or « very interesting » by **86%** of the trainees
- ▶ « **Everything** » is judged « interesting » but especially :
 - ▶ The question of « **authorship** », because this is not well known and understood
 - ▶ How to **choose a journal** ?
 - ▶ Process and rules of publication and **codes of ethics**



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Thank you for attention !
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