User Manual for iAH – apendix – sending results by mail

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❖ Introduction

The default interface for consulting ISIS databases, both in ABCD and in BVS, is the application iAH from BIREME, which uses the software wxis.exe and the language IsisScript. This document amplifies the information on the option **`SEND RESULT BY EMAIL`** which is introduced in the ***Preferences Section*** of the official manual published by BIREME. The explanations apply without distinction to the versions 2.x and 3.x of iAH.[1]

Each database accessible through the interface iAH should have a parameter file called **`<name_base>.def`**. If the version of iAH in use is 2.x, then this file will be located in the directory **`../htdocs/iah`**, but if the version is 3.x (as with ABCD), then it is located in **`../www/bases/par`**.

In the last line of the file **`<name_base>.def`**, in the Preferences section, there appears an option that allows you to turn on or off this functionality. Usually the option is deactivated so users have not been alerted to the function or known how to implement it.

```
...
[PREFERENCES]
AVAILABLE FORMS=F,A
SEND RESULT BY EMAIL=OFF  ←
NAVIGATION BAR=ON
DOCUMENTS PER PAGE=20
FEATURES=XML
```

The explanation in the manual has not proved clear enough for non-expert users, therefore we are explaining in more detail how to implement this service.

Preliminary considerations

Firstly we come to the difference between using this service or not in the figures which follow, showing the sequence of operations necessary to send the result of a search in the two versions of iAH.

Versión 2.x - BVS **Versión 3.x - ABCD**



Search results if the checkbox "send results" is selected

[1] v.3.x: http://bvsmodelo.bvsalud.org/download/abcd/manuais/ABCD-IAH-3.1.0_en-OfficialVersion.pdf
v.2.x: http://bvsmodelo.bvsalud.org/download/iah/IAH-ManualUsuario-en.pdf

Versión 2.x - BVS | **Versión 3.x - ABCD**



Option for sending results: permits sending to the printer or exporting the file in HTML or ISO 2709 format. However, when **`SEND RESULT BY MAIL=OFF`** the e-mail option does not appear.



Option for sending results: when **`SEND RESULT BY MAIL=ON`** a new option appears.



Page to confirm sending the results

The user indicated in the option "send by email" will receive in his/her mailbox a message of the form below. Note that by default the heading contains the name of BIREME, but this can be changed as we will see later.

Versión 2.x - BVS | **Versión 3.x - ABCD**



❖ Personalization of the email message

To change the heading of the results message it is necessary to modify the file **ahlist.pft**, which is found in:

- v.3.x …**/www/htdocs/iah/scripts/<lang>/ahlist.pft**
- v.2.x **../<root>/cgi-bin/iah/<lang>/ahlist.pft**

script to change in v.2.x

```
if v6212 = 'print' then 'onLoad="javascript:void(showPrintDialog())"' fi,'>
<center>
<font face="verdana" size="1">VHL - Virtual Health Library</font>
<hr width="600" align="center">
```

script to change in v.3.x

```
if v6212 = 'print' then '<body style="background: #FFFFFF !important"
onLoad="javascript:void(showPrintDialog())">' else '<body style="background:
#FFFFFF !important">' fi,

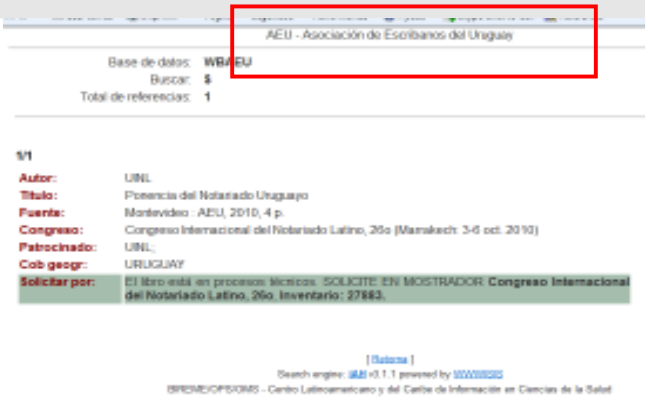
'<div id="contentList">
    <div class="contain">
    <div class="copyright">
        BIREME/PAHO/WHO - Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences
        <hr class="ruler" />
        </div>
```

Message that is received by the user with the heading modified according to the library:

Versión 2.x - BVS



Versión 3.x - ABCD



It is possible to use different headings depending on the database from which the results are derived. To do this, modify the file **ahlist.pft** with instructions similar to:

```
<font face="verdana" size="1">',
    If s(mhu,v5003^*) ='BASE1' then mpl, 'BASE1 from MyLibrary',
       else mpl, 'VHL - Virtual Health Library',
    fi,
'</font>
```

❖ Installation of the program for sending mail with different operating systems

The application iAH itself does not send results by email, but generates an output which is interpreted by an external file called **sendmail.conf** that in turn directs to an **SMTP**[2] program already installed and dependent on the operating system.

The file **sendmail.conf** passes two values or parameters to the program for sending email, (**SMTP)**, which is actioned by the instruction **EXECUTE** appropriate to the specific program which is operative on that installation. These values are: **mailto** and **file.**

The file **sendmail.conf** is found in **/htdocs/iah/sendmail.conf** in all the versions of iAH.

sendmail.conf file (default)

```
# Put the command line for e-mail sending through your server SMTP.
# Use the literals <mailto> and <file> to specify where these fields will be
# inserted in the command by IAH. Also specify the complete path for the "mailer",
# in case this is not configured in "path" of the server.

Example Windows:  EXECUTE=blat <file> -subject Results -to <mailto>
Example Linux:    EXECUTE=/home/user/iah/cgi-bin/email.sh <mailto> <file>
```

According to the version installed (Windows or Linux) the file **sendmail.conf** indicates one of the two lines that begin with the instruction **EXECUTE=**. In the case of the Windows version, it uses the minimum necessary parameters for the program **blat**[3], and in the case of Linux it assumes that a version of **MTA**[4] is installed from the RedHat family.

Notes:
- The SMTP application for sending email does not form part of the IAH package: it must be installed previously.
- The data between <…> are appropriate to IAH, but may use additional parameters which are the responsibility of the administrator.

In the following sections, examples are given for configuration of an SMTP application for Windows and three different MTAs of Linux:

- Redhat Linux using **sendmail**
- Any Linux using **qmail**
- Any Linux using **sendEmail**

Note: sendEmail is not an MTA but a program like Blat for Windows, however Linux uses any MTA.

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[2] Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) is a network Protocol based on scripts used in the exchange of electronic mail between computers or other devices (PDA's, mobile phones, etc.). SMTP is based on the client-server model, where a client sends a message to one or several receivers. The communication between the client and the server consists entirely of lines of text composed of ASCII characters.

[3] Blat is a Public Domain Windows console utility that sends the contents of a file in an e-mail message using the SMTP protocol. Blat is useful for creating scripts where mail has to be sent automatically (CGI, backups, etc.), or just as a quick way to send a file or message from the command line.

[4] Mail Transport Agent (also Message Transport Agent) is one of the programs that drive mail servers and transfers a set of data from one computer to another.

SMTP in the Windows environment

The Windows operating system does not include by default a native program for sending mail, so we need to install an external application. **Blat** (http://www.blat.net/) is a client email program (proxy style) in the very efficient FOSS distribution, simple to install and use. The package comes with a complete manual with all the parameters which can be used.

- Download from the site the latest version available: ***Blat v2.7.5 build:Aug 16 2011,*** and decompress to the three files: **blat.dll; blat.exe; blat.lib**.
- Copy these files into **c:\windows\system32**
- Install the program blat

The installation of the program is done only from the MS-DOS command line and allows you to specify seven parameters, of which only four are obligatory. The syntax of the installation is:

```
blat -install <server addr> <sender's addr> [<try>[<port>[<profile>]]] [-q]
```

Example (values invented)

```
blat -install 192.999.1.3 nobody@xxx.org.uy - - - espinak 666.!!!
```

The three dashes – signify that the three optional parameters are blank.
The last two parameters are the name of the acount user and his/her password.

These parameters remain registered and encrypted in the *Registry* of the Server where iAH in installed, in the key: **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\PUBLIC DOMAIN\BLAT**
It is always to possible to change the values by running the installation instruction again.

Observe that it is possible to use as email server any server where you are registered with an account, for example a Gmail or Hotmail account.

The file **sendmail.conf** which comes with version 3.x carries the following line:

```
     EXECUTE=blat <file> -subject  Results -to <mailto> -q -html
```

However, it is possible to insert a more ambitious command line (see the Blat manual).

```
EXECUTE=blat <file> -subject  Search Results  -to <mailto>
            -sender mylibrary@something.com
            -from mylibrary@something.com  -embed some.gif   -embed some.jpg
            -html -q -log log.txt
```

Note: all the parameters should be written in the same line: they are separated here only for clarity.

SMTP in the Linux environment

The Linux operating system can make use of programs for sending mail by SMTP, generically called MTA. Any distribution probably includes an MTA, or if not it is possible to install one.

This manual does not explain how to install a MTA, but it explains how to prepare the script that iAH needs to send the results. It is assumed that the MTA is included in the PATH and has the necessary permission for execution.

The file **sendmail.conf** referred to above, in the distribution of iAH for Linux, contains the following line by default:

```
EXECUTE=/home/user/iah/cgi-bin/email.sh <mailto> <file>
```

In the command we see that there are two parameters which are passed to a script **.sh** which is in the folder **/cgi-bin** indicated with the absolute path. The script is called **email.sh** and is the file which must be configured for the version of MTA operating in the Linux system.

Below are given three examples of the **email.sh** file.

- **Sendmail** – typical of Redhat versions of Linux

email.sh

```
export TEMP_FILE=/var/tmp/$$.@@@
echo "From: salerta@odon.edu.uy" > $TEMP_FILE
echo "To: $1" >> $TEMP_FILE
echo "Subject: Resultados " >> $TEMP_FILE
echo "Mime-Version: 1.0" >> $TEMP_FILE
echo "Content-type: text/html" >> $TEMP_FILE
cat $2 >> $TEMP_FILE
#echo "</body>" >> $TEMP_FILE
#echo "</html>" >> $TEMP_FILE
/usr/lib/sendmail -t -oi < $TEMP_FILE
rm $TEMP_FILE
```

- **sendEmail** – any version of Linux

Requires the use of the program **sendEmail** (http://caspian.dotconf.net/menu/Software/SendEmail/)
Download the application and copy into **/usr/local/bin**

email.sh

```
export TEMP_FILE=/var/tmp/$$.@@@
cat $2 | sed '/Content-type/d' > $TEMP_FILE
cat $TEMP_FILE | sendEmail -f bvsbcu@bvrie.gub.uy -t $1 -u "Results"
rm $TEMP_FILE
exit 0
```

Note: the line marked in yellow in this example is needed for a bug in iAH which should be corrected.

- **Qmail**

email.sh

```
export TEMP_FILE=/var/tmp/$$.@@@
echo "From: apubiblioteca@gmail.com" > $TEMP_FILE
echo "To: $1" >> $TEMP_FILE
echo "Subject: Resultado consultas " >> $TEMP_FILE
echo "Mime-Version: 1.0" >> $TEMP_FILE
echo "Content-type:text/html" >> $TEMP_FILE
cat $2 >> $TEMP_FILE
/var/qmail/bin/qmail-inject < $TEMP_FILE
rm $TEMP_FILE
```


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