The world’s information at your fingertips:

Benefitting from a global pool of knowledge

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Global travelers

1974: The zoological community recognizes the importance of keeping current, accurate overviews of populations and accessible histories of identified animals; ISIS is established and begins recording information submitted by its members — using paper records.

Of the 2.8 million animals registered in the ISIS database to date, 46% have moved between multiple organizations. One of the abilities of ISIS is to track these moves — providing the complete histories and pedigrees required for animal and population management.

Collecting global data, dispersing shared knowledge

GLOBAL PASSPORT
Thanks to the ISIS database, your Global Traveler arrives at your gate with less paperwork and important questions easily and electronically answered through the ZIMS application:

- Where did this animal come from?
- To whom is it related?
- How old is it?
- Has it bred?
- What health problems has it had?
- Is the zoo population of this species breeding fast enough?

TWENTY YEARS AND 329 LIFETIMES:
Your animal arrives with much more than just her own information, she arrives with the benefit of information collected about her species over the last four decades. In the graph below, her weight is compared with over 15,800 datapoints from 328 other females.

Some benefits of shared global knowledge

While ISIS works to meet its mission of facilitating “international collaboration in the collection and sharing of knowledge on animals and their environments,” our members strive to meet their own goals. ISIS applications continually adapt to better absorb the data submitted by its members and distribute that knowledge in ways that benefit the animal care and management needs of our community.

TRAVELING WITH A LIGHT LOAD:
When animals move from institution to institution, the amount of paperwork following them is declining as we rely more on electronic data. Through the ZIMS application, you have access to one complete, electronic, lifetime record.

EVERYONE LOVES BABY ANIMALS:
Healthy animals and healthy organizations are supported by easy access to good information. The 4 million weights contained in the ISIS repository enable our members to assess the health of a zoo or aquarium’s biggest draw.

ONLINE MATCHMAKING: Zoos and aquariums are increasingly the reserve for declining populations and reliable information is needed to assist in breeding recommendations. What our community needs to make these tasks easier is quick access to pedigree information, the correct institutional contacts and the current status of each individual or group. The ZIMS application makes this possible.

Meeting a global challenge

As the IUCN’s Redlist expands with each update, so does the public’s expectations for animal care and the conservation efforts made by both zoos and aquariums. To respond to increasing needs, access to knowledge collected on living species worldwide is increasingly important. ISIS members benefit from knowledge gained in similar work ensuring more successful efforts of their own.