Reflections

We are in the last leg of the current five year plan.
It is just as well that we take stock of our achievements
and shortcomings in the information business. First,
the Seventh Five Year Plan saw the emergence of three
new national programmes—Biotechnology Information
System (BTIS), National Management Information
System for Science & Technology (NMIS) and
Technology Information Forecasting Assessment
Council (TIFAC). The on-going programmes like
NISSAT and ENVIS had to be managed with limited
outlays. However, nothing big happened in the new
or old programmes.

Did we miss the bus even this time ? Did we fail
to bridge the gap between what they have in the
developed world and what we have here ? Admittedly,
no major facilities have come up but, the perceptible
change in mental preparedness of people who handle
information business should not be overlooked.
Information scientists no longer operate within the
closed confines of libraries. They now talk at ease on
topics like computer applications, database utilization,
creation and networking, communication technologies
and compact discs. Nothing very tangible as yet
exists but the benefits of such preparedness are obvious.
Also, the information programmes like NISSAT, BTIS
and INFLIBNET have complemented the metamorphosis
with grand designs of real life programmes. A few of
these would take shape in early Eighth Plan if reasona-
ble allocations are made available. When some of these
programmes finally take shape, the disparity in infrastruc-
tural facilities in the developed countries and India
would not be significant However, one hurdle may
remain—this is not technical or technological. Can we
overcome the ethos of inertia and non cooperation ?

CONTENTS

Over 300 delegates, including some foreign information specialists from a dozen countries, gathered in New Delhi for a four-day conference (22-25 Feb. 1989) to discuss various aspects of organization and management of bibliographic databases and networks. The conference provided an opportunity for exchange of experiences and stock-taking of the state-of-art technologies and practical know-how. Appropriate strategies for cooperation in the use of available bibliographic databases were considered in-depth by the information professionals, librarians, database vendors and managers of communication networks.

Inauguration

As the participants and guests invited for the conference arrived for the inauguration of the great event at Hotel Ashoka, the atmosphere was surcharged with enthusiastic optimism and buoyant spirits. The keen interest was sustained all through, thanks to the excellent presentations of invited papers and the discussions that followed. Presentations included those from NISSAT (India),

BIOSIS (USA), DIALOG (USA), AGRIS (Austria) NTIS (USA), INIS (Austria), INSPEC (USA), OCLC (USA), CISTI (Canada), etc.

Inaugural Address

The Minister of Defence, Govt. of India, Shri K.C. Pant, inaugurating the Conference, said that the occasion signified India's interest in the new information technology and its varied applications in the fields of science and management. He was happy to see that the Defence Scientific Information Centre was closely involved in the conference along with some other organizations which had come together for the first time for such an event.

Visualising the impact which developments in information technology will have on human life, the Minister said, a time will come when large numbers of people will no longer be required to assemble in a factory or workshop or office for the purpose of earning a living. They will possibly work from their homes using computer terminals and other technological aids for giving information and getting work done.

At the Inaugural Function (/ to r) Shri S.S. Murthy, Director DESIDOC; Shri S.L. Bansal, Chief Controller of Defence R & D Organization; Shri K.C. Pant, Union Minister of Defence; and Prof. Sam Pitroda, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Technology Missions.

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Shri Pant noted that computerised databases had been established in India only recently and the country had to learn from the experience of advanced countries who have mastered the technology of computers optical disks, etc. Concluding, the Minister expressed the hope that the involvement of so many experts will give a new impetus to the establishment of databases and networks in India. This would hopefully stimulate economic and technological progress in the country and promote greater international cooperation in these areas

Keynote Address : Prof Sam Pitroda

The role of information technology in social transformation was the theme of Prof. Sam Pitroda's keynote address. He noted that in India information will have to be used to meet our basic needs and this required a great deal of innovation to find ways whereby information can be organized, structured, standardized and then made available to everybody. The programme at National Informatics Centre, New Delhi for example, would be linking 450 districts through a computer Network, a local area network, into four major centres in India (Pune, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad and Delhi), and ultimately to control super computer kind of database. At TIFIAC— Technological Information Forecasting and Information Assessment Council, a major programme on science and technology databases had been initiated to basically standardize and provide connectivity to various database programmes going on in the country e g BTISNET or Biotechnology Network, VIDYANET, EDUNET, CALINET, DELNET, CRISNET, etc. The key element in information technology is brainpower and India s human resource of 800 million people will give the country a head start, Prof. Pitroda noted.

The key element in information technology is brainpower and India's human resource of 800 million people will give the country a head start: Prof. Sam Pitroda.

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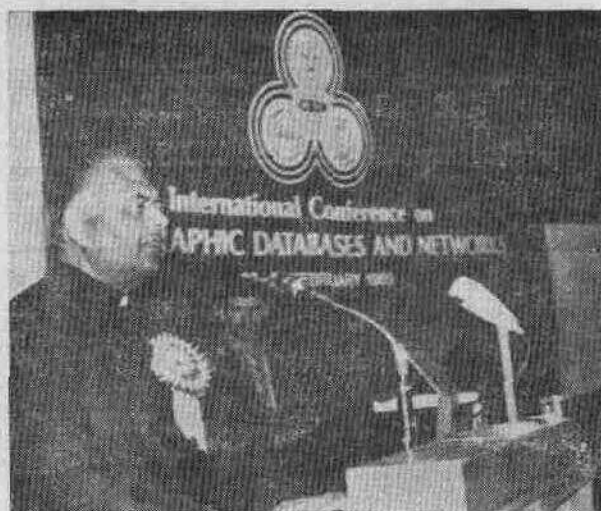
Developments in Information Technology will have far-reaching impact on human life: Shri K.C. Pant.

He concluded by saying that the biggest challenge in India was to link good information and to link people all over the country to knit them into one entity in an integrated manner so that we could function and harness the power of information for productivity and efficiency to meet the basic needs of the people.

Presidential Address : Shri S.L. Bansal

Distinguished scientist and Chief Controller of Defence R & D Organization, Shri Bansal referred to the network planned by DESIDOC for connecting the libraries of the Defence R & D Organization. The proposal was under active consideration at DRDO Headquarters. A similar library network called INFLIBNET for connecting the libraries of all the Indian Universities and some national institutions was also being planned by the University Grants Commission of India A few more library networks were also coming up at Delhi, Calcutta, etc.

Shri Bansal noted that while it was good to creat databases and establish networks to meet local needs, it was often advantageous to use the existing databases and networks if their use can be extended to other countries. There were over 600 databases commercially available, covering various subject fields Some institutions in India like DESIDOC, BHEL, NCL, NAL, etc. were conducting on-line searches on these databa es through telex and telephone lines. Such use of foreign databases was gradually increasing in India

Concluding, Shri Bansal expressed the hope that the conference will provide the necessary technical inputs for the establish nent and operation of bibliographic databases and networks in developing countries

Welcome Address : Director DESIDOC

Earlier, Shri S.S. Murthy, Director DESIDOC, and Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Conference, extended a cordial welcome to the delegates and the invitees. The Conference [co-assisted, by Association of Government Libraries and Information Specialists (AGLIS)], Shri Murthy said, would provide valuable inputs to the planning, implementation and operation of databases and networks in various countries. A number of specialists in the area had kindly agreed to participate and make presentations at the Conference.

Shri Murthy referred to the network being designed at DESIDOC for connecting various libraries in the Ministry of Defence. The project was based on the recommendations of the 1987 Seminar on Defence Scientific Information Network (DESINET).

Vote of Thanks

Shri P.G Krishnamurty, Convener of the Organizing Committee of the Conference proposed a vote of thanks to all individuals and organizations who had contributed to the success of the conference through their guidance, presentations, organizational support and the exhibition relevant to the theme of the conference specially organized on the occasion.

Technical Sessions

The technical proceedings of the conference were organized under the following four technical sessions :

1. Planning and Development of Databases
Chairman : Dr. Frederick G. Kilgour, Founder Trustee, OCLC, USA.

Prof. S. Sampath, Chairman RAC, New Delhi.

2. Operation of Databases

Chairman : Dr. S P. Mahendru, General Manager (N), CMC Ltd , New Delhi.

3. Planning and Development of Networks
Chairman : Shri Y.L Agarwal, Chairman and MD, TCIL.

4. Operation of Networks
Chairman : Dr. N. Seshagiri, Additional Secretary and DG, NIC, New Delhi.

For details of discussions at Technical Sessions, reference may be made to the full proceedings of the Conference to be published by Tata Mc Graw-Hill, New Delhi.

A number of recommendation on the types of databases and networks for developing countrie emerged from the Panel Discussion in which eminent information scientists participated.

A cordial welcome to delegates and invities : S.S. Murthy.

The main recommendations are summarised below :

I. *Planning and Development of Databases*

1. Noting that information services are not adequately available in many developing countries to support the S & T and other activities, it is recommended that these services should be strengthened and extended to cover not only S & T personnel but also those in the industrial, social economic, financial and other sectors.

2. Recognising that information is now being treated increasingly as a commodity which can be marketed like any other marketable commodity, the Conference advocates greater efforts and emphasis on marketing information services.

3. Appreciating that considerable efforts have already gone into the creation of a few indigenous databases, it is considered necessary to accelerate these efforts and develop more databases covering national or nationally produced information in both broad and narrow subject areas. The incigenous databses should also be marketed abroad through international information networks.

4. Recognising that one of the essential pre-requisites for the creation and development of indigenous databases is the availability of a large number of trained professionals such as system analysts, database managers, computer hardware software specialists, information scientists, information analysts, abstractors, indexers and subject specialists, it is recommended that urgent measures be taken to organise intensive practical training programmes for these categories of personnel.

5. Since standardisation plays a vital role in the efficient and effective usage of bibliographic databases, and standards are necessary for international cooperation, NISSAT and the Bureau of

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A Section of the distinguished audience at the Inauguration.

Indian Standrads may undertake formulation of standards for adoption in India in this field. Likewise, standardisation in the information field at the national level should receive attention in other countries also.

6. Copyright problems in the database and software industry have also arisen recently causing concern to the producers and authors of such products. It is recommended that the Indian and other governments may be approached to review and update the copyright laws in order to conform to today's information processing media and innovations in the new technologies. These copyright laws should be strictly enforced.

7. Developing countries like India are actively participating already, on a cooperative basis, in several international databases like AGRIS FAO, INIS IAEA, INF, TERRA/UNEP, APINMAP/UNESCO, FSTA/IFIS, etc. National organisations which have the resources and the capabilities should be encouraged to participate in all international cooperatively-produced databases by inputting domestic information.

8. Hard-copy databases, such as Chemical Abstracts, Biological Abstracts, are being imported at high costs involving considerable foreign exchange outflow. Libraries should, therefore, be encouraged to resort to resource sharing among themselves covering such costly databses to avoid unnecessary duplication and wastage of resources.

II. Development of Networks

9. Having noted the availability of suitable telecommunication facilities in India to access online international databases through INDONET of CMC and the packet-switched gateway recently commissioned in Bombay by Videsh Sanchar Nigam, the Conference stresses the need to improve the local telephone links to facilitate noise-free access to databases. Efforts should be made in other countries also to improve the data communication networks using current telecom technologies, wherever necessary.

10. While appreciating the efforts of organisations/centres like the National Informatics Centre Dept. of Biotechnology, NISSAT, DESIDOC, CSIR, BHEL, ONGC and UGC in planning nationwide information dissemination networks in India and successful operation of bibli g aphic networks like OCLC, RLIN, CSIRO-AUSTRALIS, BRS and HERTIS in other countries, the Conference recommends development of more such networks to cover diverse sectors of national economy.

11. Taking note of the proposal of NIC to launch its own communication satellite the Conference strongly recommends that a few roof-top earth stations linked to this satellite be reserved exclusively for library networking.

12. The Conference recommends that all current infrastructural elements such as networks, hosts, databases, etc. be properly coordinated to avoid the pitfalls arising from fragmentation in networking.

13. Detailed studies may be undertaken to develop a suitable network, model for India by weighing the pros and cons of centralised networks, distributed networks and other types of networks. Towards this end, it is desirable to evolve a National Network Policy.

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III. Back-up Services

14. Instantaneous access to databases of biblicgraphic information by itself is not sufficient and would be of no avail unless backed-up equally by efficient document delivery, translation and other support services. The Conference, therefore, recommends continuous improvements in these back-up services.

IV. Development of National Bibliography

15. At present, a comprehensive machine-readable national catalogue of books published in and on India is not available. The Conference recommends that the bibliographic records pertaining to Indian books and on Indian subjects, which are available in OCLC, be obtained and input into our National Bibliographic Catalogue proposed or being developed by the National Library of India. As a reciprocal measure, records from Indian National Bibliography may be input into the OCLC Catalogue for greater mutual benefit. The National Library, Calcutta, may also consider setting up an online facility to access the OCLC Universal Catalogue. Alternatively the Catalogue in CC-ROM format for use in India, may be acquired.

V. Other Matters

16. Any database is aimed for the end-users. Therefore, comprehensive studies on the information-seeking behaviour of the users need to be undertaken, and their training needs have to be identified in different environments and in using different search systems and databases. Guides to information users may be developed in machine-readable mode as well as in hard copy.

17. The Conference recommends that in the emerging technologically-oriented information age, the traditional printed book or publication needs must be 'redefined' to include all other non-print formats and versions and given customs duty exemption as in the case of printed books or publications so as to facilitate greater free flow of information from the advanced countries to enrich and support national R & D activities.

Valedictory Address : Dr. S. Ramachandran

The closing session of the Conference heard Dr. S. Ramachandran, Secretary to the Govt. of India in the Department of Biotechnology recount his experience with databases and networks and plans for the future. The Department has created nine databases in the country, subjectwise; out of these six are already working. These have been interconnected, using NICNET which has also made available some earth stations. The second level of network is being established at 25 centres during 1989. In the course of the next year, the Department will have several lines available to industry as well as other users.

Dr. Ramachandran noted that there was not enough user pressure in India. Unless user awareness was increased, our investments in information would not be adequately used. This would affect the cost-effectiveness of the system. The only way of increasing user pressure was to make the user aware that the information you have processed for him is easy to access and is going to make his work much better in quality and competitiveness.

Exhibit

An exhibition of current information technology products and services was arranged on the occasion. Participants included Inspec, CMC, Darwant, Dialog and the Bureau of Indian Standards which exhibited the bibliographic database of standards Worldover Christened 'Manaksandarbhika' with an on-line demonstration.

Asiatick Researches Bicentenary

Learned Periodical Publications in India—Past, Present and Future

At a two-day Seminar held during 16-17 February 1989 at the India International Centre, New Delhi, eminent experts examined the *status* of learned pe iodicals published in India. The occasion was the celebration of the bicantenary of India's first learned periodical, the *Asiatick Researches*.

The seminar was organized by NISSAT, India International Centre and INSDOC. Over a 100 editors, academicians, librarians, information specialists, litteraturs and documentalists from all over India attended the seminar.

Prof. M.G.K. Menon, Member Planning Commission inaugurated the seminar. Prof. B.S. Kesavan, former Director INSDOC delivered the Chairman's address. The welcome address was delivered by the President, India International Centre and eminent jurist, Dr L M Singhvi. His concluding words infact set the pace for the deliberations of the seminar; "May I end with a prayer that these deliberations will prove to be fruitful and will show the way, will blaze new trails and will tell us what can be done and what needs to be done."

In his illuminating inaugural address, Prof. Menon traced the history of the growth of periodicals, the transformation of the scene relating to learned studies as also relating to technology. He dwelt on the present scenario and the changes brought about by technology in the area of publishing personal computers, micro-processors, word processing, etc. Prof. Menon spoke of the vast spread of knowledge, the increasing compartmentalisation, the ability of the large numbers who are new in science, inc easing numbers going into science to comprehend the total and therefore the whole structure of scientific and learned periodicals has transformed.

Referring the quality, Prof Menon appreciated that good journals in India today maintain quality in terms of refereeing but there is a very wide spectrum; all publications should have a similar quality.

The full text of Prof. Menon's address has been reproduced in the *Proceedings* of the seminar brought out by INSDOC within a month of the conclusion of the seminar. Considering the time of several months normally taken to p epare and publish the proceedings of much events, INSDOC has indeed earned the gratitude of the participants

and many others who did not attend the seminar but are deeply interested in the subject.

The Chairman's address was delivered by Prof. Kesavan. His inspiring and scholarly oration touched on the life and w itings of Sir William Jones whose grand vision gave birth to the Asiatic Society and its first journal *Asiatick Researches*. For full text of the address, reference may be m de to the *Proceedings* of the seminar just published.

Technical Sessions

Some of the issues through up during the discussions at the technical sessions were :

— Can generalist journals like the *Asiatick Researches* survive ?

— Is the Asiatic Society condemned to be orientalist and has no interest in scientific publications ?

— Is information science only concerned with monitoring and standardization, or does it also have something to do with theories of knowledge, and theories of the role of scientific information in society ?

— What are the implications of electronic/print media *vis-a-vis* oral communication ?

— What is the relationship between specialized, general, and popular journals ?

— What is the role of information/library science in coverage, management, retrieval, quality, standardization, and in improving communication skills ?

— What is the role of technology in all this ?

— Is the principle of selection of journals for citation indices logical ?

— What can we learn from journals like *PRAMANA Journal of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Indian Journal of Chemistry ?*

— Why did *SANKHYA* decline ?

— What is the time dimension required to stabilise a new journal ?

— What constitutes quality in a scientific journal ?

— Can we develop our own indices of quality to improve science and management of science in India ?

Dr. A.P. Mitra FRS, Director-General, Scientific & Industrial Research (second from left) at the Seminar. Shri S.K. Bhattacharya (extreme right) Scientist-in-Charge, INSDOC welcome Dr. Mitra for the Panel Discussion.

— How does one balance publication between India and foreign journals ?

— What is the relationship between State, professional societies, universities and private publishers in scholarly publishing ?

— Should we stop support for journals not regularly included in citation services ?

Is it possible to standardize S & T periodicals and practices pertaining to them ?

Concluding Session

Some of these issue were taken up in the panel discussion at the concluding session.

The panelists were :

> Dr. A.P. Mitra
> Dr. A. Dasgupta
> Shri Ram D. Taneja
> Shri Samuel Israel
> Dr. A. Rahman Khan

Shri Samuel Israel observed that despite compartmentalization of disciplines and specialised journals, there is a place for generalist journals such as *Asiatick Researches*. He cited *Daedalus* as a case in point. He said, oral communication still remained an important mode of scholarly communication along with journals.

Dr. A.P. Mitra suggested several steps to improve the quality and viability of Indian journals, better and quick refereeing and strong marketing and distribution strategy among them He also stressed the need for an alternative system of indicators for evaluating Indian journals. Referring to the suggestion that only those publishing in

foreign journals get the better deal, he said excellence of the journal and not whether it is Indian or foreign should be the criterion for assessing the author.

Dr. A. Dasgupta called for compilation of an All-India list of learned periodicals in all disciplines including social sciences and humanities. He suggested the National Library may take up the project in Humanities, INSDOC in Science and Technology and ICSSR in the discipline of Social Sciences.

Shri Ram D. Taneja said the Editorial Boards of the learned journals had an important role in maintaining high quality of the journals.

Dr. A. Rahman Khan was of the view that Indian referees were too 'soft' and often recommended for publication second rate papers. This he said ought to change if the standard of Indian journals were to look up.

Dr. Girija Kumar summarised the issues involved as (i) Evaluation of academic content, (ii) Institutional publications, (iii) Editorial work, (iv) Marketing, and (v) Information technology.

Dr. A. Lahiri outlined the current work in progress on developing a national science citation index through the National Centre of Bibliometrics. He suggested bulk purchase and aggressive sale of at least one Indian journal in each discipline.

Summing up the session, Shri S.K. Bhattacharya said no recommendations will be drawn up for recommendation sake, but all the suggestions made by the participants may be considered for future action. He suggested that a joint programme between National Library, INSDOC and ICSSR may be taken up to build up a comprehensive list of all learned periodicals in India.

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Establishing Online Services in India — Feasibility Study

At the Instance of NISSAT, the Society for Development Alternatives, New Delhi conducted a study on market for online services in Delhi region. Some of the findings were revealing. Only 25 per cent of controlled population were aware of databases (unaided response). Senior academics who had used such facilities abroad had some knowledge on the subject. However, the concept of computerized databases when explained evoked significant interest to the extent that as many as 70 per cent of respondents intended to use such facilities atleast once in 1-2 weeks.

Online services which offer computerised access to databases are widely used in western countries. These types of services have yet to make a significant impact in developing countries.

There are a few experimental or demonstration centres in India which offer online access to American or European databases. The National Aeronautical Laboratory (NAL), Bangalore, has set up a demonstration centre with access to the European Space Agency (ESA) database. More recently, the American Centre at New Delhi has opened an online terminal with access to an American database centre. The World Health Organisation (WHO), through its office in New Delhi, also offers specialised online access to international medical databases.

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Government of India, New Delhi has realised the need for online services in India and wishes to introduce this facility in the country. To determine the acceptability of this service by potential users, DSIR commissioned the Society for Development Alternatives (SDA) to carry out a market survey.

This report presenting the findings of the survey is organised in five sections. A section provides findings from the first phase of research undertaken, which was to understand the nature of the service and the implication of introducing this service in conditions obtaining in India.

The next section on methodology provides findings from the second phase of the study: the assessment of potential user groups in the context of the adoption of and impact on the online system, thereby identifying the major target groups and determining the approach to be taken for an in-depth study of these groups.

Similarly, only a few had any exposure to online services. About 40 per cent indicated that they would utilize such facilities once a month; the curious point to note was that as many as 35 per cent were non-committal. The population was also non-committal about the order of payment they can make for such services. On the other hand, professionals like lawyers were receptive to the idea but they wanted services based on Indian databases.

The study recommended that initially the costs are to be kept artificially low and the services are to be targetted to academic and R & D community only.

Findings from the in-depth study of the major target groups are given in another section. The awareness level of online services among Indian professionals was found to be extremely low. Those who have had reasonable exposure to such services, however, expressed considerable enthusiasm and appreciation of the value of accessing up-to-date information. The last section of the report presenting the recommendations identifies a four-phase plan for establishing online database access system in Delhi and other centres.

Recommendations

The survey revealed that it would be worthwhile to implement an online service for users in Delhi. The initial demand for such a service is likely to be limited. With an active programme to create awareness among potential users of the benefits and capabilities of the online service, considerable demand could be generated over a reasonable period of time.

The academic sector, including research personnel in institutes constitute the largest segment of users and many institutions have the capacity to pay for the use of online services. The database requirement is almost entirely bibliographic and a sufficient range of databases for this group already exists in the West.

For this group of potential users, the primary need is for databases in the physical and social sciences, economic and demographic information, etc. Such databases already exist or could easily be computerised from such sources as the engineering and scientific bibliographic services available from INSDOC and agencies abroad, Census, NSS, NCAER and other sources of information.

The group of professionals consisting of lawyers and journalists also constitute a large group of potential users with some independent capacity and willingness to pay. The requirement of this group is primarily for indigenous databases which will have to be built up. For either group, however, a cost of Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000 per search will prove prohibitively expensive to generate large demand.

For the lawyers, databases will have to be built up on legislation, case law, jurisprudence, etc. Computerizing existing information bases should not be difficult for this purpose. For journalists, a more detailed analysis of their information needs would easily yield information on the types of subject areas and types of information which need to be setup.

Neither the creation of databases nor the establishment of online access to them can succeed without adequate availability of the hardware and the training of users to operate it. In view of this, initial investments have to be made in placing easily accessible terminals in academic and research institutions, courts, lawyers chambers and newspaper offices to initiate the process. Later such steps will have to be taken in hospitals, government offices, etc.

Because of the high elasticity of demand for online services, it should be recognised that initially costs will have to be kept artificially low at prices comparable to those expected to prevail under high levels of use, e.g. Rs. 50 to 100 per search. This alone is probably the single most effective means for popularising online services and would, incidentally, make them available to new types of users such as students, small scale businessmen, etc.

Considering these factors, establisment of online database access system in Delhi and other centres should be carried out in four phases :

Phase I

In Phase I, a centralised online access system should be established in Delhi at a carefully selected location to maximise access by the target groups.

Target group during this phase will be the academic sector, including those undertaking R & D and some post-graduate students.

The database source should be the agency (from ESA, Lockheed and others) which has the largest bibliographic databases in science, engineering and humanities.

In marketing the online system, emphasis should be placed on the databases and their characteristics. The following steps are recommended :

1. Identify potential users for each database by institution and by designation/names.

2. Prepare literature on each database, clearly setting forth the scope, coverage and usage characteristics of each database.

3. Circulate the literature to the individual users.

4. Hold workshop-cum-training sessions for each group of users.

5. Significantly reduce the cost per search, either by using an initial subsidy or other mechanisms such as membership fees at institutional level and fixing lower cost level per search. Institutional membership, kept at a high level, will also boost usage level by the institutions.

Phase II

Depending on the demand generated by institutions, terminals should be provided at institutional and departmental level.

Phase III

Develop local databases, running concurrently with Phases I and II.

During this phase, the target group will be widened to include practising professionals such as lawyers and journalists.

For the academic sector, one time purchases should be made of the biblographic databases from the West, as indigenous development of these databases will need both time and budgetary allocations.

Indigenous databases for the use of professionals should also be developed.

Phase IV

Establishment of local database centres with the help of acquired and developed databases.

Wide deployment of terminals including connections for private and individual users.

Pricing of services to achieve maximum usage within constraints of financial viability.

MINI-MICRO CDS/ISIS-VERSION 2.3

NISSAT & Unesco announce release of Version 2.3 Repeat Version 2.3

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I, Dr. A. Lahiri hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd/- A. Lahiri
Signature of Publisher

March 1989

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Feasibility Study on Automation and Networking (LIBNET)

Underlying the primary objective of the just completed LIBNET Study is the concept of efficient management and sharing of the limited resources available. Envisaged as a Metropolitan Area Network, LIBNET will support applications such as electronic mail, file transfer, remote log-on and database

LIBNET covers 38 libraries in Calcutta metropolitan area clustered in the Jadavpur, Chowringhee, Rajabazar and Ballygunge areas. They also include medical libraries, national Library and ISI. These libraries are expected to be automated first and then networked.

LIBNET not only automates the nodal libraries, but also creates a library service organisation for providing global users services such as authority control, editing of shared catalogue records and comprises the people side of the network for training and consultancy for libraries in Calcutta.

Within the individual libraries, the functions automated are cataloguing, serials control, acquisition and fund accountig, circulation and local user services. The networking provides globally, the user services of current awareness, SDI, union catalogue, partial databases and access, to national and international networks. Reprographic facilities, preservation requirements and document transfer facilities are required in addition.

In deciding the network configuration experiences of networks such OCLC, WEIN, etc. as well as library automation projects in developing countries such as, Nigeria, have been considered. In the proposed scheme. each institution holds processed information on local computers, connecting one another through an X.25 packet switched network. In this alternative, one of the hosts provides global user service and also acts as the network cont ol centre. It has been suggested that it would be expensive to buy a central host computer and a choice has been made among available host machines in Calcutta and the use of Regional Computer Centre at Jadavpur recommended.

It has been decided that information pertaining to an institution would have to be collected as well as processed by the concerned institution only. LIBNET envisages on-line availability of information on a sliding window database on 5-years holdings. Retrospective data collection and entry would have to be carried out in parallel with current data entry.

access along with document exchange. The inplementation plan has been divided into two phases, estimated to cost Rs. 6.3 million (Phase I) and Rs. 17 million (Phase II). March 1990 has been set as the target date for a fully operational Phase I network.

The study also considers the relevance of international STIS databases for use by Indian research and academic community and recommends simultaneous use of on-line access, as well as CD-ROM technology through the central host for creation of relevant partial databases. The choice of bibliographic database software depends

Table 1 Salient Features of LIBNET

I. Broad Scope	Library Automation & Networking
II. Functions/ Modules	Acquisition and Fund Accounting
	Serials Control
	Circulation
	Cataloguing
	User Services
	Resource Sharing—Databases
	Resource Sharing—User Services
	Access to National PDN
	Access to International PDN
	Document Transfer

III. Coverage		Ph. 1	Ph. 2	Total
	Academic Libraries	2	18	20
	Medical Libraries	—	8	8
	Research Institute Libraries	6	—	6
	Govt. Libraries	—	4	4
		8	30	38
IV. Configuration	Mainframe (Shared external)	1	—	1
	Mini	—	4	4
	PC/AT	8	24	32
V. Cost (Rs in Lakhs)		63.1	170.7	233.8

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Table 2 List of Participating Libraries in LIBNET

Jadavpur Area

1. Jadavpur University Central Library
2. Indian Institute of Chemical Biology
3. Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science
4. Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute
5. Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre

Ballygunge Science College Area

6. University College of Agriculture
7. Department of Botany (CU)
8. Department of Geology (CU)
9. Department of Zoology (CU)
10. Department of Statistics (CU)
11. Department of Geography (CU)
12. Department of Pure Mathematics (CU)
13. Department of Biochemistry (CU)

Chowringhee Area

14. Anthropological Survey of India
15. Botanical Survey of India, Industrial Section
16. Geological Survey of India
17. Zoological Survey of India

Rajabazar Science College Area

18. Bose Institute
19. Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics
20. Institute of Radio Physics & Electronics (CU)
21. Department of Applied Chemistry (CU)
22. Department of Applied Physics (CU)
23. Department of Applied Mathematics (CU)
24. Department of Physics (CU)
25. Department of Physiology (CU)
26. Department of Pure Chemistry (CU)
27. Department of Psychology (CU)
28. Department of Applied Psychology (CU)
29. Department of Computer Science (CU)

Other Institutions

30. National Library
31. Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research
32. Chittaranjan National Cancer Research Centre
33. Journal of Indian Medical Association
34. Medical College
35. Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College
36. All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health
37. Indian Statistical Institute
38. Central Forensic Science Laboratory

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primarily on the hardware chosen. The study covers databases available on indigenously available hardware only and gives recommendations for each category of hardware that is micro, mini and main-frame, and suggests standardisation based on UNIX operating system.

Implementation

The implementation plan has been divided into two phases. In the first phase, all institutions within the JU Cluster which comprise both academic as well as research libraries and some nodes of Rajabazar Cluster such as the Department of Radio Physics, Bose Institute and Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics has been included. In the second phase, other libraries, such as the Ballygunge Science College, remaining libraries of Rajabazar Science College, medical libraries, National Library and ISI have been brought in. March 1990 has been set as the target date for a fully operational Phase I network.

LIBNET Objective at a Glance

1. To significantly improve resource utilisation and service levels to patrons at the individual libraries by providing automation facilities in area of :

i) Acquisitions and fund accounting
ii) Serials control
iii) Cataloguing
iv) Circulation
v) User Services

2. To operationally enhance resource sharing by providing individual libraries and their access to composite databases of :

i) Union catalogue
ii) Partial STIS databases
iii) Current awareness and SDI
iv) Authority and thesaurus data
v) Subject profiles

3. To provide efficient and reliable means of :

i) Inter-library user services
ii) Document copy and transfer facilities
iii) Access to national and international STIS databases

Information as an Essential Input for Industrial Transformation of Society—SIS Convention

At its Eighth Annual Convention and Conference held during 19-20 January 1989 at New Delhi, the Society for Information Science (SIS) turned the beam on to a comparatively less attended to area, namely, information support for industry. The convention, originally scheduled to be hosted by Thapar Corporate R & D Centre, Patiala had to be hurriedly shifted to NPL, New Delhi due to unavaidable reasons.

Inaugurating the Convention, Shri N.K. Sharma, Managing Director, NRDC, New Delhi, emphasized the role of information as an essential input for industry and cited the experience of NRDC in linking up its services with industry. The result was better management of technology transfer supported by the NRDC technology data bank Shri Sharma commanded the activities of SIS in development and promotion of information programmes and urged the society to pay greater attention to designing information support for industrial development in the country. To make available the right kind of information at the right time was the main role of information managers, Shri Sharma said. He emphasized the need for creating local networks for meeting the needs of industry.

The SIS President, Shri D.N. Jetly referred to a new bread of computer applications relating to management of information or decision support systems, PERT/CPM, production planning, inventory control, O R, etc. which had recently come to the force The most commonly used packages LOTUS 1-2-3, dBASE, etc. are those which again improve the efficiency of a businessman. Here the argument is that if there is total economic growth or if resources are utilised to the optimum, then indirectly the quality of life of the people improves because there is an increase in their income level and also because more resources become available.

According to Shri T.S. Rajagopalan who also addressed the inaugural session, the rapid progress of industrialisation in the country had to be matched with information support needed by industry. Intensive efforts were therefore needed to fulfill this need. The efforts would be in line with the Technology Policy Statement of the Government (1983), which makes explicit recommendations for creating a strong industrial information base.

Earlier, welcoming the participants, SIS Secretary S. Nagarajan presented an overview of SIS activities which had established the society as a frontline organization devoted to the tasks of developing and promoting IT and the professionals needed to manage information services in the country.

Fellowships

On the recommendations of the Education & Awards Committee of SIS, the following Information Scientists were awarded the Fellowship of the Society by Shri Y.R. Chadha, Founder President, SIS. The award carries a scroll of honour and a medal besides Life Membership of the Society.

1. Prof. G.N. Acharya, Director, CEERI, Pilani

2. Shri H.C. Jain Head, TISD, PID, New Delhi

3. Shri S.V. Sangameswaran, Retired Head, FOSTIS, Mysore and

4. Shri N. Jayaraman, Head (Information & Liaision), SERC, Madras.

Publications Released

The inaugural session witnessed another pleasant ceremony. Shri K.N. Johry, Head, International Science Collaboration Unit, CSIR released the following SIS Publication :

1. Information as an Essential Input for Industrial Transformation of Society. Editor : Kuldip Chand.

2. Distributed Databases : Plan for interaction and online search. Editors · S. Nagarajan, S.V. Sangameswaran & H.C. Jain

3. Scientific Communication, Bibliometrics Informatrics. Editors : I.N. Sengupta & S. Nagarajan

4. The Roster of Information Scientists in India

5. On-line Information Processing thro gh Mini & Microcomputers. Editors : S. Nagarajan & H.C. Jain.

6. Use of Microprocessors in Information Analysis and Library Applications. Editor : S. Nagarajan

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Technical Sessions

The Convention theme was discussed at the following five sessions at which over 20 papers were presented :

1. Need for Industrial Information in Various Sectors

2. Feasibility Studies and Preparation of Reports

3. Identification of Indigenous Technical Know-how

4. Transfer of Technology—Effective Methods

5. Mode of Dissemination of Industrial Information

Fifty participants took active part in the deliberations of the sessions which were chaired by (1) Dr. V. Ramesam, Director DST, New Delhi, (2) Shri D.N. Jetly, Ad Information Systems, D-59 Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi (3) Shri S.C. Mehta, Additional Director, DOE, New Delhi, (4) Prof. N.K. Sharma, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, (5) Shri T.S. Rajagopalan, Former Scientist-in-Charge, INSDOC, New Delhi.

Concluding Session

The concluding session, chaired by Shri Ram D. Taneja, Editor, NISSAT Newsletter, was devoted to a retrospective of the Conference and formulation of the recommendations arising from the discussions at the technical sessions for necessary follow up action.

The following recommendations were made :

1) Taking note of the directives contained in the Technology Policy Statement (TPS) of the Govt. of India (1983) for evolving a strong technological information base, this convention of the Society for Information Science (New Delhi 19-20 Jan. 1989) urges upon the concerned organizations in the government to draw up a concrete plan of action towards realizing the objectives of TPS in this regard.

2) While appreciating the efforts by NISSAT to setup sectoral information centres in certain areas, urges NISSAT to establish expeditiously more sectoral centres covering industrial sectors not covered so far.

3) To organize training courses in industrial information service in callaboration with organizations like DGTD, NRDC, SENDOC (NISSIET), etc. to reinforce their on-going programmes and activities.

4) There is need to bring out tertiary sources of information to strengthen the existing technological information base The publications might include handbooks referral directories of manufacturers, consultancy firms, foreign collaborations and exporters of technology. In this effort collaboration may be sought with Indian Investment Centre, Confederation of Engineering Industries (CEI), NIC, DGTD, etc.

5) Establishment of information database in different industries on urgent facets of development is urgently called for.

6) SIS should broaden and strengthen its interaction with industry through organization of appreciation courses in collaboration with TFAI, DGTD, NRDC, DST, etc.

7) SIS should take concerted measures to disseminate its information activities so that it can make a greater impact on and achieve larger involvement in national development as an all India body of information professionals offering expert consultancy services.

UNIDO Board Predicts Positive Outlook for 1989

While predicting positive outlook for 1989, the decisions adopted by the fourth Session of the UNIDO Board held at Vienna last October highlighted the priority areas of the organization. These include assisting developing countries to acquire advanced technologies in the fields of micro electronics, informatics genetic engineering and bio-technology. In a decision on restructuring of global industrial production and redeployment, the Board emphasized aspects such as investment promotion, mobilization of resources, transfer of technology and follow-up action on consultations with the intention of increasing the share of developing countries in world industrial output.

News and Events

Dr. R.A. Rao, General Manager, NRDC inaugurates the training programme. Seated at the dais are Shri I.R. Kumar, Programme Coordinator and Shri Ram D. Taneja. Editor NISSAT Newsletter

Management of Technology Transfer—NRDC
Training Programme

Over 30 participants—engineers, technologists, managers, medical doctors, scientists and information specialists drawn from middle and senior level positions in industry and R & D institutions attended a 5-day training programme on Management of technology transfer, patents and information systems during 27-31 March 1989 in New Delhi.

The programme was organized by the National Research Development Corporation to expose the participants to modern developments in various aspects of technology transfer and its management, assessment of technological needs, implementation and utilization. The Indian experience in achieving self reliance and technological forecasting was also examined. The importance of information, and its sources, systems and services available for S & T were also dealt with. Other topics covered included technology transfer and legal framework, foreign collaboration in India, effective methods of technology transfer and case studies in technology acquisition. Discussions on negotiations in high-tech areas, role of patents, and computers, etc. evoked keen

interest from the participants. The programme included visits to industrial units, R & D institutions and information centres in and around the capital. Another feature of the programme was preparation of group (syndicate) reports on selected topics assigned to the participants. The topics were :

Participants receive the Certificates from Shri N.K. Sharma, Managing Director, NRDC

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Status of R & D facilities and indigenous technology as envisaged in the year 2000 A.D.

Role of technology transfer as an instrument of socio-economic growth.

Role of intellectual property in transfer of technology.

Standardization as an instrument of quality control for export.

Role of technological information as envisaged in the year 2000 A.D.

Dr. R.A. Rao, General Manager, NRDC, while inaugurating the programme, emphasized the importance of the course content and the key role of NRDC in promoting technological self-reliance for through its various programmes during the last 30-35 years. Shri Ram D. Taneja, Editor, NISSAT Newsletter underlined the importance of training programmes as a means of continuing education so urgently needed in this high-tech era. He also stressed the need for acquiring communication skills by *entrepreneurs and technocrats to achieve success in* management of the enterprise. He referred to the programmes organized by Society for Information Science in this area.

Shri I.R. Kumar, the programme coordinator while proposing the vote of thanks, expressed his happiness at the encouraging response of participants and hoped that the programme will answer their needs and help them in letters management of technology transfer.

The Asiatic Society : Panel Discussion

A panel discussion on the Asiatic Society and Asiatic Researches was organized by the India International Centre on January 5, 1989. The speakers included Dr. A. Rahman and Dr. Lokesh Chandra. Shri H.K. Kaul. Librarian, India International Centre moderated the discussion.

Shri Kaul gave the following statistical outline of the Asiatic Society after highlighting its role in the promotion of Indian Science, literature and linguistics. He described *that the Society had about 1.5 lakhs books most of which* were in a bad state. The Society also contained about 50,000 manuscript in twenty one languages including Greek, Burmese, Siamese, Tibetan, Chinese, Sanskrit and the Indian languages. About 30,000 manuscripts were in Sanskrit alone. The library has a staff of 215 of which only about twenty are trained in library science. The Government of India provides a grant of Rs. 1.5 crores a year to the library out of which about 68 lakhs are spent on staff alone. Although conservation of books, documents and manuscripts is carried out in the form of lamination, fumigation, restoration, di-acidification, de'amination, etc. one notices that the binding of books is less than 400 per year. One wonders how much time the binding of say one lakh books would take at the rate of 400 books per year." Mr. Kaul *also highlighted the major themes in which research was* being carried out such as 'History of Indian Science; 'South and South East-Asian Studies', 'History of Medicine' 'Languages and Linguistics', but regretted that only about 15 scholars were using the Society's research facilities every day.

Dr. A. Rahman gave a detailed account of the research *material available in the fields of Indian science and medicine* and felt that the preservation of the heritage was important.

He felt that it was also necessary to look deep into the proceedings of the Asiatic Society to find out the changes in the policies of the British Government from time to time. He also compared the Asiatic Society with the Roorkee University and noticed that both these libraries contained *rich and rare material on the history of Indian science and* technology.

Dr. Lokesh Chandra gave a chronological account of the growth of the Asiatic Society *right from the time William* Jones established the society in 1784 to the present and highlighted the landmarks that reflected the major contributions Asiatic Society made to the promotion of *Indian thought, literature, religion, science and linguistics.* He felt that the Society was not only of national importance but it had made contributions at the international level as well. Its treasures and resources in the form of manuscripts, books, and objects, coins, etc. revealed the rich Asian glory and tradition. He felt that it was the duty of the present administration of the Society to preserve it for prosterity.

Recommendations—Several recommendations were made by the panelists as well as the participants. These are:

1. The Asiatic Society should be named as an institution *of national importance and its management should be under* the Central Government.

2. The Asiatic Society should during the tri-centenary *year of Calcutta be given a face lift and its activities* promoted.

3. The Asiatic Society should develop close links with international *organizations like Unesco and obtain grants for* the restoration of its resources.

4. The complete building of the Society should be airconditioned and books, manuscripts and paintings that are in a bad state should be microfilmed.

5. The Central Government should constitute a high powered Committee of historians, scientists, librarians, archaeologists, etc. to advise on a regular basis schemes and projects for promotion and proper utilisation of its resources. Members of this committee should visit the Society from time to time.

6. Each department of the Society should be run by professionals; non-professionals; who do not have enough skilled work to do at present should be utilised suitably for other jobs.

7. The period of granting permission to scholars for using the library and museum should be considerably reduced. It was noted that scholars had to wait as long as one year at times to get the permission.

CALIBNET : Computer Application to Library and Information Activities Training Programme

The INSDOC Regional Centre (Calcutta) and NISSAT organized a two-week training course during December 5-16, 1988 at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science. Over 18 professionals on the staff of various participant organizations in CALIBNET attended the course. The main *objective of the course was to provide these professionals* a exposure to computers and related aspects of networking.

Professor S.K. Sen, Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University Inaugurated the course and Professor A.K. Barua, Director, Indian Association for Cultivation of Science presided over the inaugural function. Shri S.K. Bhattacharya, Scientist-in-Charge, INSDOC welcomed the audience.

Several experts were drawn from library & information science, computer science, data communication and networking areas. Shri A. Mukhopadhyaya, Librarian, Burdwan University Library coordinated the training programme.

The participants felt that the programme generated considerable interest and appreciation of an emerging field. They also expressed the need for a refresher course involving more hands-on practice and personal approach. Shri A.K. Mitra, INSDOC Regional Centre (Calcutta) and his colleagues provided necessary support throughout the training programme.

DELNET Training Coure on Computer Applications

India International Centre, New Delhi and NISSAT organized a computer familiarization programme for DELNET participants during December 15-28, 1988.

The course was inaugurated with introductory remarks by Shri H.K. Kaul, Course Director and Convener, DELNET. There were 15 participants from 10 organizations taking part in DELNET. The faculty comprised experts from several institutions like Centre for Social Development, DESIDOC, INSDOC, National Council for Cement and Building materials and NISSAT. Though the course was successful, it was felt necessary to have some kind of refresher courses for these participants sometime later. The need for follow-up guidance for each library/trainee was also expressed.

NISSAT Access Centres for International Data Centres (NACID), Training Programme

Eight participants from 5 NACID had a two–weeks' hands-on experience, accessing databases on DIALOG, at the National Aeronautics Laboratory, Bangalore during October 3-14 1988.

Shri B. Garudadwajan, Head, NAL—Information Centre for Aeronautics, inaugurated the training programme, while Shri Balarama, Dy. Head, NAL-ICA welcomed the audience. On behalf of the Consultancy Team and Shri S.S. Murthy, Director, DESIDOC, Shri Ambrish Kumar, Scientist, DESICDOC, New Delhi proposed the vote of thanks.

The faculty also drew experts from Library & Information Science, Hardware and Software Engineers (from Blue Star Ltd., Bangalore and WIE, Pune). Apart from the theoretical considerations of Information Storage and Retrieval, the trainees also had to install, test and run the hardware (Quantum PC; AT, WIE Message Communication Terminals using Telex at 50 Bauds) and software for accessing remote online databases on DIALOG. The Search techniques and strategies were also given attention.

The Co-Investigator of the NACID Project, Shri Ambrish Kumar reports that the course was a success in that it acheived the aim of instilling confidence in the participants to run the NACID Centres (at INSDOC *New Delhi*, NCL *Pune*, CLRI *Madras*, NAL *Bangalore*, and IACS *Calcutta*.)

The trainees would meet again after 6-8 months to exchange experiences. It was also felt that DESIDOC's association with NISSAT for the NACID Project should continue.

Workshop on Information for Industry

A three-day Workshop on "Information for Industry— Analysis of Information User's Requirements" was held at CFTRI, Mysore, during, 8-10 February 1989. The Workshop was organized by the Academy of Information Science (AIS) and co-sponsored by CFTRI and DSIR under its NISSAT Programme. Dr. M.A. Gopinath of DRTC acted as the Course Director. Dr. H.A.B. Parpia, Co-Chairman, Development Council for Food Processing Industries, Government of India, inaugurated the Workshop.

Dr. Parpia referred to the pivotal role played by information in the socio-economic transformation of society and said that information service for industry requires to cover a range of requirements like technology, machinery, marketing, building, etc. Through effective interaction between information scientist and the user, a purposive information system could be developed, he said.

The participants were exposed to various types of information needed by industry, the source of availability of such information and the need for getting constant feedback from industry. The information service activities being carried out by the National Information Centre for Food Science and Technology as well as for Machine tools were also explained and cited as examples.

The workshop also included practical demonstration of software packages developed using CDS/ISIS (Mini-Micro Version), the content of the records in the databases and the information retrieval features of the system were demonstrated to the participants.

The valedictory address was delivered by Dr. B.L. Amla, Director, CFTRI, Mysore. In his address, he stressed the importance of systematic organization of information on modern lines particularly because of the high cost of information.

NISSAT-NCB Course on Bibliometrics

The course was organised under the joint auspices of the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) and the National Centre on Bibliometrics (NCB) founded recently at Insdoc with NISSAT support, during 13-22 February, 1989. The course was held at Insdoc and was inaugurated by Dr. A. Lahiri, Director, NISSAT.

Fifteen candidates from all over India attended the course which deal't with a general introduction to bibliometrics, bibliometric laws, mathematical application in bibliometrics, determination of impact factor of periodicals, normalisation of impact factors, etc. Practical classes were also organised to teach Bradford's law, Zipf's law, Lotka's law, determination of impact factor of periodicals not covered by Science Citation Index, etc.

The response to the course has been overwhelming. In order to accommodate all the a plicants, another course is being organised during 10-19 April, 1989.

NICTAS Subject Bibliographies

The following bibliographies have been prepared and published by NICTAS recently : Cotton fibres (1984-88); Pollution Control in Textile and Allied Industries (1982-87); Bibliography on Linen (1982-87); Bibliography on Linen (1977-81). *For copies please write to Project Coordinator, NICTAS, ATIRA, Ahmadabad-380015.*

Forthcoming NISSAT-INSDOC Courses on Computer Application to Library and Information Activities : Venue INSDOC, New Delhi

Course No.	Dates
3	24 April-19 May 1989
4	26 June-21 July 1989
5	21 Aug.-15 Sept. 1989
6	6 Nov.-1 Dec 1989
7	18 Dec. 1989 12 June 1990
8	5 Feb. 1990 2 March 1990

Note : Seats are available only from Course 5 onwards.

For further information, please contact Shri B.K. Sen, Course Coordinator, INSDOC, 14 Satsang Vihar Marg, New Delhi-110067.

ISO and IEC Move Fast on 'IT'

ISO/IEC cooperation has achieved rapid results in responding to the urgent need for information technology (IT) documents for international application. Within a short period of its establishment, the ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee on Information Technology (ISO/IEC JTC I) has issued three documents as joint ISO/IEC publications— one International Standard and two technical reports. ISO/ IEC JTC 1 was set up in 1987 to coordinate the development of basic and generic IT standards. Its structure allows a new and more coherently managed concentration on standards valid for multiple applications, such as OSI (Open Systems Interconnection) and its related protocols.

The new standard, ISO/IEC 8859-5, defines a set of 191 graphic characters identified as the Latin/Cyrillic alphabet, and specifies the coded representation of each of these characters by means of a single 8-bit byte. The set of characters is for use in data and text processing applications and may also be used for information interchange.

One of the new technical reports, ISO/IEC 9573, is a complement to 'ISO 8879 Information processing—Text and office systems—Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML). Its intended audience is mainly document type designers already familiar with the basic concepts of SGML, but requiring more tutorial information on techniques for using SGML for various applications.

The third of the new ISO/IEC publications is another technical report, ISO/IEC 9973.

It specifies procedures to be followed in preparing, maintaining and publishing a register of names and meanings that are assigned to graphical items.

Non-generic IT work relating to specific application requirements, such as banking, industrial automation and process control, and programmable measuring instruments is continuing in separate ISO and IEC Committees

TEXINCON

The National Information Centre for Textile and Allied Subjects (NICTAS) at ATIRA has started publishing since January 1989 a quarterly journal under the above title. NICTAS is one of the sectoral information Centres under NISSAT. The inaugural issue was released by Dr. Abid Hussain, Member, Planning Commission at the 30th Joint Technological Conference at ATIRA last February.

TEXINCON, which stands for Textile Information Condensed, covers all textile fibres including cotton, coir, jute, wool, polyester, etc. The content is so organized that each issue carries a lead article by a specialist in a significant area followed by summary presentations gathered from material published in primary and secondary sources.

The lead article in the inaugural issue (Vol. 1, No. 1, January 1989) is titled An overview of fibres, cotton and textiles with special reference to India by Dr. T. Radhakrishnan, Chairman NICTAS. Besides there are 225 entries under 'Summary presentations'. A keyword index is also included to aid quick retrieval of information on a certain subject.

The journal carries an annual subscription of Rs. 100 (plus Rs. 25 on account of packing and postage). Its aim is to carry timely information for all those connected with textiles. We wish the new venture all suceess in its mission.

Dr. Abid Hussain, Member, Planning Commission releasing the inaugural issue of TEXINCON.

SIS Office Bearers

For the year 1989, the following office bearers have been elected by the Society for Information Science, New Delhi. *President* Shri S. Nagarajan; *Vice-Presidents,* Dr. S. Mallick and Shri Ved Bhushan Kochar, *Secretary,* Shri P.C. Bose; *Joint Secretary,* Shri Kuldip Chand; *Treasurer,* Shri H C Jain.

Shri P.C. Bose, the new Secretary, took over in January 1989 along with other office bearers.

S & T Development in India : UNDP to Contribute $3 Million.

UNDP will help India advance its science and technology development by funding 600 expatriate consultants to return on short-term assignments through the Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) initiative. The consultants will provide assistance in various technical fields, including robotics and industrial automation, telecommunications, dryland farming and biotechnology. Proposed UNDP contribution: $3 million for consultants and support costs. Executed by UNDP/OPS and implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

CAD, CAM, Robotics and Factories of the Future

To bring together researchers and practitioner interested in the multi-disciplinary fields of design and productivity aspects of advanced manufacturing systems involving CAD, CAE, CIM, etc. to discuss latest advancements and to address productivity enhancement issues, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, is organizing an international conference during 19-22 Dec., 1989.

Conference registration fee is Rs. 3500 or US $250. (Rs. 1500/- for delegates from educational institutes funded by Government of India or State Government in India).

Enquiries about the conference may be addressed to: Prof. K.K. Pujara, Executive Chairman, INCARF 1989, c/o Mechanical Engineering Department, IIT Delhi, N. Delhi-110016.

Delhi Study Circle

At the joint study circle meeting held on 10th February 1989 at the Central Secretariat Library, Shri Shailendra

Kumar from INSDOC delivered a talk on "Applications of a software package mini-micro CDS/ISIS in libraries and information centres". He discussed the set of programmes of CDS/ISIS. Creation of database on floppy using microcomputer was explained. Various applications of a software package at INSDOC and other libraries were reported.

At the joint study circle meeting held on 13th January, 1989 at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, a panel discussion took place on "Information Needs of Journalists". Professor Krishan Kumar acted as the chairman and speakers included Shri B.K. Prasad and Shri B.K. Sen. Shri Prasad presented a paper on the occasion. About 30 participants took part in the lively discussion that followed.

Scientists as Managers

The managers of science and technology projects in developing countries should logically be scientific and technical people themselves. But once such men and women reach the top echelons of their fields and are called upon to manage scientific and technical projects, do they have the management skills to do the job ? Not always, it has been discovered.

As part of its pioneering efforts in differentiated management training for the public sector, DTCD's Development Administration Division has addressed this problem by developing three training modules in three main areas relevant to management skills of scientific and technical personnel: managing programmes and projects; managing organizational resources and management leadership skills.

P. G. Krishnamurty

It is with a deep sense of shock and grief that we record, as we go to press, the death in an accident of Shri P.G. Krishnamurty, Convener of the recently concluded ICBDN in New Delhi. A young and promising life thus met with a tragic end. Shri Krishnamurty was only 45.

Hardly had he come out of a most trying period of several months of working out organizational matters that culminated in staging a most successful event, namely, the International Conference on Bibliographic Databases and Networks, that death, lurking round the corner, as it were, snuffed out the precious life.

We extend our sincere condolences to the bereaved family and collegues in DESIDOC. Shri Krishnamurty is survived by his wife and two sons.

INVENTORY OF INDIAN DATABASES

NISSAT is presently preparing an inventory of Indian databases/indexing & abstracting services. You could help us in this endeavour by providing the following information :

Your Institutional Title
and Address

Type of Institution

Name of Database

or

Title of the I & A publication

Type of Database

Reference

Referral

Numeric/(statistical)

Factual

Subject Area

Producer/Publisher
Name & Address

Physical form :

Print

Machine readable

Condition of Access/Supply

☐ Restricted   Fee-based ☐

☐ Public   Free   ☐

Content : Subject   :

Coverage :

Scope   :

Language :

Date of Origin

Updating Frequency

Standards followed

Input format :   Bibliographic

Software used :   Standards :

Any other information :

Please include a sample printout.

Kindly send the information in the above format by 15 May 1989 to enable us to prepare the Inventory. Communications may be addressed to Director, NISSAT (DSIR), Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110 016.