

# NISSAT

NEWSLETTER

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OCT.--DEC., 1989

## Editorial Committee

Dr. A. Lahiri  
Director (NISSAT)  
Dept. of Scientific & Industrial Research  
New Delhi-110016.

Smt. S. Ravindran  
Dept. of Scientific & Industrial Research  
New Delhi-110016.

Shri B.G. Sunder Singh  
Dept. of Scientific & Industrial Research  
New Delhi-110016.

Shri S. Nagarajan  
Society for Information Science  
c/o PID, New Delhi-110012.

Shri P.C. Bose, Secretary  
Society for Information Science  
c/o ARIC, New Delhi-110012.

Shri R.N. Sharma  
Society for Information Science  
c/o PID, New Delhi-110012.

Editor : Ram D. Taneja

Editorial Office : S-371, Greater Kailash-I,  
New Delhi-110048.

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NISSAT Newsletter, published quarterly, is the official organ of NISSAT, and is aimed at disseminating information concerning programmes, activities and achievements of NISSAT as also of the various centres functioning under it. Additionally, it attempts to project major developments in the field of information science at national and international levels.

Communications concerning the Newsletter may be addressed to Dr. A. Lahiri, Director (NISSAT), Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Government of India, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016. Material published in the Newsletter can be reproduced with due acknowledgement to the source.

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## Oh ! VIKRAM

A cursory look at the status of the telecommunications system is enough to dampen the spirit of network development in the country, although we have now two data networks namely, NICNET and INDONET. However, NICNET essentially supports MIS requirement of government departments and agencies. Universities, research institutions, etc. are autonomous bodies governed by a society structure. They may be fully government supported as in the case of CSIR laboratories, yet they do not directly qualify to make a claim on NICNET facilities (except in stray instances). Till such time the huge task of networking of all districts in India is completed, NIC may not entertain any request for a change in priorities.

Next comes the question of INDONET which could be utilized by any, body "ready to pay for its services". The qualifying desideratum is to be noted. May be the the academic and research sector is well-endowed with financial resources, but as of to day it is not qualified well enough to pay for INDONET services.

If this be the situation, what would happen to ambitious projects like INFLIBNET, DESINET, CSIRNET, CALIBNET etc. etc. It seems our patient wait would have to be stretched for the advent of VIKRAM. It is now learnt that VIKRAM may not come by 1989-90; no new date is available either. Where then the small time users like NISSAT should go. How the data communication requirements of industrial and financial service sectors are going to be satisfied ? This concern was voiced by Prof Sam Pitroda while addressing an industrialists' group at a recent workshop on Business and Information Networks held at FICCI on 16 November 1989. Users in India are now a little more educated—a suggestion that ordinary dial-up facilities or leased lines be used, may not be acceptable to them. Would the Telecom Commission appreciate the difficulties of well-meaning small clients and get atleast the mini-VIKRAM off the ground !

## **NISSAT NEWSLETTER**

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## Business and Information Networks : FICCI Workshop

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The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry organized a workshop on Business and Information Networks at the Federation House, New Delhi on 16 November 1989. The participants included leading telecom experts, representatives of network service companies, equipment manufacturers and various user groups. The intention was to have an interaction among different interest groups so as to identify the steps necessary to usher in the information age in the country.

Specifically, the discussions centred round aspects like facilities needed to create nationwide management information systems, develop economic, commercial and technical databases, cost-effective utilization of international value-added services and business information databases.

Shri Raunag Singh, President FICCI while welcoming the participants said that with the digitalization of the network, setting up of international gateway and the proposed commissioning of the public data network, the country was well-poised for exploiting the full benefits of the information revolution. "What is of concern is time and costs. The network services needed to be made available as fast as possible. Equally important would be to price these services at reasonable levels," he added.

Shri H.V. Goenka, Chairman Telecommunications Subcommittee, FICCI in his theme address drew attention to the major issues to be tackled to hasten the pace of development and modernization of Indian telecommunication industry. He said it would not be very difficult to evolve an appropriate policy package for telecom sector. As a first step private networks and newer types of services for privatisation should be considered. The policy package must be such that it encourages private sector participation. The leased circuits must bear reasonable tariffs. Interconnection with public network must be permitted. There should be no restriction on data communication and switching. It was also important to close the technology gap and take a lead. R & D efforts, therefore, had to be concen-

trated on ISDN services. The only way to overtake the rest of the world was to work for a quantum jump and not just follow the reinvention route.

In his thought-provoking keynote address Prof Sam Pitroda Chairman Telecom Commission made a strong plea for evolving a proper information culture in the country. The key elements for this are openness of information and access to sources of information. Prof. Pitroda expressed confidence that the telecom network in India would become highly efficient and match up to international standards in five years time.

Prof. Pitroda gave broad details of the on going programme of the Government about restructuring of the telecom sector. He revealed that by 1990, the Telecom Commission would consolidate 500 documents prepared by different groups and committees which spell out strategies to be pursued to revitalise the telecom sector. These strategies would be implemented in a phased manner by 1990. Simplification of administrative procedures, an innovative labour package, plan of action for technology, strategies for improving customer service retraining of labour with stress on improving productivity will be the major components of the initiatives proposed to be taken.

On behalf of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam, its Chairman Shri M.P. Shukla and Chief General Manager, Shri H.C. Khanna gave vital details pertaining to plans for immediate future.

A highly informative presentation on the INDONET system was given by Shri Mahendru of CMC. The afternoon session was devoted exclusively to demonstration of INDONET and the capability it provides to access international databases.

The open discussion was notable for a large number of pragmatic suggestions made by representatives of industry.

R.N. Sharma

## List of Organisations Using CD-ROM System in India

	Databases
1. Bhaba Atomic Research Centre, Bombay 400 085	INIS Computer Diffraction
2. Planning Commission (Library), Govt. of India, Yojana Bhavan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi 110 001	Database not specified (but acquired CD-ROM already)
3. National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (DST), Gariahat Road, Calcutta 700 019	National Atlas of India (Indigenous production)
4. British Council, AIFACS Building, Rafi Marg, New Delhi 110 001	Whitakar's Book bank
5. International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad	Not specified
6. National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa 403 004	Acquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)
7. INSDOC, New Mehrauli, Road, New Institutional Area, New Delhi 110 067	Science Citation Index
8. National Aeronautical Laboratory Information Centre for Aeronautics, Kodihalli, Bangalore 560 017	Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA)

Source : Information collected through a questionnaire sent out by NAL, Bangalore to various organizations in India. Valid as of August 1989.

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### Experts and Users Group Meeting on Micro and Vax Version of CDS/ISIS

NISSAT is organising jointly with UNESCO and CMTI a one-week experts and users group meeting cum workshop on the micro and vax version of CDS/ISIS during 8-12 Jan. at CMTI, Bangalore.

The objectives of the workshop are :

- (i) to exchange experience and discuss problems among ISIS users in the country,
- (ii) to introduce new features of Micro CDS/ISIS version 2.3 to ISIS users,
- (iii) to introduce new features and operation of vax version of CDS/ISIS to vax users in the country,
- (iv) to discuss ways of effective user support systems at national level, and
- (v) to discuss future developments for Micro ISIS.

Participation in the workshop is on invitation basis. Only those actually familiar with the software package, with enough practice in its use have been invited to participate.

Each participant will give a presentation on his/her experience with ISIS and problem encountered in using ISIS.

Mr. G. del Bigio, developer of the package will be the main Resource person.

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## Common Communication Format : New Phase in Development

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To provide a more flexible format that could be applied equally to libraries and databases of all types and sizes, Unesco set up an Ad-Hoc Group on the Common Communication Format. Their major goal was to produce a method of organizing bibliographic descriptions which could be exchanged between institutions. In addition, the format was designed to act as a bridge between databases produced in different internal formats. Also it was hoped that the CCF would be useful as a guide for the

The need for standards to facilitate exchange of information has long been a subject of great concern in the information world. For more than a decade, work has progressed towards developing an international exchange format which is capable of handling records produced by all sectors of the information community. This includes librarians, documentalists, database designers, and new types of information systems managers whose work could not exist until computers were applied to information handling.

Several exchange formats have been developed for specific kinds of bibliographic applications. In the library community, many countries and regions have created MARC (Machine-Readable Cataloguing) formats. In the field of scientific and technical information there have been formats (such as ISDS, AGRIS, and INIS) designed for individual information networks and for general use (such as the UNISIST Reference Manual). Many librarians have been able to exchange bibliographic records because their use of common cataloguing rules make it possible for them to use common formats, the MARC formats. But managers of small libraries, scientific and technical documentation centre, and other kinds of information systems have found themselves unable to use the MARC formats, which seem to be best suited to larger institutions.

A major landmark was reached in 1984, when the first edition of the Common Communication Format document was published by Unesco (PGI-84/WS/4). It was immediately adopted by a few institutions; it became the foundation of the United Nations' UNBIS system, used at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in New York and in Geneva, and of the FORMEX format used by the European Economic Community's Office of Official Publications. These users, and other interested parties who were planning to use the new format, began to offer suggestions for refining the CCF and enlarging its list of fields.

establishment of an internal format for an individual institution's own records.

In order to assist in the sharing of information about the format, Unesco/PGI organized a meeting at the International Bureau of Education in Geneva recently. Participants were CCF users from 16 countries. This meeting marked the start of a new and important phase in the development of the CCF.

The publication of the second edition in 1988 (PGI-88/WS/2) was greeted positively by information specialists in many countries. Working quickly on the basis of the new format document, many agencies have found the CCF useful in their bibliographic control work.

### Applications

It was reported that the CCF is being applied as a national standard format for exchange in China, Colombia and Yugoslavia. In Africa, the Arab region, Europe, the francophone countries, Latin America, it forms the basis for international information systems aimed at sharing bibliographic information. It is being used with microcomputers, minicomputers and mainframe computers, with various kinds of software packages, both locally-produced and centrally distributed.

The papers presented at the meeting show that many users are especially interested in two computer-related topics: the use of the CCF with Mini-Micro CDS/ISIS and the conversion of UNIMARC records to CCF.

### Computer Software and Format Conversion

Discussion made clear that the CCF is designed as an international standard, and that local effort must be made to adapt it to local needs. This means that an information system must have the means to transfer data between its internal format and the CCF exchange format. Of course, the closer a local format is to the exchange format, the easier this process will be. But it has never been expected that the CCF would serve without modification as a local implementation format.

When computer software used to manage the database is, for any reason, unable to make use

of certain features of the format, methods must be devised to modify the records to make them suitable for handling by the software.

Mini-Micro CDS/ISIS version 2.3 specifically allows the five-digit tags which are used by the CCF, and the programme's ability to accept extensions produced in its CDS/ISIS PASCAL programming language give it the flexibility to handle CCF records in a somewhat modified form.

The use of the CCF with the MINISIS software was also discussed, and the hope was expressed that the MINISIS Users Group be kept aware of CCF activities.

The subject of format conversion was raised by a number of speakers, concerned with conversion of records from UNIMARC to CCF. Examination of the work of conversion reveals that the operation must be very complex if it is to accommodate every possible permutation of the UNIMARC format which can occur. An additional complication is that there are various ways of converting UNIMARC data elements to CCF elements depending on local user needs.

#### **Extension of the Format**

It was apparent from the papers that a number of information centres have already begun to use the CCF for bibliographic materials not covered by the format, such as patents, standard documents, and cartographic materials. It is also being used for non-bibliographic materials, although there are no provisions within the CCF specifically designed to accommodate this kind of referral materials, including persons, institutions, projects, databases, events, equipment and computer software.

Discussions indicated a great deal of interest in this subject and especially in the use of the

CCF for integrated databases which combine in a single file descriptions of several kinds of materials. The participants agreed that the CCF should be extended to cover non-bibliographic materials and information handled by specialized libraries and documentation centres including factual data and development projects.

#### **Training and Promotion**

It is important to note that training was seen as being primarily the responsibility of national agencies and user institutions. As regards Unesco's contribution in this field, the draft of a PGI publication Implementation Notes for CCF was accepted as a useful step for systems designers who wish to adopt the format as an exchange standard or adapt it for internal use.

It has been apparent that the developers of new information systems, many of whom have little or no formal training in database management, have experienced difficulty in designing rules and standards for description, data entry procedures, and internal formats based on the CCF. It is evident that some general assistance is needed in these areas, even though the details of each application must be fitted to the needs of the individual system and its users.

Existing implementation manuals based on the CCF (such as UNBIS, FORMEX and IDIN) could be used as basic materials to help train database designers in the use of CCF.

As a result of this meeting, the format will again be refined and expanded to meet the needs of its users and of those who have just begun to consider using it. On the advice of the meeting's participants, Unesco is now directing its efforts to making the CCF even more useful to the information community.

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## **AI and Simulation : Symposium, 2-3 February 1990**

Under the auspices of the Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India, a National Symposium on Artificial Intelligence and Simulation is being organized during 2-3 February 1990 at PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore.

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The aim of the Symposium is to bring together professionals from various universities, industrial houses and R & D institutions to discuss the state-of-the-art technology and applications in the field.

Papers are invited on AI, Expert Systems. Natural language processing and simulation.

The last date of registration is 8 January 1990. Registration fee : from industries Rs. 700; from educational institutions and R & D organizations Rs. 500; from students Rs. 200.

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## Library and Information Science Periodicals in India : A Critical Study

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The number of Library and Information Science Periodicals currently published in India is placed at around 55. How many of them appear regularly on schedule? What kind of topics do they cover and what is their relevance in the context of the new information scene in this country? And what can be done to bring about a qualitative improvement in the situation? These are some of the questions sought to be answered in a study just completed by the Society for Information

The study relates to the period 1983-88 since earlier studies made by different authors covered the period up to 1982. It is noted that the number of library and information science journals currently published (55 titles) in a big country like India may not be considered extraordinary in view of the rapid developments in information technology now taking place. What mattered, however, was the quality of the publications which would naturally depend on the literature they published.

### Parameters Considered

With a view to making an objective and in-depth appraisal, the study considered the following parameters: frequency and timeliness (regularity) of publications, scope and coverage, innovative ideas, analytical methods, trends in IT, areas for further research, standardization techniques; reference to original papers, institutional, individual and collective approach, media of communication depending upon the clientele.

The periodicals examined have been classified as follows: journals of academic value (17), journals of professional interest (21), journals useful of planners and policy makers (5), journals of interest to the students community (5), periodicals of general interest (5). Annotations for each periodical include the publisher, date of publication, objectives, nature of content, periodicity, subscription, etc. Critical comments are offered wherever possible, to enhance the utility and information value of the journal.

### Findings

The study notes that there is lack of coordination among the publishers as regards approach towards subject specialisation; they seem to function in isolation. A coordinated and integrated approach is called for, particularly in the multidisciplinary and multilingual environment obtaining in India.

Commenting on the timeline for publication of the periodicals, it is noted that publication delays seem to be endemic in this area only 8 of the 55 journals appear on time. This is a matter which has to be viewed with concern if publishers

Science at the instance of the National Information System for Science and Technology, (NISSAT), DSIR.

Unlike previous studies on the subject which were quantitative in character, the present study lays stress on the range and quality papers published and the steps that could be taken to raise the standard of periodical publications in the area of library and information science—Highlights,

are to fulfil their obligations to their subscribers and the readership.

### Recommendations

- 1) For proper monitoring and coordination the existing journals may be registered with the DSIR (NISSAT).
- 2) Publishers should strictly follow a referencing system for scrutiny of papers received for publication in order to ensure their quality. At present this practice is not being followed except by one or two periodicals.
- 3) Each journal should have an expert editorial committee to oversee its operations. A full editor is necessary to properly look after editorial and managerial functions.
- 4) In citation of references, prescribed national standards should be followed.
- 5) To avoid duplication of efforts, a pilot fascicle of the proposed journal may be sent to a standing committee of experts of NISSAT for clearance before launching the publication.
- 6) In the case of language periodicals, adequate translation facilities may be organized so as to ensure an accurate presentation of concepts and ideas in the language concerned.
- 7) As the apex body for networking in the area of S & T information, NISSAT is in a position to offer guidance regarding the latest trends in information technology and networking system being planned for the country. This resource should be utilized to the maximum for the benefit of information handlers and processors.
- 8) One of the main reasons for discontinuance of journals (more than 40 have been dropped in the last 10 years or so) has been paucity of financial resources DSIR may consider providing support to the concerned publishing agencies to the extent possible.
- 9) The scope of library and information science periodicals may be enlarged to include articles of interest on reprography, technical communication, computer handling and software packages.

## **NISSAT—MKU Workshop on information Analysis and Consolidation**

A workshop on Information Analysis and Consolidation is proposed to be held during 5-10 February, 1990 in the Department of Library and Information Science, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai.

The objective of the workshop is to develop skills in planning, designing and preparing information consolidation products.

The specific objective of the workshop is to help the participants to develop their knowledge and skills in applying technique and tools to produce texts of products of information analysis and consolidation. This would help to recognise all elements pertaining to information analysis and consolidation and to produce a report such as state-of-art report or trend report or profiles useful to the respective organisation.

The course will cover :

1. Information consolidation : Overview
2. Framework for Information Consolidation
3. Methodology for Information Consolidation
4. Steps in the Preparation and Production of IC products
5. *Planning and Management of Information Consolidation Units*

For further details kindly contact : Dr. D. Chandran, Professor and Head, Dept. of Library and Information Science, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai.

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## **NISSAT Newsletter**

**Wishes Its Readers**

**Season's Greetings and Best Wishes**

**for a**

*Happy New Year*

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## Technical Communication : Coimbatore Training Course

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The Society for Information Science conducted yet another of its courses from 18 to 20 Sept. 1989. The Venue was the Sugarcane Breeding Institute Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) and the subject 'Technical Communication'. The Course was co-sponsored by NISSAT (DSIR), New Delhi.

Of the 21 participants who had registered for the Course, 17 actually attended. Among these were senior and middle level scientists, university teachers, and management, PR and information professionals. Almost half of these attending belonged to the discipline of agriculture.

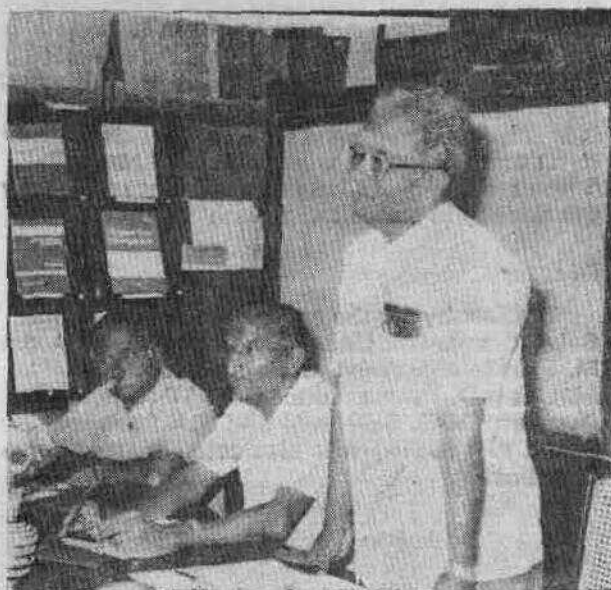
### Inauguration

The course was inaugurated by Dr. N. Shanmugam, Director, Extension Education, TNAU who expressed his pleasure at the opportunity provided to scientists to hone their writing and communication skills more vigorously. Scientific communication had undergone a rapid change over the years and presently spanned experiences in different sciences. Some important questions involved were the objective of communication, the result sought to be achieved and writing for different media and different audience levels. Besides, a good communicator had to be good listener too so as to get the right feedback. In management also, communication played an important part. The message had to be clear and to the point without any vacillation or dilution. Only then would it be possible to make correct decisions. Dr Shanmugam expressed the hope that participants would greatly benefit from the course and wished that more such opportunities would be made available to scientists periodically to help make them better writers and Communicators.

### Course Content

The course content included such topics as basics of effective communication, audience analysis and adaptation, information sources, elements of primary communication, data presentation, referencing and indexing, consolidation of information, database creation and software development, readability yardsticks, etc. To give practical orientation to the instruction imparted, some tutorials were also conducted.

A visit to the Computer Centre of TNAU was arranged. The use of Computerised Systems in revising texts and getting output in various modes was lucidly demonstrated and explained by Shri M. Shankarnarayana, Systems



Dr. N. Shanmugam Director, Extension Education TNAU, Coimbatore inaugurates the Course

Analyst and Head of the Computer Centre. He also Spoke on database creation and software development.

### Valedictory Function

Chaired by Dr. K. Mohan Naidu Director, Sugarcane Breeding Institute, the session was the culmination of three days of intensive instruction leading to the award of Certificates to the Course to the participants. Dr. Naidu emphasized the need for concerted efforts to instruct scientists on how to organize the data available to them so as to effectively communicate and disseminate information to the target audience. He expressed appreciation of the range and relevance of course material made available to the participants.

Proposing a vote of thanks, Shri R.N. Sharma, the Course Coordinator, expressed on behalf of the Society for Information Science and NISSAT deep gratitude and appreciation to Dr Mohan Naidu, the Director of the Institute for the excellent arrangements made for comfortable stay of the Faculty as well as the participants. His personal attention to the matter despite his preoccupation with the Experts Research Group Meetings going on alongside went a long way in making the programme a great success. Shri Sharma also expressed appreciation for the efforts of Shri N. Subramanian,

Officer-in-charge, Library, Sugercane Breeding Institute for looking into all various organizational and other matters pertaining to the Course.

### Feedback

At the Valedictory function, the representatives of the participants expressed great satisfaction at the usefulness of the course. They described the programme as very useful and sufficiently educative and informative. Some other comments about designing the course content like placing less emphasis on library aspects and extension of duration to at least a week were also made. These are being studied for appropriate action by the Society in consultation with NISSAT.

### Faculty

The faculty for the course comprised Shri K. Balasubramanian, University Librarian TNAU, Shri M. Shankaranarayana, Computer Centre TNAU, Shri Ram D. Taneja, Editor NISSAT Newsletter (formerly DOG, BSI), and Shri R.N Sharma Former Editor, PID (CSIR) who also acted as the Course Coordinator.



Dr. K. Mohan Naidu Director Sugercane Breeding Institute delivering the Valedictory address



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## CD-ROM Goes Rap

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*Back in 1985, you were sure to be hip  
If you had "640 megabytes" on your lips*

*It was cool to know a CD-ROM disc capacity  
But if you knew "constant linear velocity"*

*They'd be standing in the aisles to hear you go on  
About the yellow book and how it all evolved  
from a song*

*Done by digital recording on a standard compact  
disc  
If you whispered "laser diode" then they knew  
you were slick*

*Then you mentioned pits and lands and how  
the masters were created  
and how for next to nothing all those discs  
were replicated*

*Man, technology was it not many years ago  
Maybe' cause nobody had anything else to show*

*But the boys in Holland thought this wasn't  
nearly enough  
So they came to Microsoft to show this CD-I stuff*

*And instead of '86 being the year of disc diffusion  
It was the year of market chaos and user confusion*

*Then Philips propagandized us with CD-I News  
But we just got a bad case of uncertainty blues*

*Since the market was stalled and producers were  
battered  
We met around the world to make the High sierra  
standard*

*Then a funny thing happened when the vendors  
came together  
These got some understanding and began to feel  
much better*

*So they make a few products—52 commercial  
titles  
And CD-ROM publishers became our idols*

*Then DVI was introduced in 1987  
It could become the stairway to consumer market  
heaven*

*The reason isn't that it is American made  
It offers motion video on a standard PC stage*

*And when the dust settled, one issue became clear  
Publication and not high tech was what we longed  
to hear*

*On BRS, On Dataware, On Knowledge Set and  
Fulcrum!  
On Bowker, Micremadex. On IAC and Wilson!*

*On Library Corp, On Microsoft, on Datext and IPSO  
On Hoppenstedt, On Pergamon, Silver Platter,  
Grolier!*

*On McGraw-Hill, On Nynex Dialog and OCLC!  
On Cambridge, Lotus, Disclosure, and Oxford  
University!*

*So on and on they came 'til by the end of '88  
Commercial titles in print were 328*

*The publishers made money and hardware vendors,  
too  
The business grossed 400 million dollars revenue*

*The inhouse sector certainly contributed its share  
Nearly half the 170,000 installed base is theirs*

*Though pits and lands gave way to multimedia  
and networks  
For sure high tech is not the way to make a  
CD-ROM work*

*A careful blend of content and intuitive interfaces  
Marketing, sales and support are the keys in this  
biz*

*Successful firms have patience and have done a  
lot of research  
Market knowledge is the way to get to eat your  
desert*

*Now you say you think you want to sell your  
products overseas  
But you're afraid to catch some foreign balance  
sheet disease*

*Don't worry, be happy, its an opportunity  
If your stuff sells in the Far East or the E.E.C.*

*Depending on the volume usage and the kind of  
market  
You have to do translation to attract a foreign  
target*

*For not 'til 1992 in Europe think of business  
For foreign trade of products, stocks, commodities  
and service*

*But medicine and science are quite international  
With geography and mapping also likely to do well*

*Non-U.S. sales CD-ROM are one-fifth worldwide  
totals  
You'd think that it would interest a global info*

*So come on Maxwell, Murdoch, and Martin Davis,  
too  
This is a great business, have we got a deal for  
you*

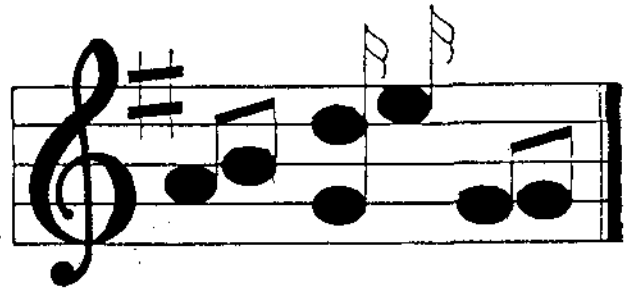
*You can do your own direct sales for a high-end  
database  
Or telemarketing and mail with free trials by the  
case*

*For libraries, try Faxon for third party distribution  
But overseas its sure to be Euro-CD Diffusion*

*Your final option is to give a data license out  
Try Lotus, Silver Platter, Dialog Microsoft*

*And if that's not enough, my friends, to make you  
move your  
No obsolete technology, CD's are sure to last*

*Just one more thing I'd like to add, before I close  
this gig  
Info Tech is the source for all these facts-you dig?*



*(Courtesy : Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok)*

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## **SIS Annual Convention and Conference 18-20 January 1990 NIO, GOA**

The Society for Information Science will be holding its Ninth Annual Convention and Conference at National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa during 18-20 January, 1990. The theme of the Conference is, Local Area Network (LAN) : its significance in Information system. The theme will be discussed under the following sessions :

1. Nucleus for a LAN—how to build it up, its requisite structures.
2. Role of LAN in integrated information system.
3. Standardization formats for a Local Network.
4. Linkages at regional and national levels—*menu and modus operandi*
5. Case Studies

Papers are invited from participants on any of the above topics for presentation at the conference. MSS. may be sent well in advance alongwith the registration fee. The registration fee for Members is Rs. 300 and Non-members Rs. 400. Last date with late fees of Rs. 50/- is 31 December, 1989.

For further details, please contact : The Secretary, Society for Information Science, PID Building, Hillside Road, New Delhi-110012.

## CDS/ISIS (Ver. 2.3 Software)—List of Users in India

(As on 31 Aug, 1989)

Chinnappa, S. (Ms)  
Project Coordinator  
ICMR-NIC Centre for Biomedical  
Information  
A-Block CGO Complex,  
Lodi Road  
New Delhi-110003

Narayanan, K.  
Registrar  
Indira Gandhi Nehru Open  
University Library  
C-4/17, S.D.A.  
New Delhi-110016

Srinivasan, T.R.  
National Institute of Cement and  
Building Materials  
M-10, South Extension Part II,  
New Delhi-110049

Singh, R.S.  
Scientist E II & Area Coordinator  
National Chemical Laboratory  
NICHEM  
Pune-411008  
Maharashtra

Ramaswamy, C.  
Manager  
Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd  
Jamshedpur-831004

Kappor, S.K.  
Sr. Librarian  
Geological Survey of India  
PID, 29 Jawaharlal Nehru Road  
Calcutta-700016  
West Bengal

Dasgupta, P. (Dr.) for  
Calcutta region  
Divisional Manager (Systems)  
CMC Ltd.  
3, Sansad Marg  
New Delhi-110001

Bose, P.C.  
Information System Officer  
Indian Council of Agricultural  
Research  
Agricultural Research Information  
Centre,  
Krishi Anusandhan Bhavan, Pusa  
New Delhi-110012

Raikar, M.G.  
Librarian  
Indira Gandhi Institute of  
Development Research  
Santosh Nagar, Goregaon (E)  
Bombay-400065  
Maharashtra

Joshi, N.R.  
Director  
Water and Land Management  
Institute  
Post Box No. 304  
Aurangabad-431005

Chatterji, D. (Prof)  
Professor-in-charge  
Visva Bharati  
Ganitra Sadana, Shanti Niketan  
Calcutta-731235  
West Bengal

Bhattacharyya, D. (Dr.)  
Head  
DRTC  
8th Mile, R V College  
P.O., Mysore Road  
Bangalore-560059  
Karnataka

Dorothy, RJM  
Acting Principal  
Jesus & Mary College  
University of Delhi,  
Chanakyapuri  
New Delhi-110021  
Delhi

Saraswati Bhattacharyya  
CMC Ltd.  
47, Community Centre  
Basant Lok  
New Delhi-110011

Arora, Jagdish  
Documentation Officer  
National Institute of Immunology  
Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg  
New Delhi-110067

Janak Raj  
Librarian  
Thapar Institute of  
Engineering & Technology  
Deemed University  
Patiala-147001  
Punjab

Gupta, S. K.  
Indian Institute of Technology  
Dept. of Applied Mechanics,  
Hauz Khas  
New Delhi-110016

Ramani, S. (Dr.)  
Director  
National Institute for Training  
in Industrial Engg. (NITIE)  
Bombay-400087  
Maharashtra

Director  
Ministry of Water Resources  
CSMRS, Outer Ring Road  
New Delhi-110016

Khosla, Ashok (Dr.)  
Head  
Society for Development  
Alternatives  
B-32, Institutional Area,  
New Mehrauli Road  
New Delhi-110016

Chatterji, G.  
UNIDO International Centre  
for Genetic Engg.  
& Biotechnology  
New Delhi-110003

Kashyap, M.M.  
Reader  
University of Delhi  
Dept. of Library & Information  
Science, Tutorial Building  
(2nd floor)  
Delhi-110007

Rastogi, R.G.  
Director  
Indian Institute of Geomagnetism  
Dr. Nanabhoy Moos Marg,  
Colaba  
Bombay-400035  
Maharashtra

Tiwari, V. R.  
Librarian  
Indian Farmers Fertiliser  
Cooperative Ltd.  
Nehru Place  
New Delhi-110019



Ahuja, Mina (Ms)  
Registrar of Copyright  
Min. of Human Resource  
Development  
B. P. & Copyright Divn.,  
Department of Education  
New Delhi-110001

Parekh, H.S. (Ms)  
SNDT  
1/Nathibai Thackersey Road  
Bombay-400020  
Maharashtra

Chattopadhyay, Amit Kr.  
Information Scientist  
Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd.  
Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar,  
Distt Ropar-160055  
Punjab

Reddy, S. H. K.  
Librarian  
National Institute for Mentally  
Handicapped NIMH,  
Manovikas Nagar,  
P.O. Bowenpally  
Secunderabad-500011

Shamber, C.P.S.  
Team Commander (Pub)  
National Security Guard  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
B-Block Paryavaran Bhavan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road  
New Delhi-110003

Ravindran, K.  
Librarian  
Forest Research Institute  
Peechi  
Trichur-680653  
Kerala

Gowtham, M.S.  
Sr Doc. Officer  
National Institute of Health  
& Family Welfare  
National Documentation Centre,  
New Mehrauli Road  
New Delhi-110067

14 Nanda, V.B.  
Librarian  
Jawahar Lal Nehru University  
Central Library  
New Delhi-110067

Kaul, O.N.  
Executive Secretary  
Indian National Science Academy  
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,  
New Delhi-110002

Ranganath, K.A.  
Area Co-ordinator  
Central Food Technological  
Research Institute  
Library & Documentation/  
NICFOS  
Mysore-570013  
Karnataka

Londhe, R.L.  
DRDO Computer Centre  
Armament Post, Pushan  
Pune-411021

Prasad B.K.  
Librarian  
Indian Institute of Mass  
Communication  
Shaheed Jit Singh Marg  
New Delhi-110067

Misra, K.N.  
Dy. Manager  
Indian Oil Corporation  
Lodi Road  
New Delhi-110003

Prakash, B. Hadagali  
Gas Authority of India  
5th Floor, Hotel Samrat,  
Chanakyapuri  
New Delhi-110021

Banerjee, D.N. (Dr.)  
Librarian  
Indian Institute of Technology  
Kharagpur-721302

Maheswari, B.L. (Dr.)  
Director  
Centre for Organisation  
Development  
Nageena, Road No.  
Banjara Hills  
Hyderabad-500034  
Andhra Pradesh

Sushama Arora  
Librarian  
Tata Consultancy Services  
Gulab Bhavan (Rear Block)  
4th Floor  
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg  
New Delhi-110002

Ashwani Kumar, Katna  
Librarian  
Satyawati Co-education  
College (EVE.)  
University of Delhi  
Ashok Vihar Phase III  
New Delhi-110052

Garg, B.C.  
Secretary  
International Commission on  
Irrigation & Drainage  
48, Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri  
New Delhi-110021

Basavarajiah, B.S.  
Principal  
Karnataka Regional Engineering  
College  
Surathkal,  
Srinivas Nagar-574157  
Karnataka

Pillai Rajan C.V.  
Librarian  
Cochine University of  
Science and Technology  
Cochine University Library  
Cochin-682022  
Kerala

Mangat, R. K.  
Manager EDP  
Housing Development Finance  
Corporation Ltd.  
Backbay Reclamation  
Bombay-400020

Anand, A K. (Ms)  
Librarian  
Punjab University  
Library,  
Chandigarh-160014

Bhattacharyya, Swati  
Scientist  
National Metallurgical  
Laboratory  
Library, CSIR  
Jamshedpur-831007

Rustagi, Z (Mrs)  
Centre for Advanced Technology  
Dept of Atomic Energy,  
Post CAT,  
Rajendra Nagar  
Indore-452012

Ansari, A.H.  
Librarian  
Yojana Bhavan  
Sansad Marg  
New Delhi-110001

Singh, Lakman  
Librarian  
Institute of Nuclear Medicine  
& Allied Science  
Min of Defence, Lucknow Road  
Delhi-110007

Prem Singh  
Senior Librarian  
Lal Bahadur Shastri National  
Academy of Administration  
Department of Personnel  
& Training  
Mussoorie-248 179  
U P.

Tandon, B. C.  
Dean  
Faculty of Management Studies  
University of Delhi  
Delhi-110007

Agnihotri, U.S.  
A.D. Liby  
Defence Research  
& Development Organisation  
Defence Materials & Stores,  
Research & Development  
Establishment,  
DMSREDE PO,  
G.T. Road  
Kanpur-208013

Srivastava, H. C.  
Council of Development  
Rural Technology  
26, Chatham Lines,  
Near Prayag Station  
Allahabad-211002

Singh R. P.  
Senior Officer—Information  
All India Management  
Association  
14 Institutional Area,  
Lodi Road  
New Delhi-110003

Ragavan M.C.  
Librarian  
Indian Institute of Public  
Administration  
Indraprasth Estate, Ring Road  
New Delhi-110002

Nivedita Namboodiri (Ms)  
Co-ordinator  
Tata Energy Research Institute  
7, Jor Bagh  
New Delhi-110003

Sharma, M.S.  
Senior Librarian  
School of Planning  
& Architecture  
Deemed University, I.P. Estate  
New Delhi-110002

Juneja, B.R.  
Head  
National Botanical Research  
Institute  
EBIS  
Lucknow-226001

Khepar S.D.  
Dean  
College of Agricultural  
Engineering  
Punjab Agricultural University  
Ludhiana-141004

Gupta L.C.  
Oftg. Executive Director  
Management Development  
Institute  
Mehrauli Road  
Gurgaon-122001  
Haryana

Ghai, N. C. (Dr)  
Head  
UCMS & GTB Hospital  
Department of Paediatrics,  
Shahdara  
Delhi-110032

Dasgupta, D. K.  
Principal  
Indian Oil Management Academy  
P.O. Haldia Township  
Midnapur-731007  
West Bengal

Mitra A.C.  
Head  
Indian National Scientific  
Documentation Centre  
4, Raja S Mullick Road  
Calcutta-700032

Arora Aruna  
Asstt. Librarian  
Indian Statistical Institute  
Delhi Centre, 7 SJS  
Sansanwal Marg  
New Delhi-110016

Ramchandran, C.R. (Dr.)  
Director Grade Scientist  
Indian Council of Medical  
Research  
Ansari Nagar, Post Box 4508  
New Delhi-110029

Prahlada Rao D.K.  
Corporate Vice President  
& Secretary  
Kirloskar Electric Company Ltd.  
Malleswaram West  
Bangalore-560005

Aiyar, P. Ramaswamy  
Director  
Indian Institute of Management  
Loka, DH Road  
Calcutta-700027

Peter Jayapandian, D.  
Principal  
The American College  
Madurai-625002

Regional Office  
Neptune Towers  
Ashram Road  
Ahmedabad-380009

Regional Office  
Seetha Kathi Chambers  
688, Anna Salai  
Madras-600006

Satish, N.G.  
Documentation Officer  
National Institute of Rural  
Development  
Rajendranagar  
Hyderabad-500030

Jassal H.S.  
Co-Ordinator  
Indian National Trust For Art and  
Cultural Heritage  
71 Lodi Estate  
New Delhi-110003

Bhandarkar, G.N.  
Tolani College of Commerce  
Shere Punjab Soc. 149/151,  
Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri  
Bombay-400093  
Maharashtra

Rangarajan, S.K. (Prof)  
Director  
Central Electrochemical  
Research Institute  
Karaikudi-623006  
Tamil Nadu

Prasad, M.S.A.  
Lecturer in Library Science  
Siddhartha College of Arts &  
Science  
Siddhartha Nagar  
Vijayawada-520010  
Andhra Pradesh

Kulkarni, Prakash (Mr.)  
National Institute of Nutrition  
Jamai-Osmania Post  
Hyderabad-500007  
Andhra Pradesh

Srivastava, R.K.  
Scientist 'C'  
DESIDOC  
Metcalfe House  
Delhi-110054

Kaul, H.K. (Mr)  
Librarian  
India International Centre  
40 Max Mueller Marg  
New Delhi-110003

Tshering, G.  
Director  
Library of Tibetan Works and  
Archives  
Gangchen Kyishon, Dharamsala  
Himachal Pradesh-176215

Sugumaran, C.  
Librarian  
ISRO  
Documentation & Infrn. Cell,  
LPSC, Valiamala  
Trivandrum-695547  
Kerala

P. C. Shah  
Project Coordinator  
NICTAS  
ATIRA Politechnic P.O.  
Ahmedabad-380015  
Gujarat

Tyagi, K.G.  
Director  
Indian Council of Social  
Science Research  
National Social Science  
Documentation Centre  
New Delhi-110001

Chandel, A.S. (Dr)  
Librarian  
Dr Y. S. Parmar University of  
Horticulture & Forestry  
Solan-173230  
Himachal Pradesh

Wason, J. C.  
Executive Engineer  
CPWD  
Room No. 238-8, Nirman Bhawan  
New Delhi 110011

Suri, B K.  
Secretary (A & F)  
Indian Institute of Advance Study  
Rastrapati Nivas,  
Summer Hill  
Shania-171005

#### Obituary

T.S. Rajagopalan

Shri T.S. Rajagopalan, former Scientist-in-Charge, INSDOC, New Delhi, passed away on 21 Sept. 1989 after a brief illness. He was 63.

A distinguished information scientist, Shri Rajagopalan made Valuable contributions in the field of documentation and information science. He was Hon. Fellow of the Society for Information Science and served as its Vice-President. As a leading light of the Society, he took keen interest in spearheading its activities and formulation of programmes and policies.

Shri Rajagopalan was President of ILA during 1986-88. During his tenure the Association made impressive all-round progress in its activities.

Vibrant and busy until the day he passed away, Shri Rajagopalan would be missed by many friends and admirers in the profession. We extend our sincere condolences to the bereaved family.



**Editor's Note :** NISSAT Newsletter is always interested in receiving news items for publication from R & D institutions, professional societies and publishers in the area of information science and technology, science communication, computer hardware and software, and NISSAT sectoral centres.

Communications may be addressed to Dr. A. Lahiri, Director (NISSAT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016.



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# News and Events

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## **CDS/ISIS Software Package ; Micro ISIS Regional Meeting**

The Micro ISIS Regional distributors/users group meeting/workshop on CDS/ISIS was held at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok from October 2 to October 6, 1989. The main objectives of the workshop/meeting were :

- (i) to introduce new features of Micro CDS/ISIS Version 2.3 to ISIS users in the region.
- (ii) to exchange experiences and discuss problems among ISIS users/distributors.
- (iii) to discuss ways of effective user support system at national and regional level, and.
- (iv) to discuss future developments in Micro ISIS.

Twenty one participants from nine countries, namely Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated in the workshop. Each country representative made a presentation on the activities/application of the micro ISIS in his/her country.

The presentation also included questions on various aspects of the software in which users face difficulties. Mr. G. del Bigio, the developer of the software, was available throughout the workshop to clarify/answer the problems.

Mr. del Bigio also delivered lecture on :

- (i) detailed structure of ISIS data files and their relationship during various operations so as to elucidate causes of problems and their prevention.
- (ii) use of ISIS PASCAL to customise CDS/ISIS
- (iii) setting up of system parameter files to suit various needs with emphasis in network environments.
- (iv) Basic concepts on organisation of formatting language, search language and database maintenance
- (v) UNESCO's policy and plans on distribution, maintenance, and further development of the software.

For India, Ms. Sreedevi Ravindran, (NISSAT) participated in the meeting and presented a paper on "Application of CDS/ISIS software package in India."

## **UNIDO Proposes Technology Information Centres**

A recent meeting of 35 experts at Vienna has urged UNIDO to establish, among other Programmes, national Technology information centres or councils in developing countries to deal with key areas such as new material technologies and automation technologies. These could be run by a team of specialists from a number of disciplines such as physics, Chemistry, metallurgy and ceramics. The team would monitor and interpret scientific and industrial

trends, formulate relevant policy proposals and co-ordinate their implementation through ministries, universities and industry.

Ideally, these national centres or councils should be established in conjunction with regionally based bodies, according to a third recommendation. Both the national and regional centres or councils would, among other things, conduct research in the production and use of advanced materials. They would study the technological upgrading of traditional materials and gather information through access to global data banks and contacts with other research institutions.

Participants pointed out that a new materials council or centre would enable developing countries to utilize their traditional primary commodities—rubber, wood, cotton and copper—by developing new uses or even assisting in a gradual transition in the use of advanced materials consistent with domestic resources.

Policies should be formulated to promote close interaction between the research, finance, administration and production sectors of a country, according to one recommendation.

The "high level of innovativeness" of small- and medium-scale enterprises could ease the introduction of new technologies. Participants therefore urged that the role of these enterprises be strengthened by providing a range of collective services in areas such as design capabilities, marketing and consultancy services.

Existing research and development facilities should be reassessed in order to upgrade them, and, if resources were pooled, the creation of science parks could be considered.

The new technologies examined at the meeting included microelectronics (specifically its impact on the textiles and clothing industries and on the machine-tool industries), biotechnologies, telecommunications and new materials.

## **Choosing the Best Programmer**

Choosing the best programmer after an interview can sometimes be accomplished by using computer-adaptive proficiency testing or expert system computer testing.

Aptitude testing is valuable when screening candidates for entry-level programming positions but proficiency testing has been found to be more useful for screening experienced applicants. Balancing tests between the length of time it takes to complete it and the depth of the material it covers can also help.

According to a recent article, expert system computer testing allows questions to be selected from each category within a subject and candidates are not given another question in a category until they have received one in every category. In expert system testing, the level of difficulty of questions can be adjusted according to the skills of the applicant. This type of testing may be accurate enough to distinguish a programmer's subtle strengths and weaknesses.

Assessments of candidates can be made in less than an hour with this system, and evaluations may be more objective than the reactions of an interviewer.

#### **DIVINER : Information System on Water and Sanitation in Asia**

The value of information exchange is increasingly recognized as a means to solve water and sanitation problems in developing countries. DIVINER is a new information system on water being developed by Approtech Asia with a grant from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada. It was conceived in response to the difficulty being experienced by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in gaining access to information on water and sanitation. Six Asian NGOs are participating in the implementation of DIVINER.

The system will handle queries pertaining to water and sanitation in South and Southeast Asia; initial inputs include a bibliography on literature generated by Asian NGOs, a directory of community-based water and sanitation projects, and a register of water and sanitation experts.

The central database (located at the Agricultural Information Bank for Asia, in the Philippines) is managed by the IDRC-developed MINISIS package. DIVINER focal points in individual countries will be able to gain access via microcomputers and CDS/ISIS (Mini-micro Version), developed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). A quarterly newsletter for information exchange has also been started.

#### **Revision of the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) Class 1**

The Classification Department of the International Federation for Information and Documentation is sending out an international appeal for collaboration to revise the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) Class 1—the philosophy section. The Institute of Scientific, Technical and Economic Information in Warsaw, Poland has recently started work on the elaboration of the new scheme of UDC 1 Philosophy. A preliminary outline of the scheme has been sent to the Classification Department of the Federation. International collaboration is needed for this challenging task. All persons and institutions interested in this revision are requested to contact Dr. E. Scibor, Chairman of the UDC Coordinating Revision Committee (CRC) III Humanities, Art, at HINTE, Jasna 14/16, 00-041 Warsaw, Poland.

### **18 Centre on Computer Software Development**

A feasibility study, under-written by a grant of USD 150,000 by the Government of Macau has been started on the desirability of establishing a research and training centre in Macau to help to develop computer software for developing countries.

The proposal has been endorsed by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Portugal is willing to co-operate in establishing the centre.

The centre would help to disseminate information about the potential benefits of computers in maximizing socio-economic welfare in developing countries and offer software packages and application systems geared to their needs. It would also offer training in software development methods, particularly to technical personnel in the user countries.

#### **CD-ROM Aids Development**

A project aimed at enhancing self-sufficiency in agricultural and rural development with the use of CD-ROMs has been started by the information and Documentation Department of the Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. CD-ROM equipment is being installed at 11 sites in eight countries in the Caribbean, the Pacific and Africa.

Along with CD-ROM workstations, a number of databases in CD-ROM format will be installed, such as Agricola, produced by the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Maize Germplasm Bank of the Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo (CIMMYT). Also provided will be an operational kit, supporting devices and training. Document delivery will also be available.

Other aims of the project, which was commissioned by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTE) in The Netherlands, are to stimulate and initiate the introduction of computer technology in information centres in these countries—*Information world review*, No. 37.

#### **Electronic Library for France**

The President of France has given his endorsement to an ambitious computerization scheme for the nation's overstretched library network. Faced with the dual problem of an overloaded Bibliotheque nationale in Paris—which, with an estimated 12,000,000 books, is running out of space—and an endemic shortage of basics such as books, periodicals and qualified staff in university libraries, the French government is to begin work on the creation of a new Library of France.

Far from just a physical building, the project, estimated to cost up to USD 786 million, and scheduled for completion by 1995, would integrate the Bibliotheque nationale into a nationwide network of provincial and university libraries, giving users electronic access to the resources of the entire collection.

The government's proposal calls for complete computer cataloguing of the Bibliotheque nationale's collection as well as the electronic consolidation of the catalogues of every provincial and university library in France—some 1,300 institutions in all. The actual contents of the Bibliotheque nationale and other libraries' collections would be scanned on to optical disks.

Ultimately, a user anywhere in France should be able to locate desired material in any collection included in the catalogue network and have access to Bibliotheque nationale materials by computer. Additional high-technology help is promised for bibliophiles who prefer to visit the new Library of France in person; current plans call for special robots to fetch and reshelve books on demand.

## Hello, Voice Mail Speaking

Voice Mail technology, is sweeping the business world at an unforeseen rate. Evidence gathered recently in the USA, where Voice Mail has pervaded almost every area of commercial life, suggests that the changes brought about by Voice Mail are as much sociological as technological, and that they may not all be positive.

At the heart of Voice Mail are special purpose computer chips and software which convert human speech into digital code. The digitized voices can then be stored on, and retrieved from, magnetic disks, just like any other piece of computer data.

With the replacement of office personnel, bank tellers, telephone operators and other human "interfaces" by automated voice-messaging systems and answering machines, a wide range of business can be done without ever having to speak to another human being. Perhaps most strikingly, this applies to shopping. At the sophisticated end of the voice-messaging market are systems which, combined with large-scale computer storage, enable callers to use their telephones to navigate through long lists of stock quotes or catalogue items. Installed in department stores, some systems will even allow a caller to order merchandise and charge it to a credit card, without any human interaction taking place. Fast and efficient as the new system may be, but the human factor is an element which some consumers miss.

Voice Mail's enthusiasts, however, claim that in the office environment it can actually enhance the quality of human interaction, by eliminating wasted calls and unproductive rounds of "telephone tag".

## New Head of FID Secretariat

The Council of FID has decided to create a new post of Executive Director to head the FID Secretariat in the Hague and has invited Mr Ben G. Goedegebure to fill it. At the same time it has decided not to fill the vacant post of Secretary General for the time being.

Mr Goedegebure is a qualified librarian-documentalist who has worked at FID as Professional Assistant for the last three years. During that time he has been responsible for the administration of professional projects under contract and has undertaken professional work himself, he has been deeply involved in computerizing the work of the Secretariat and since January this year has been editor of the *News Bulletin*. Correspondence on all matters concerning FID should continue to be addressed to the Secretariat at the following address: Federation internationale d'information et de documentation (FID), P.O.B. 90402, 2509 LK The Hague, Netherlands.

## Unesco Thesaurus

Serious consideration is being given to a possible revision of the *Unesco Thesaurus*.

*The Unesco Thesaurus: a structured list of descriptors for indexing and retrieval in the field of education, science, social science, culture and communication*, is a trilingual

vocabulary principally used to identify and retrieve information stored in UNESBIB, the bibliographic database of the Unesco Integrated Documentation Network. It also serves to produce printed indexes to Unesco periodicals and as a reference tool for other Unesco information services, for documentation centres of its Regional Offices, affiliated non-governmental organizations, and various library/information services in Member States, as each of these develop their own specialized information processing vocabularies and systems.

The Thesaurus was published in 1977 in English with French and Spanish editions in 1983 and 1984. To keep abreast of developments in the documents analysed, in the light of the evolving priorities of Unesco, and of the increasing number and variety of its users, a second, updated and possibly restructured edition of the *Unesco Thesaurus* is long overdue.

With a view to harmonizing both the vocabulary and its structure with that of the thesauri of the international community in general and the UN system in particular, the preparation of the new edition is envisaged in two successive stages:

- \* Updating of the vocabulary (alphabetic display)
- \* Restructuring of the facets (systematic display)

The first stage, initiated systematically in-house in 1987, by continuous updating and maintenance of the CDS Thesaurus database, involved the addition of new terms, deletion of those never used, retention of those lesser used by leading them into preferred terms, increase of the number of explanatory scope notes, revision of associative and hierarchical relationships, etc. In the process, certain subject areas need to be expanded (especially development) others, such as science, technology, environment should be compressed so as to reflect policy, rather than pure research orientations of the documentary material analysed. Priority is given to the Education facet, in the light of its terminological harmonization with the *Unesco: IBE Thesaurus*.

A possible second stage—revision of the faceted structure—with a view to enhancing user-friendliness both to indexers and a variety of information users, will compare the present systematic display with that of other international development thesauri: UNBIS, Macrothesaurus, ILO. All these present their facets, subfacets and sub-subfacets arranged in alphabetical order which, in the light of long experience, most users seem to prefer. The alternative option strongly considered is the graphic presentation ('terminograph') of subject areas (SPINES, EUDISED, IBISCUS), where the user can take in an entire facet at a glance.

## ISO Handbook on Documentation and Information

Information and documentation have increased in volume at both the national and international levels. Thus, the need for standardization of documents is becoming more urgent; documents must be compatible with each other

and understandable to users. Now international standards have been developed in the field of documentation and information.

The third edition of ISO Handbook 1 contains all ISO standards for continuous and systematic collection and processing of recorded information, for the purpose of information storage, retrieval utilization or transmission (except electronic data processing which is the subject of ISO Handbook 9).

Part 1 of the handbook contains standards for terms and definitions in the fields of documentation, information, document reproduction and terminology. Standards in Part 2 deal with the creation, compilation and co-ordination of terminologies. Part 3 contains standard conversions of systems of writing, e.g. transliteration of Slavic Cyrillic characters, and Part 4 is devoted to standards relating to libraries, documentation and information centres, indexing and abstracting services, archives, information science and publishing. Standards on documents and representation of data used for information exchange in administration, commerce and industry appear in Part 5 and standards involving microforms are included in Part 6.

For further information on this publication, contact Bureau of Indian Standards, 9 B.S. Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002

#### Trilingual Interwater Thesaurus

A new trilingual interwater thesaurus for use with community water supply and sanitation information has been published by the International Centre for Community Water Supply and Sanitation (IRC).

The thesaurus, produced in co-operation with a working group from four continents and specialized water and sanitation agencies, helps librarians and documentalists to retrieve and transfer information on water supply and sanitation in and between developing countries more effectively.

Volume I, with English, French and Spanish terms, presents a controlled, identically structured multilingual vocabulary for use in indexing, storage and retrieval of information. Volume II is the multilingual alphabetical index of used terms. One set of the Thesaurus (one copy of each volume) costs USD 30. Separate copies of the index (Volume II) cost USD 10. A complete set (three languages and the index) is available at USD 50. Discounts apply to developing countries. Order from: IRC, P.O. Box 93190, 2509 AD, The Hague, The Netherlands.

#### DIALOG on Disc Discovery Training Toolkit

The DIALOG on Disc Discovery Training Toolkit allows the use of CD-ROM technology in teaching and practicing searching whenever needed. For a one-time charge of \$250, users can practise searching whenever and as often as they wish. CD-ROM allows unlimited searching at one fixed price employing the same command language used for searching the DIALOG online service.

The DIALOG on Disc Discovery Training Toolkit is a flexible training and practise tool. Dialog Link software, included in the Toolkit, gives the option of supplementing DIALOG on Disc Discovery's databases with the vast array of files available online from DIALOG.

The \$250 charge includes the DIALOG On Disc Discovery GD-ROM disc, plus all software, documentation, and the demonstration floppy disk. Discounts are available for the purchase of two or more copies. Contact the DIALOG Marketing Department at (800) 3-DIALOG for details.

#### Compact Library : AIDS

Compact Library: AIDS is a comprehensive medical library of AIDS literature on CD-ROM available from the Medical Publishing Group of the Massachusetts Medical Society. The database provides the full text of original journal articles, textbook, and bibliographic data on all aspects of the disease, fully linked and integrated into one up-to-date source of information.

Compact Library: AIDS is designed for use by clinicians, researchers, nurses, social and public health workers, hospital administrators, medical librarians, and educators. It will be sold on an annual subscription basis, thus providing unlimited access at a fixed cost. Subscribers will automatically receive a new, updated disc every three months. The software is designed for IBM computers and compatibles.

The primary information source on the AIDS disc is the AIDS Knowledge Base from San Francisco General Hospital. Also included are: a subset of the MEDLINE database with bibliographic references and abstracts of AIDS-related articles from some 3,200 biomedical journals; another seven journals scanned for AIDS data; and the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases AIDS database. Additional submissions are being invited.

For more information contact Mr. Bart Rubenstein at The Massachusetts Medical Society, 1440 Main Street, Waltham, MA 02154, (617) 893-3800 USA.

#### Computer Security

With the proliferation of computers and computer data, everyone has become concerned about security—the security of data which needs to be preserved from accidental disclosure, modification, destruction or delay, and the safety of the collection, manipulation and distribution of the data as information.

Computer security is a sensitive issue for large organizations—governments and businesses. If the integrity of the computer system is open to malicious attacks, public confidence will be threatened. According to an article by Robert H. Courtney, Jr. in Information Age, security is a people problem and employee security awareness programmes pay off. Without employee support, according to Courtney, security programmes can not be successful.

The United States Government, recognizing that existing criminal laws were insufficient to address the problems of

computer crime, enacted the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986 to improve the government's response to computer crime. This law focuses federal criminal prosecutions on those whose conduct shows a clear intent to enter, without proper authorization, computer files or data belonging to others. Recently (in July) federal grand jury made its first charge under this new law.

The UN system, like any other organization, is also vulnerable to threats to computer security. The control and management of computer security can help to offset threats. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and the external auditors have addressed the problem of security in the UN and have identified vulnerable areas which should be examined more closely. At its fifth session, ACCIS will also discuss the problems of computer security. The paper ACCIS 89/021 before ACCIS recommends the establishment of a technical panel to consider the broad spectrum of computer security issues, and make recommendations on co-ordinated measures to meet the specific needs of the UN system.

The steps necessary to insure computer security do not necessarily involve the expenditure of large sums of money but the costs of any particular threat do need to be estimated. Concerted action and collective approaches to the problems of computer security may be the best response to the problems.

#### Information Brokers Guide

The role of an information broker is defined as being to look up information on behalf of enquirers, for a fee, as distinct from that of the information consultant, who advises on what to do with information and how to do it.

UNIDO is considering publication of a worldwide directory of information brokers and is looking for information from information brokers on their activities, including the industrial sectors and topics covered. The information will help UNIDO decide on the need for a guide. Contact UNIDO, Vienna International Centre, PO Box 300, 1400 Vienna, Austria.

#### Education Encyclopedia on CD-ROM

Pergamon Compact Solution is pleased to announce the launch of the prize-winning International Encyclopedia of Education on CD-ROM. The first edition was originally produced as a 10-volume set. Over 1,300 experts have contributed towards the 1,448 articles that cover all areas of educational research, from the theory of education to vocational training techniques. The CD-ROM edition provides compact, desktop storage and easy access to the *International Encyclopedia of Education*.

For additional information about the database and possible introductory specials, contact Jeremy Rosie at Pergamon Compact Solution, Headway House, 66-73 Shoe Lane, London, EC4P 4AB, Tel: 01-377 4918.

#### OED on CD-ROM

From its conception in 1857, the *Oxford English Dictionary* was meant to be much more than a simple collection of words and basic definitions. Thousands of chronologically arranged illustrative quotations and defini-

tions—many for rare or obsolete words and meanings—embody the "historical principles" underlying the *Dictionary's* original compilation.

Until now, investigations using the *OED* entailed time-consuming hand searches through multiple volumes. The *OED* on CD-ROM permits direct electronic access to quotations, definitions, and more, no matter in which of the 252,000 main entries they appear. This is possible as the traditional list of headwords has been supplemented by seven additional lists (or indexes) created from the material in the *OED*. These indexes, combined with a variety of search-and-display options, have expanded the 12-volume *OED* into a wide-ranging collection of reference works.

The database runs on the IBM PC/XT/AT and PS/2 or compatible microcomputers, requires 640K RAM minimum, and hard disk or twin floppy-disk drive. Purchasers of the first version will be offered future updates at a significant discount. The cost is \$950 plus \$10 for shipping and handling.

For more information contact Oxford Electronic Publishing, Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford, ENGLAND OX2 6DP, Tel: +44-865-56767; in North America, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016, (212) 889-0206.

#### Mandarin Orange in India

The Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore, has just brought out a Monograph entitled "*Mandarin Orange in India—Production, Preservation and Processing*".

This booklet covers in brief, aspects on production, propagation, root-stock effects, yield, chemical composition, diseases, post-harvest technologies for fresh fruit handling, storage, packaging, processing as also utilization of by-products. Backed by appropriate references, product specifications and addresses of equipment manufacturers, this monograph is intended for planners, entrepreneurs, government organizations, cooperatives, industrial establishments and trade agencies. Price Rs. 30/- + VPP charges.

For copies, please write to the Sales and Distribution Officer, FOSTIS, CFTRI, Mysore-570013.

#### Bibliography on Beet Molasses

The National Information Centre for Food Science and Technology (CFTRI), Mysore, has just published an annotated bibliography on Beet Molasses covering the period 1959 to 1988. The bibliography lists 94 items. Price Rs. 50 + postage. Copies can be had from Sales and Distribution Officer, CFTRI Library, Mysore-570013.

'Trends in Food Science and Technology' is the proceedings of the II International Food Convention held at the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore and organised by the Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (India) during February 18-23, 1988. The 125 paper abstracts contained in this volume represent the edited versions of the papers presented by the respective authors at the 27 symposia and later submitted for publication. These papers have been grouped into eight broad

categories: 1. Food Technology—Emerging Trends, 2. Nutritional Aspects, 3. Food Materials—Storage and Processing, 4. Foods—Traditional, Special and Fabricated, 5. Food Quality, 6. Packaging, 7. Human Resource Development and 8. Technology Transfer, Industry and Field Application. These papers reflect the present status, current trends and developments as well as perspectives in the area of food science and technology mainly in India and to some extent in other developing and a few developed countries. The publication is priced at Rs. 300 (India) and U.S. \$ 105 or £ 57 (including airmail charges) or U.S. \$ 95 or £ 50 (by surface mail). For copies please write to the Secretary, AFST(I), CFTRI Campus, Mysore-570013, India.

### CDMARC Bibliographic and Names

Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS) plans to test CDMARC Bibliographic, the Library of Congress' complete bibliographic file on CD-ROM, this summer. The largest product in the CDMARC line, CDMARC Bibliographic will be published on no more than seven compact discs.

CDMARC Bibliographic will be simple to use, yet sophisticated enough for the most demanding application. Its powerful search keys will make searching the nearly 4 million records as easy as 1-2-3. The database has records on every item in the collection cataloged on the LC MARC system since 1968. Searching will be possible using full Boolean logic with indexes arranged by:

- ★ record number
- ★ LC classification numbers
- ★ international standard numbers
- ★ keywords
- ★ name headings
- ★ subject headings

Search qualifiers will assist users in narrowing criteria by record format, languages, personal name, corporate name, or date. Data may be viewed, printed, or saved to a disk file.

Cataloging Distribution Service is testing CDMARC Names and will soon do so in public, research, and university libraries. The complete 2.1 million-record file, on two compact discs, is expected to be available this spring. CDMARC Names will offer a cost-effective way to obtain machine-readable records. Original or copy cataloging will be faster and easier using the Library of Congress authority file on CD-ROM. The product's search and browse capabilities will locate a name authority record in a matter of seconds and a choice of three display options will be possible.

The brief card display shows a heading together with references. The thesaurus image displays the same types of information normally found on a printed card. The tagged-record image gives all the MARC data for a record including tags, indicators, and notes. It is also possible to save records to disk or print them out in any of the three display formats.

### EEI MEDLINE Changes

EBSCO Electronic Information recently made significant changes in the price and structure of its MEDLINE CD ROM products.

□ **COMPREHENSIVE MEDLINE/EBSCO CD-ROM's** increased coverage includes the entire MEDLINE file from 1966 forward. The complete file will be available for \$3,400. The frequency for updates to COMPREHENSIVE MEDLINE has been increased from quarterly to monthly. Also, 1989 subscribers will receive the entire 1988 backfile with their subscription. The new annual subscription package is priced at \$900. 1966-1987 backfiles are priced separately.

□ **EEI's CORE MEDLINE/EBSCO CD-ROM** is now available at a cost of \$950. A subset of the MEDLINE file, CORE MEDLINE includes the past three years of information from over 500 journal titles indexed in the MEDLINE database.

Both CORE and COMPREHENSIVE MEDLINE discs will include the GRATEFUL MED interface. For more information about MEDLINE/EBSCO CD-ROM products, contact EBSCO Electronic Information, P.O. Box 13787, Torrance, CA 90503, (213) 630-7533 or (800) 888-3272, or contact your regional EBSCO Subscription Services representative.

### NISSAT—Unesco Workshop on Marketing of Information Products and Services

Information Scientists are now burdened with the dual responsibility of matching depleted financial allocations against increased cost of acquisition, at the same time generating more demand for their services. It is essential that the libraries and information centres adopt the concepts of marketing at all levels of management.

So far however, "marketing of information products and services" did not find enough attention in formal library school education. The Unesco deliberations as in Kathmandu and Kuala Lumpur in 1988, and *ILA-IASLIC-BLA* deliberations in Calcutta called for introduction of marketing concepts to practising information scientists through continuing education programmes.

In pursuance of such recommendations, NISSAT in collaboration with UNESCO has taken up the responsibility to evolve standard course materials and exposing methodology on "marketing of information products and services".

The first such deliberation is being held at CSIR Science Centre, New Delhi from November 27 to December 1, 1989.

### Workshop on Common Communication Format in India: Feb-Mar 1990

India, local database activities are slowly gaining momentum and several library and information centres are now generating bibliographic databases in the fields of their interest. With the introduction of microcomputers in several library and information centres, implementation of software packages like CDS/ISIS Mini Micro, and MINISIS, and the concept of Metropolitan Library Networking, the creation of machine readable records is increasingly

becoming an important and urgent need. Some of the L and I Centres have been working independent of one another or as cooperative participants of international database efforts. And such islands of efforts and specialist skills have so far remained local.

With the increased distribution of software packages like Micro, CDS/ISIS and MINISIS in India, a set of Guidelines for the creation of bibliographic records has also been a long felt need. While pioneering efforts were made in this area in India as early as 1978, it was not possible till 1985 to generate an Indian Standard IS : 11370-1985 Guide for Data elements and record format for computer based bibliographical databases for bibliographic description of different kinds of documents. This standard necessitated the generation of an implementation manual.

The search for the implementation manual has led to the reconsideration of the IS : 11370-1985 which was based on ISO-2709 (1973). NISSAT took the initiative and arranged several discussions on the Bibliographic formats during 1987-89. Subsequently, it was suggested that NISSAT should

either generate an implementation manual for IS : 11370-1985;

or revise the IS : 11370-1985 in the light of ISO-2709 (1981).

This made it important to consider the CCF : Common Communication Format. INDIMARC could be an implementation manual for CCF in the Indian context. With the growing interest in Library Networking especially CALIBNET, DELNET, DESINET, and INFLIBNET, use of a working document towards the generation of INDIMARC has become essential.

Following the publication of CCF, several bibliographic agencies in Asia, North and South America and Europe have developed their national and local formats. Efforts are also being made at Unesco to generate a document on the implementation of the various features of CCF and also on the CCF guidelines for AACR II Cataloguers. While efforts are also underway to implement the features of CCF (flattened) on CDS/ISIS for local purposes, it is becoming immediately necessary to have a better understanding of the various MARC and Communication formats. It is to meet this national requirement that a Workshop on the Common Communication Format (CCF) would now be more appropriate.

The major objective of the programme would be to enable information scientists in this country to understand the concepts and applications of CCF. Around 40 participants would be invited.

The venue will be New Delhi and the dates : Feb 19-Mar 2, 1990.

Two Resource Persons supported by UNESCO namely, Prof Alan Hopkinson and Prof Peter Simmons will be available. A few Indian experts like Prof G. Bhattacharya, Dr. F. J. Devadasan and Sh. Sundar Singh will also be on the Faculty.

#### **Periodicals Acquisition and Sharing of Resources : NICHEM Initiative**

A meeting of heads of library and information centres of various research and development institutions on science and technology in Pune city was convened at NICHEM, NCL, Pune on 27 Oct. 1989. The idea of sharing library resources and cooperation in rationalising the intake of periodicals was appreciated by all participants. To facilitate this, NICHEM, has compiled a union catalogue of current periodicals in Pune Science and Technology Libraries (PSTL). A copy of this catalogue has been distributed to all participants. The following points were unanimously accepted by the participants.

1. All the participating Library and information centres will extend full cooperation in maintaining the union catalogue of current periodicals. NICHEM has accepted the responsibility to collect the data from all participants and prepare a union catalogue and maintain it in future.
2. **Changes in current lists of periodicals :** It was decided that all participants will distribute the list of journals which are likely to be dropped as well as added in the subsequent years list so that others can plan properly to bridge the gap if possible. This will be done every year in the month of November/December.
3. All centres will extend the facility of supplying photocopies of references needed by others on payment basis. Every institute/organisation may, however, maintain its own rates of photocopying and modes of payment.
4. All participants desired that such meetings should be convened regularly once in three months. NICHEM, has agreed to make necessary arrangements for such meetings.
5. **Duplicate issues of periodicals :** Dr. S.G. Mahajan, Librarian, Poona University Jayakar Library, informed that his library has got a large number of duplicate issues of periodicals. All participants were requested to visit his library and collect the required issues for their libraries. It was felt that all participants should extend full cooperation in redistributing such duplicates.
6. Participating centres would develop bilateral relations with others to facilitate closer cooperation in the intake and sharing of periodicals as their interests may be common.

## Calendar of Events : December 89-Feb. 90

Date	Venue	Topics	Contact Address
December 18 to January 12	INSDOC New Delhi	Course on Computer Applications	(1)
December 18 - 24	Agartala	Workshop on CDS/ISIS Ver 2.3	(2)
27 - 31	DESIDOC Delhi	Advanced Course on CDS/ISIS for DELNET Participants	(2)
January 5 - 15	Univ of Poona Pune	Computer Applications in Libraries	(4)
8 - 12	CMTI Bangalore	Users Group Meeting Cum Workshop on CDS/ISIS (*)	(3)
15 - 21	BLA Calcutta	Workshop on Information Analysis and Consolidation	(5)
February 5 - 10	MKU Madurai	Workshop on Information Information Analysis and Consolidation	(6)
February 5 to March 2	INSDOC New Delhi	Course on Computer Applications	(1)
February 15 - 25	Uni. Pune Pooa	Computer Applications in Libraries	(4)
February 19 to March 2	Delhi	Workshop on Common (*) Communication Format	(3)

(\*) — Particiaption By Invitation only

- For details :
1. Sri B.K. Sen, INSDOC, 14 Sansanwal Marg, Spl. Institut Area Satsang Vihar Marg, New Delhi-110 067
  2. The Secretary, AGLIS C/O DESIDOC Metcafe House, Delhi 110 054
  3. The Director, NISSAT DSIR/Technology Bhawan New Mehrauli Road New Delhi-110 016
  4. Prof. S C. Mahajan Department of Library and Information Science, Jaykar Library, University of Pune
  5. The Secretary Bengal Library Association P-134 C.I.T. Scheme 54, Calcutta-700 014
  6. Dr. D. Chandran Deptt. of Library and Information Science, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai