NISSAT

NEWSLETTER

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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.

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Facing the Deluge – II

We need to effectively handle the chain problems of finding time for literature search, to study the literature retrieved and to assimilate information so gathered. It has been noted earlier that developments in information technology would essentially aid the former. So far as the study of literature is concerned, methods are available to make the process faster. *Great saints like Swami Vivekananda were known to* have the capability to read several lines in one glance. Technologies such as pre-recorded cassettes would fill in a part of the lean periods in the active daily routine of an information consumer. A situation may emerge in not too distant future wherein information inputing to human brain would continue even during the inactive part of the daily routine such as sleep time (Brave New World concept).

It is also necessary to probe the authenticity of vedic "telepathy" method of teacher-to-student communication. It is said that in the hermitage, the teacher and student used to mediate together; during such session, the teacher transferred knowledge to his pupils.

We are yet to understand the functioning of the "brain". The author is not aware whether the capacity parameters of the brain have been measured in terms of say gegabytes of memory, recall time, etc. The capacity may not be limitless but is definitely enormous. We are told that scholars used to memorize the texts (the concept also finds place in the fiction Farenheit 451) in paperless palm leaf age. People with phenomenal memory like Julius Caesar and Lord Macaulay figure in recent history also. Much less we know about the characteristics of "mind" which, as Yudhisthira said, is the fastest in the universe.

That brings us to the point that apart from further development of information on hardware and software, we need to go back to basic science and *more importantly psychology and explore solutions to* the problems which are looming in the horizon. For obvious reasons, Indians could be fore-runners in this knowledge pursuit.

On this optimistic note, we conclude the *Commentary* of the last *Newsletter* issue of 1991. On behalf of NISSAT staff and the *Newsletter Editorial Board, let me wish a very* ***Happy and Prosperous New Year*** *to all our Newsletter readers.*

— A. Lahiri

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NISSATCARD
A Feasibility Study

Progress Report

Just a year ago, the concept of NISSATCARD as a passe-partout for library users was mooted (see *NISSAT Newsletter*, 1990, No. 4). Work on all facets of the project has since been going on. The progress made on its various components is given below:

1. Study of Bank-Credit Card

The Bank of Maharashtra which has launched the credit card facility on a tie-up basis with the Bank of India was selected for the study. An analytical study was made in respect of the design of the credit card, definition of terms used, terms of agreement between the member establishment and the bank, and between the bank and customer including the mechanism of functioning of the credit card system as a whole. Differential charges/commissions paid to member establishment for services given to the card-holder and also the cost of providing overdraft facility to card holders in case of insufficient fund in their accounts to pay the incurred bills were identified. Differential annual membership charges for various categories of card-holders were also noted down. Based on the above study and on the requirements of NISSAT facility, a tentative design of the same has been conceived. The design is being tested and modified on the basis of feedback obtained from the chief of the libraries situated in Pune city through personal discussion.

2. Identification of Users of NISSATCARD Facility

In order to identify the non-traditional users; small scale units in the manufacturing, processing and servicing sectors in the neighbourhood of Pune were contacted and the nature of their demand was identified. The need to get access to the metro-libraries through local library on inter-library loan basis was stressed. Further, on discussion with the librarian class of regular student users from a privately managed institute was identified: they use the existing network of library system with minimal fees. It is felt that this class of users can be brought formally under NISSAT facility to increase its viability. Based on the above study, users are thus classified on the basis of their objectives of library use. The differential annual membership fee to be paid by the users is accordingly worked out.

3. Cost-Pricing Model

Based on the conceived design of the NISSAT facility and the category of users identified, a cost pricing model has been formulated. Alternative pricing for the services to be offered to various categories of users was stimulated on the basis of assumption of various levels of demand and the number of libraries participating NISSATCARD library network. The model and the cost estimate based on the model will be modified on the basis of data which are being collected from the libraries and from the non-traditional users who are presently spending individually on collection of their required information.

4. Preparation of Questionnaire

On the basis of the study outlined above, questionnaire has been developed and tested with the chief of the libraries in Pune to assess the adequacy of the data required and the feasibility of obtaining them. The data will be used to design the NISSAT library facility and to work out plan implementing the conceived model. The questionnaire was designed to elicit the information on various parameters as given below:

- Discipline specialisation of the library.
- Daily working hours and weekly working schedule.
- Peak period of demand: daily, weekly and monthly basis.
- Capacity of various library facilities.
- Size of the library staff and budget.
- Period of loaning.
- Penalty for various library defaulters.
- Discipline measures.
- Library's experience with the outside users.
- Class of memberships given and to be given.

— Fees and security deposits charged and to be charged.
— Facilities to be given to the NISSATCARD holder.
— Rate of various library losses.
— Existing load of various library facilities.
— Size of geographical unit for which NISSATCARD system should work.
— Views on joining the NISSAT library system.

5. Insurance Cover Against Loss of Library Material

The idea of exploring the possibility of covering the risk against any loss of library material by the GIC was received by the librarian with enthusiasm. Primarily it is seen from the loss rate of library material issued to outside borrowers that any risk covering scheme will be feasible so much that high value of individual risk can be distributed over a large number of card-holders with low premium. To work out the details of the scheme, steps are initiated to have a preliminary (exploration) discussion with GIC authorities to explore the situation.

6. Scheme of Data Collection

It has been already mentioned that a structured questionnaire is being developed on the basis of the conceived model of NISSATCARD facility. Questions are framed such that it is possible to get data needed to estimate the system's operational constants, namely, number of books to be issued, number of days to be allowed to retain the book, fees to be charged etc. It is further contemplated to carry out discussion on the conceived model with the librarians of repute from the metropolitan cities before the operational model is suggested. These two ends of the data requirement are being met in two ways. In Step I the chiefs of the libraries in Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta will be interviewed on the basis of structured questionnaire and the model of the NISSAT facility will be discussed. Units in the neighbourhood of these cities will be contacted to supplement the list of users. Secondly, data will be collected from the other libraries located at different places through postal correspondence. These data along with data collected in Step I will be used to study the distribution of the operational constant of the NISSAT facility to estimate their values. □

Indo-British Meet on
Library Networking

Essentials of library networking and related issues like software requirements, standardization, promotion of communication, E-MAIL, etc., will be discussed at an Indo-British Meet in New Delhi during 14-15 January 1992. The meeting is being jointly sponsored by DELNET, British Council Division, British High Commission and NISSAT.

Library, networking and communication experts have been invited to participate in the Meet. Only specialists or those experienced in the subject area would be welcome to participate as seats are limited.

The British Experts invited for the Meet are:

1) Mr John Smith, National Project Office, U.K. Office for Library Networks, University of Bath, U.K.

2) Mr Peter Smith, Deputy Director, London and South East Region Library Cooperatives, London.

There is no participation fee but a sum of Rs. 300 per participant is payable to meet hospitality expenses. Those desirous of participating may send in their application along with resume through their institution by *15 December, 1991*. Those selected would be intimated by *1 January, 1992*.

Applications should reach Mr H.K. Kaul, Convener, DELNET, India International Centre, 40 Lodi Estate, New Delhi-110 003 by 15 December, 1991.

Participants are expected to make their own arrangements for boarding and lodging.

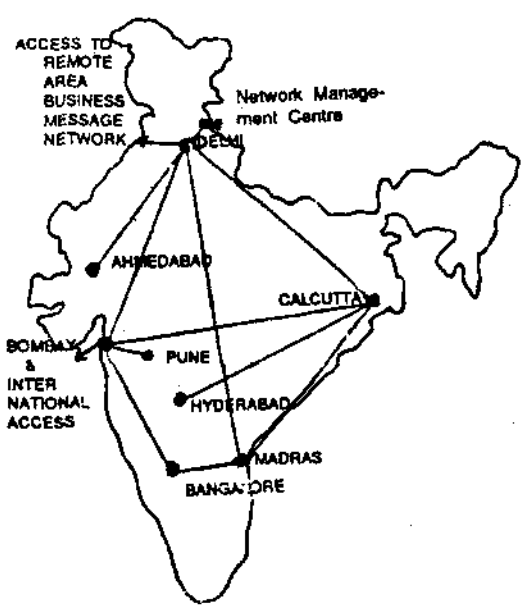
I-NET : Packet Switched Service for Reliable Data Communication

I-NET is a bearer network for fast, reliable, flexible and cost effective transport of information. This network is being introduced by the Department of Telecommunications.

The network offers facilities for inter-linking terminals and computers through packet switches located in important cities of the country. Subscribers of this network can make international data calls to other networks abroad. This facility is provided through the Gateway Packet Switching System of VSNI at Bombay. Subscribers can also get connected to subscribers of Remote Area Business Message Network of Department of Telecommunications.

Topology

In the first phase, I-NET is planned with nodes at 8 locations, namely Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune and Ahmedabad. These would be connected through high speed (9.6 kbps & 64 kbps) data links.



Concept

I-NET is based on "Packet Switching" philosophy with error detection and correction techniques.

Packet Switching can be defined as "the routing of data in discrete quantities called packets, each in specific format and within a maximum size". This technique differs fundamentally from circuit switching used in telephone/telex networks, in that circuits are not switched and dedicated to the users for the duration of a 'call'. Instead, the information to be exchanged between users is transmitted in packets which occupy circuits only during actual transmission of data in a call. These circuits are shared by other calls simultaneously.

The packet switching philosophy enables error free transmission (less than one in 10^9) and dynamic rerouting of calls (to overcome route failures and congestion) and interconnection of terminals and computers at different speeds and protocols.

For protection against errors each packet is checked for errors at each node along its route and retransmissions from previous nodes are ordered in the event of an error being detected.

As the packet switching philosophy is based on store and forward technique and it provides the capability of terminal inter-connection at different speeds and protocols, independent speed of subscribers line to the network.

Standards

I-NET supports CCITT standard interfaces/protocols X.3, X.28, X.29, X.25 and X.75.

Terminal Equipment

Two types of subscribers-end Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) is supported by I-NET:

* Synchronous or Packet Mode DTE.
* Asynchronous or Character Mode DTE

Packet Mode DTEs — These DTEs can control, format and transmit packets. These terminals are also known as X.25 data terminals as they interface with the network in accordance with CCITT Recommendation X.25. One of the features of such type of DTEs is the facility which allows a packet mode DTE to simultaneously communicate with more than one DTEs connected to the packet switching network, through a single physical access line to the network. Examples are mini-computers, mainframe computers, intelligent terminals and PADs.

Character Mode DTEs — These DTEs work in asynchronous mode. Examples are Personal Computers, VDU etc. These DTEs can support only one call at a time.

Categories of Access — Access (connection) to I-NET is possible in the following different ways:

* Using DEDICATED leased asynchronous (X.28) or synchronous connection with standard Modems Drivers. (Table1)

Benefits from the Usage of I-NET Service

Packet Switched data communication services are suited for most teleprocessing applications. The following are some of the typical application areas:

— where a large number of users transmit small volumes of data over long distances.

— where a large number of widely dispersed terminals access a common host computer in interactive mode.

— where there is a requirement for communication between terminals with incompatible characteristics (speed, code, protocol).

— where terminals need to access more than one host

Users with the following specific applications will find the I-NET best suited to their existing and/or developing requirements:

* Time sharing and other types of resource sharing.
* Access to databases and information services.
* Credit card checking.
* Travel reservation.
* Order entry, stock control goods handling.
* Management information.

Some emerging system that will depend on data switching capabilities of I-NET are:

* Corporate data/message systems.
* Electronic payment systems/electronic fund transfer systems.
* Maintaining systems e.g., environment, traffic.
* Electronic mail.

Anyone who wishes to use, gather, store or process data between remote locations using computer resources should consider using I-NET.

Typical Applications

Corporate Communications

I-NET is the ideal solution for corporate bodies for whom data traffic volumes do not justify a dedicated private network without compromising access data security.

I-NET offers corporate bodies extensive national worldwide connectivity through a reliable and dedicated network which can be used for communicating between their different offices for transfer of management information, electronic mail, database access, data processing, etc., This can help in providing the competitive edge in business.

Information Retrieval

Public databases (national and international) which have a repository of almost unlimited type of information ranging from news, business, stocks and shares, science and technology, medical research and technical information, etc can be connected to I-NET for easy and cheap public access.

Remote Job Applications

I-NET can provide reliable links between subscriber terminals and computers that provide time sharing services for data processing and software development etc.

Using DIAL-UP connections for asynchronous (X.28) connection with 'PSTN' modems. Access is permitted through a confidential user access code called NETWORK USER IDENTIFICATION (NUI).

Table 1 Categories of Accesses

Type of Access	Mode of Operation	Speeds Available
Dial up	X.28 Asynchronous	300 bps 1200/75 bps 1200 bps 2400 bps
Leased	X.28 Asynchronous	300 bps 1200 bps 2400 bps 4800 bps
Leased	X.25 Synchronous	2400 bps 4800 bps 9600 bps

Facilities

I-NET offers the following facilities which give numerous benefits to its users and can be used for several new applications.

Reverse Charging

Reserve charging enables the calls to be charged to the called subscriber provided he has accepted this at the call set up time.

Closed User Group (CUG)

The closed user group facility enables a set of users located anywhere in the network to form a closed user group, by way of which neither other subscribers not belonging to this group will be permitted by the network to call these users nor the group can communicate with other users who are not members of the group. This provides virtually a private network capability within the public network.

Permanent Virtual Circuit (PVC)

For a subscriber who has a need to communicate regularly with another subscriber, continuous connection between two parties can be established with PVC which functions similar to a local leased circuit connection.

Fast Select

Small messages can be transmitted instantly in one packet, i.e., call set up packet itself. This is useful for applications such as credit card systems etc.

Further information may be requested from the Chief General Manager, Data Networks I-10, Sector 12, NOIDA-201301 (U.P.) □

Use of PCs & CDS/ISIS in Library and Information Environment — INFOTEK Workshop

INFOTEK (Institution of Information Technology) organized a workshop on "Use of Personal Computers & CDS/ISIS in Library and Information Environment" during 7-12 October, 1991 at the National Institute of Port Management (NIPM), Madras. This workshop was co-sponsored by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) New Delhi under its NISSAT programme and NIPM, Madras.

Welcoming the participants, Dr V.A. Kamath, President, INFOTEK reviewed the professional work so far done by the INFOTEK. He further traced the development taking place in high technology areas such as computer, telecommunication, micrographics etc. in India and abroad. Dr Kamath emphasized the need for adquate number of trained computer professionals to meet the challenges posed by networks existing as being planned in our country such as NICNET, INDONET, INFLIBNET, CLIBNET, MALIBENT, DELNET.

Inauguration

Dr M. Santappa, Scientific Adviser, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, inaugurated the workshop. In his address he observed that the advances in telecommunication and computer technology were converging quickly towards the new era of information generation, information consolidation and information dissemination. He further stressed that today's information users cannot afford to watch the revolution in information technology from the sidelines without fully participating and harnessing the technology for all their risks. The need of the hour of the library professionals was to learn computer application, software utility, particularly CDS/ISIS supplied by UNESCO and distributed by NISSAT, he pointed out.

Dr A. Balraj, the Chairman, Madras Port Trust in his presidential address, expressed the need for computerization of all Port Libraries and proposed to have a Port Library Network for India.

Dr V. Baskaran, Director, NIPM introduced the NIPM and welcomed the VIPs and participants to his institute. He further extended invitation for conducting this type of training in future at the institute.

There were 16 participants in the workshop: from Tamil Nadu(8), West Bengal(1), Orissa(1), Goa(2), Maharashtra(2), Gujarat(1), Andhra Pradesh(1).

The Workshop participants were given theoretical exposure with practical training on personal computers on the following topics : Computer Systems; MS-DOS; CDS/ISIS structure and function; PASCAL interface; and advanced features of the latest version of CDS/ISIS.

Shri M. N. Seetharaman, Librarian, IIT, Madras delivered a lecture on "Data communication with special reference to online search and retrieval". Informatics India (P) Ltd., Bangalore arranged for demonstration of online and CD-ROM search for the participants. Shri R. Vengan, Deputy Librarian, IIT, Madras gave a technical lecture on "CD-ROM Technology" to the workshop participants.

The participants were assigned project work on the following topics: Database creation of 1) Book Catalogue; 2) Periodical Holdings; 3) Weekly display of current periodicals; and 4) Directory of workshop participants. The participants were grouped into four teams and each team created the databases and submitted its report. The reports were evaluated by Prof. S. Parthasarathy, Institute of Information Studies, Madras on the final day and Certificates were distributed to the participants. He also delivered the valedictory address.

The participants were given an evaluation questionnarie for evaluating the workshop. They provided feedback on the workshop. On the whole, the participants expressed their happiness over the workshop and some of them suggested that such workshops on CDS/ISIS should be conducted in several parts of our country.

Shri R. Vengan, Deputy Librarian, IIT, Madras and Secretary, INFOTEK and Shri A. Lakshmi, Librarian, NIPM, Madras acted as Course Coordinators. □

American Center Library : 45th Anniversary Lecture

On the occasion of its 45th Anniversary Celebration on 29 Nov. 1991, the American Center Library organized in New Delhi a special lecture on 'Electronic Information Exchange and its Impact on Libraries'. The speaker was Prof. Fred W. Lancaster of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana, Illinois.

Welcoming the distinguished audience, Ms Janot M. Gilligan, Library and Book Officer observed that the Library represented a most expensive exchange program between India and the US and served as a very meaningful instrument of learning and understanding. Mrs Kamla Kapur, Founder Librarian of the Center who had the distinction of working in that capacity for more than quarter of a century was the Chief Guest of the evening. Dr Stephen Dachi, Country Public Affairs Officer requested her to light the traditional lamp and honoured her by presenting a shawl.

In the lecture which followed, Prof. Lancaster dwelt on the impact of computers on the two main library activities affected by technology in the course of the last 30 years. These are: 1) Inventory control activities associated with circulation and technical service functions and 2) Activities associated with subject access.

Automation projects, Prof. Lancaster felt, had quite often adversely affected libraries by reducing expenditure on monographic and serials purchases. This had forced increased reliance on resource sharing and greater expenditure on the technology to make resource sharing possible. In some places library automation appeared almost a goal in and of itself, Prof. Lancaster regretted.

Other aspects dealt with by the learned speaker included computerisation to produce online catalogue. These were more in the nature of card catalogue accessible through terminals with a view to improving subject searching. But they had not brought about any significant improvement as far as in-depth subject searching was concerned.

In the matter of library education computers were becoming an end in themselves. A dichotomy was occurring between computer libraries and traditional libraries. "We have a lot of information technology in our curricula but very little information science", the Professor ruefully observed. What was most important was the users and the impact of technology had to be enhanced for providing improved services to the users, Prof. Lancaster concluded.

Ms Heera Kapasi, Director, Library proposed a hearty vote of thanks. □

— Ram D. Taneja

SAARC Wokshop on Technology Information and Its Linkages

(l to r) **Dr J. Dhar, Prof. Yash Pal and Dr Y.S. Rajan**

A two-day SAARC Wrokshop on "Technology information and its linkages" was held in New Delhi on September 24-25, 1991. The Workshop was attended by delegations from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, and Maldives; the *Sri Lankan delegation could not attend.*

The Workshop was organised with a view to exchanging information and to assess the existing state-of-the-art in the member countries in order to work out a specific plan of action of interest to this region. The deliberations were organised in 3 sessions. The first session was devoted to the various policies, plans and perspectives. The second and third sessions covered presentations on the existing information systems available in each country and the various netwprking system available. The concluding session covered the modalities of future cooperation in the area of information technology.

Inauguration

The Workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Yash Pal, Chairman, Information Library Network (INFLIBNET). In his inaugural address Prof. Yash *Pal stressed the crucial role of information techno* logy for the countries of the region, which represent a quarter of human population. He also pointed out that these countries are not devoting sufficient attention to this area. He said that the "Business-as-usual" mode is not adequate and some immediate action should be taken to link the thinking people of the region. To begin with, he said, the countries should attend to carrying library information to remote institutions in this region. The per capita expenditure on library resources in the developed countries is three times the per capita income of India. The present poor situation regarding access to library in the developing countries is catastrophic to the

intellectual, industrial, and economic future of the third world. With the costs of journals and books going up, situation in these countries has become worse. It would be an essential first step to ensure that the knowledge of people in this region does not become obsolete. Prof. Yask Pal offered active cooperation from the INFLIBNET Library Network being implemented in India in the SAARC region.

During one of the sessions, Dr P. Rama Rao, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology stressed the need for undertaking joint projects in addition to the useful exchange of information. These projects should be based on complementary strengths of the country. He also desired that efforts should be made to cut down the formalities required to arrive at the projects.

Country Presentations

Technical presentations were made by Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan on the three identified topics. After detailed discussions, it was agreed that information technology will play an important role in the times to come, and every effort should be made to come together to strengthen the existing activities at the national level on the one hand, and work on future tie-ups on the other for proper dissemination and easy access to information.

Recommendations

After elaborate discussions and deliberations during the meeting the following recommendations emerged:

1) Each SAARC member country should strengthen its S&T information system

2) Each SAARC country will name a Focal point for disseminating once every six months information on the status of the various science and technology information systems and networks in the respective countries, preferably with the names and addresses of the contact person(s) for further information.

3) Initiative be taken to formulate a project proposal for a SAARC Library Information Network in about a year from now. For this purpose INSDOC (India) was identified to prepare a preliminary proposal before the end of 1991. This document will be sent to the above Focal Points requesting them to send comments and suggestions by March 1992.

4) Formulate a proposal for establishing a SAARC database on the non-index Science and Technology documents generated within the SAARC countries. For this purpose RONAST (Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology) was identified to prepare a preliminary proposal by March, 1992. The document will be sent to above Focal Points requesting them to send their comments and suggestions by June, 1992.

5) It was agreed that an outline of a joint proposal on strengthening S&T Information System in the SAARC member states will be prepared by Pakistan. This proposal, *inter alia*, will address exchange visits and training programmes in this area.

The above recommendations will be placed before the SAARC Technical Committee on S&T at its Ninth Meeting by the designated countries for inclusion in the calendar of activities for the next year. □

No Substitute

The only communications system in no danger of being replaced by electronics is *the Grapevine.*

— Catholic Digest

Rationalisation of Periodical Acquisition in S&T : Survey Report 1990-91

Vimal Kumar Varun
National Information System for Science & Technology (DSIR), New Delhi

Recent studies have brought out that the extent of duplication in periodical acquisition among institutions occurring in close clusters is of the order of 30 per cent. Multiple subscriptions to materials like the Chemical Abstracts are common. Institutions which don't have a problem of funds, don't also bother to find out what their neighbours have been acquiring; they are also less keen to make their massive holdings available for outhouse users. Can Indian institutions afford to indulge in such luxury which has to be paid for in foreign exchange?

The cost of S&T periodicals increases at 15-20 per cent per annum. The recent devaluation of rupee would imply another 20 per cent rise. As library budget in most institutions remains static, the net result would be a reduction in the acquisition of titles. On the other hand, as our scientists and technologists enter into newer areas, their activities would naturally demand access to more new periodicals.

Unfortunately, not many of us seem to have given sufficient thought to rationalising periodical acquisitions. For instance, can we now exchange notes among institutions with major holdings and rationalise our acquisitions? Can we evolve a photocopy supply facility within a city through inter-library cooperation? Is it possible to work out a mechanism of circulation of expensive journals like secondary periodicals among institutions within a city? Would circulation of photocopy of content pages of recent journals be desirable? There are hosts of such questions. Much of the problems could be handled if the institutions located in a small geographic region-like a "city", could get together and look for solutions in right earnest.

In most cases, a formal mechanism to facilitate exchange of notes does not exist. NISSAT attempted to bridge this gap in a few selected cities where Consultative Committees coordinated either by a NISSAT Sectoral Information Centre and/or a local library association were formed. The Consultative Committee for Rationalisation of Periodicals (CCRP) attempted to bring local libraries together to discuss their acquisitions especially renewal subscriptions and resource sharing possibilities. Duplication, if any should be an outcome of conscious decision making.

To experiment on this idea, NISSAT had initially identified 8 cities : Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabd, Lucknow and Pune. Later, CCRP activity was extended to Chandigarh, Mysore, Nagpur, Trivandrum, Bhopal Visakhapatnam, Cochin and Kanpur. Details of various CCRP groups are given in Table 1. Work at some of these places is yet to start.

Progress of Activities

Ahmedabad

The Ahmedabd group has organised two one day seminars on resource sharing. They have prepared a complete catalogue of scientific, technical and management periodicals received in major libraries (40) including all university libraries in Gujarat. This UC has 3914 entries; periodicals duplicated in more than one library during 1989 and 1990 were 463 and 1124 respectively. The list of periodicals received by more than one library in Gujarat was distributed widely.

Decisions were also taken to prepare the following:

— Union Catalogue of audio-visual materials available in libraries of Gujarat.

— Bibliographic information on reference tools in Gujarat libraries.

— A list of participating libraries for inter-library loan and also for resource sharing.

Table 1 Consultative Committees

S. No.	City	Association / SIC	Name of Coordinator
1.	Ahmedabad	NICTAS	Shri P.C. Shah
2.	Bangalore	CMTI	Shri M.S. Srikantiah
3.	Bhopal	—	
4.	Bombay	IIT, BOSLA	Dr S.R. Ganpule
5.	Calcutta	CGCRI, BLA	Dr D. Chakraborty
6.	Chandigarh	P U	—
7.	Cochin	—	—
8.	Delhi	IIC	Shri H.K. Kaul
9.	Hyderabad	—	—
10.	Kanpur	—	—
11.	Lucknow	CDRI, LUSLIC	Shri M. Jinandra Doss
12.	Mysore	CFTRI, AIS	Shri K.A. Ranganath
13.	Nagpur	NEERI	Shri S.G. Bhat
14.	Pune	NCL	Shri R.S. Singh
15.	Trivandrum	KLA	Shri Gopalakrishnan Nair
16.	Visakhapatnam	—	

So far, the group could achieve a saving of Rs. 1,50,000 through discontinuation of 125 periodicals.

Bangalore

The leading engineering organisations in Bangalore met twice. Participants from 16 special libraries attended and the following points emerged from the deliberations.

— Library cooperation for foreign periodicals.
— Circulation of contents pages of periodicals to non-recipients of periodicals.
— Document delivery (photocopying of articles) through payment or coupons.

Besides, 48 periodicals currently received by CMTI were found duplicated in other libraries. While others had the option to drop these subscriptions, CMTI would provide photocopies when required. A union catalogue has been prepared and individual libraries have been requested to identify their partners for resource sharing.

In a parallel action, ISRO (Satellite centre), Bangalore on its own has initiated a similar exercise in exploring the possibilities of Inter-library Cooperation and Resource Sharing by forming "Bangalore Special Library Group (Scientific and Technical)". Two meetings have been held during 1990-91. In the first meeting 16 libraries including NICMAP participated. The following actions were recommended.

— Exchange of profiles of the participating libraries
— Exchange of the list of periodicals subscribed by participating libraries.
— Exchange details of documents costing more than US$ 250 acquired by any of the participating libraries.

(*Note*: It is not clear as to what led to the parallel action which tended to create more confusion than help in solving problems. Noting that another group is interested in the subject, the NISSAT sponsored activity is likely/proposed to be withdrawn from Bangalore.)

Bombay

A meeting of the librarians of eleven libraries in Bombay was held to discuss the problems in general. A Union List of Current Periodicals was compiled on floppies. It was also proposed to prepare a write-up highlighting the problems and impressing upon the authorities the need to share the resources and to write popular articles to create public awareness.

BOSLA, through which the activities are proposed to be carried out, has been revived and a new committee has been constituted. Three meetings coupled with half day seminars on topics of book acquisition, journals, mutilation and misuse of books were held. The CCRP activity is slowly gaining momentum.

Calcutta

The CCRP group has conducted five meetings. It was decided in the last meeting that data relation relating to subscription of periodicals for 1991 and budget expenditure for last three years of the different S&T libraries in Calcutta will be collected.

An analysis of current periodicals will be made giving

— cost of the periodical.
— Duplication of any periodical title subscribed by other libraries, and suggestions for rationalisation.
— Savings on the budget expenditure
— Resource sharing on the basis of collected data.

Delhi

So far CCRP group has conducted five meetings. Three subcommittees in the field of Agricultural Sciences, Medical Sciences and Physical Sciences were constituted to speed up the activity. Through these deliberations, savings to the tune of Rs. 18,00,000/- was achieved.

It is now felt necessary to make some arrangements for carrying the journals between the libraries so that the sharing of the periodicals is

made possible. The facilities could be provided ony to those libraries that are ready to share resources, participate in E-MAIL and collaborate with the DELNET activities. Besides the following important actions have been initiated.

— Drafting of the Code of Conduct for resource sharing activities by a committee, and
— Preparation of a brochur outlining the concept and mechanism for rationalisation of periodicals acquisition (For information of Heads of institutions, library committees, etc.).

Hyderabad

A consultative committee meeting attended by 34 participants was held. The committee first considered the need for resource sharing, especially, of industrial information. The committee decided to have a map of industrial and economic projects, assessment of existing information systems and facilities, inter-library loan and photocopy services.

Lucknow

A union catalogue of current periodicals in Lucknow libraries was earlier prepared by LUSLIC. The union catalogue shows that out of 2014 periodicals, 200 foreign and 108 Indian journals were subscribed to by more than one institutions. The first meeting held at CDRI was attened by 16 members of LUSLIC. The committee suggested:

— Identification of groups by subject areas.
— Identification of core periodicals in the subject areas.
— Model code of conduct for resource sharing.
— Display of periodicals in other libraries as well
— Dropping 14 journals worth Rs 150,000 in subscription.

Subsequently, the Library and Information Centre of the 4 CSIR laboratories at Lucknow decided to delete 53 journals worth Rs. 4,44,040.

Mysore

The first consultative committee meeting of the Mysore City Librarians was held at CFTRI, Mysore under the auspicious of AIS, Mysore. It was attended by 12 participants from 10 libraries. The members recommended establishment of a Local Area Network (LAN) of the libraries and also preparation of:

— A directory of profiles of institutions and specialists in different fields of study including library and information sciences.
— A common monthly accession list of the entire library system. As a byproduct of this activity, catalogue cards should be generated from the computer for the participating libraries on cost basis.
— A logistic map showing the location of the libraries of Mysore city depicting the distance between different libraries, telephone number, etc.

Nagpur

The baseline data on periodicals currently subscribed in 23 S&T Libraries in Nagpur were collected. Out of 1400 titles received, 148 are received in two libraries and 64 are received in more than two libraries. The duplicate subscriptions to many expensive periodicals were avoided by mutual consultation even before the process of data collection. There was general agreement on the following points:

— Decision for subscribing to a new title will be made after ascertaining its availability in the local S&T library.
— By mutual agreement, for costly journals, options like exchange of contents pages, lending the required journal for a specified short period and easy access to the journals for members of participating institutions may be explored.
— Disciplines like Economics, Law, Geography, etc. may also be included for attention.
— Considering the cost factor and the limited library resources, the following possibilities may also be explored.
  — To get the journal on complimentary/ exchange basis.
  — Availing institutional membership of learned societies through which all the publications of the societies could be acquired.
  — Photocopying facilities may be strengthened exclusively for library use by the participating institutions.
  — All the participating institutions should convey regularly any changes like additions or

Table 1 ASTINFO Work Plan (1992-93)

Activities/Projects	Objectives/Targets	Time Frame	Responsible Unit/Orgn.	Requirement Resources	Remarks
INDIA					
1. Course on CDS/ISIS (elementary & advanced) information technology, CCF, bibliometrics, information marketing, etc.,	To provide for participants from ASTINFO countries in national training courses	1992-93	Conducted by: NISSAT, INSDOC (New Delhi), DRTC (Bangalore) Poona Univ. and professional bodies	Registration/course fees, travel and per diem of foregin participants	UNESCO/IDRC to be approached to seek financial assistance for foreign participants
2. Regional workshop on methodologies for retrospective conversion using available MARC records from ASTINFO countries (India).	To discuss specific characteristics of MARC formats from the region, e.g. Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Korea and Vietnam To work out a mechanism for periodic union of available MARC records from the region To get familiarized with the methodology of retrospective conversion using available MARC records from the region	Late 1993 (1 week)	NISSAT in collaboration with CALIBNET and DELNET (India)	$5,000 travel and per diem of ASTINFO participants, resource persons	National workshops in interested countries should precede this regional workshop. Sample MARC files for training purposes should be negotiated by India. Regional workshops should preferably be organised in late 1993 to ensure consideration of developments in countries like Australia, New Zealand, etc.
3. Workshop on library networking	To provide an in-depth understanding of various aspects concerning the design and development of library networks, especially in developing countries	End 1992 (2 weeks)	CALIBNET and INSDOC, Calcutta (India)	$ 5000 for organisation, travel & per diem of ASTINFO participants	Indonesia, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand are interested in participating in this activity

Contd.

Table 1 contd.

Activities/Projects	Objectives/Targets	Time Frame	Responsible Unit/Orgn.	Requirement Resources	Remarks
4. Training course on promotion & marketing of information products and services	To familiarise practising library and information scientists in the principles and techniques of information marketing and promotion	(2 weeks)	NISSAT (India)	$ 5000, travel & per diem of ASTINFO participants	The course should include a module on user training. China, Nepal, Thailand Vietnam are interested in participating in this activity
5. Workshop on production and maintenance of bibliographic databases for online searching	To provide an insight into various types of databases and provide practical guidelines in the design, development and maintenance of databases	1992-93	INSDOC, New Delhi (India)	$ 5000 for organisation, travel and per diem of ASTINFO participants	Sri Lanka & Nepal are interested in parcipating in this activity
6. Concept & methodologies for computer communication and networking for library information scientists	To prepare course material To conduct a pilot course (level : elementary)	1992-93	NISSAT in collaboration with appropriate institutions	$ 3,000	Each ACU to send course module or materials on this subject to Dr Lahiri for his consideration in developing course materials/teaching aids

deletions of journal titles for maintaining the database up to date.

Pune

The CCRP group convened 6 meetings of libraries/information centres of Pune during 1990-91. Data from 27 libraries were collected. A Union Catalogue of Current Periodicals in Pune Science & Technology Libraries (PSTL) was prepared in machine readable form. All the participants agreed to photocopy services on payment basis and bilateral cooperation.

A small group of Biomedical libraries has been formed. They have decided to distribute current periodicals amongst themselves. Similar groups for Engineering Science, Physical and Chemical Sciecnes are likely to be formed soon. A case is now slowly emerging for networking libraries/information centres in city.

The larger libraries/information centres like NICHEM, Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) will provide technical guidance and assistance to smaller organisations in computerising their activities/services.

NICHEM is entrusted with the job of compiling a compending of participating libraries/information centres. A questionnaire to collect the required data has been distributed amongst the 45 participating libraries. In turn, NCL has discontinued 16 titles worth Rs. 0.98 lakhs during 1990 and 25 titles worth Rs. 1.98 lakhs during 1991.

Trivandrum

A Consultative Meeting of Heads/Chairman, Library Committees and Librarians of various S&T libraries in and around Trivandrum city was held to deliberate on "Rationalisation of Periodicals Acquisition".

Prior to the meeting, base line data relating to the titles of periodicals received by each of the S & T libraries in and around Trivandum city were collected and analysed. It was seen that out of 2016 periodicals collectively received by 15 libraries, 254 periodicals (Foreign & Indian) including 13 secondary periodicals costing approximately Rs. 20 lakhs were duplicated.

A combined list of periodicals acquired by 15 libraries together with an analysis was supplied to all the libraries represented in the meeting. The librarians were requested to review the periodicals acquired and report to the association. Many participants indicated their inability to provide photocopy services as they did not have adquate reprographic facilities. In the next meeting, list of duplicates and the combined list of periodical acquisition by S & T libraries will be reviewed.

Performance of Consultative Commitees in various cities is shown in Table 2. □

ASTINFO Activities in India

The ASTINFO activies in India are closely coordinated with those of the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT).

An Advisory Committee consisting of information science professionals, representatives of users and of concerned government departments guides the implementation of NISSAT programmes. This Advisory Committee is also the National Advisory Committee of UNISIST and the National Advisory Group for ASTINFO. A small group in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research under the Ministry of Science and Technology is responsible for the executions of NISSAT programme; and the Head of this group is also the Liaison Officer of ASTINFO in India.

1. ASTINFO-UNESCO Activities 1990-91

1.1 *CDS/ISIS*

As in the past, the period 1990-91 has seen active promotion of the CDS/ISIS mini-micro version in India. The user base has proliferated. As of July 1991, 497 institutions had taken the Version 2.3. Ten to fifteen nationally advertised courses per year and scores of local or institutional courses helped to make the skill base more widespread.

Two derivative products of CDS/ISIS ar ready for introduction in the market. On named *SANJAY* is an integrated package for total automation of a library. The other called *TRISHNA* can handle text

Eighth ASTINFO Consultative Committee Meeting at Tsukuba, Japan. Seated at extreme left is the Indian Delegate Dr A. Lahiri.

Table 2 Performance of Consultative Mechanism in Various Cities

S. No.	City	Association/STC	No. of Participants	Analysis		Yearwise Savings in Rupees				Other Spinoffs
				Titles	Duplicates	1989	1990	1991	Total	
1.	Ahmedabad	NICTAS	40	3914	1124	16 57500	60	41	125 1,50,000	Inter-Lib. Loan Photocopy Services Union Catalogue
2.	Bangalore	CMTI	22		48				48 1,50,000	Photocopy Services FAX facilities Document Delivery
3.	Bombay	IIT, BOSLA	11							Union List of Current Periodicals
4.	Calcutta	CGCRI, BLA								List of periodicals will be prepared
5.	Chandigarh	P U								
6.	Delhi	IIC	19		76				76 18,00,000	E-Mail Facility, Document Delivery facility, etc.

Contd.

Table 2 contd.

S. No.	City	Association/STC	No. of Participants	Analysis		Yearwise Savings in Rupees				Other Spinoffs
				Titles	Duplicates	1989	1990	1991	Total	
7.	Hyderabad	IPE	34							Inter-Lib. Loan Photocopy Services
8.	Lucknow	CDRI, LUSLIC	16	2014	308	14 1,50,000		53 4,44,040	67 5,94,040	UC of Current Periodicals
9.	Mysore	CFTRI, AIS	12							
10.	Nagpur	NEERI	23	1400	64					
11.	Pune	NCL	27				16 98,000	25 1,98,000	41 2,96,000	UC of Current Periodicals in PSTL Compendium
12.	Trivandrum	KLA	15	2016	254				* 20,00,000	

* Indicates that it is not finalised.

in the scripts of sixteen Indian languages. Satisfied with the performance of the mini-micro version, Indian users are now eagerly waiting for the release of the UNIX version.

1.2 *Marketing of information products and services*

One of the specific objectives of the ASTINFO project undertaken by NISSAT was to develop a standard course material. Based on the inputs received from the pilot workshop held during November 27 to December 1, 1989, an enhancement on the UNESCO document PGI/88/WS/1 entitled "Guidelines for the Teaching of Marketing in the Training of Librarians, Documentations and Archivists" was prepared.

1.3 *Teaching aids and course materials on CDS/ISIS, CCF and MIS for special libraries*

NISSAT has constituted three small committees of experts to dwell on three components of this ASTINFO project. The teaching aids will be developed on OHP transparencies (in black and white to economise on reproduction) and also on STORYBOARD software. As course material, additional text is being compiled to supplement the mainline text already available on CDS/ISIS and CCF. The exercise on MIS will, however, involve new writing. The MIS component has provision for a regional workshop to test/demonstrate the teaching aids and software.

1.4 *Regional workshop on machine translation*

UNESCO supported the activity under the participation programme. The workshop was announced twice; first in September 1990 and then in February 1991. On both occasions, the response from possible resource persons/institutions was extremely poor and the workshop had to be postponed. The new dates are December 16-20, 1991.

1.5 *Oceanographic information*

The activity was nucleated at the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa with support from ASTINFO/UNESCO. The Institute as an Indian National ASFIS Centre (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System) includes various Indian publications relating to marine and brackish water aspects, in its database. It also carries out computerized literature search on ASFA database. The services of literature search as well as inclusion of publication in this database are carried out free of cost.

1.6 *APINMAP*

The publications and Information Directorate (PID) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, is the regional as well as the national node of APINMAP. The PID has been developing the database on medicinal and aromatic plants using the MINISIS software on HP-3000/37. Besides Indian information, this node also covers Japanese material. PID contributed 930 records in 1990 and 1117 records in 1991 (upto August) to the APINMAP database.

1.7 *Project to promote development of an integrated information market in India*

An outline of the project submitted to UNESCO and UNIDO evoked considerable interest. A detailed project proposal is being prepared. The project may be submitted for extra-budgetary support.

2. Eighth Consultative Committee Meeting in Tsukuba

The plan of action of UNESCO's ASTINFO programme is discussed and approved by the Member States in Consultative Committee meetings. The 8th ASTINFO Consultative Committee meeting was held in Tsukuba, the Science City, Japan during September 24-29, 1991. While the host country (Japan) chaired the Session, India was elected Vice-Chairperson for the third consecutive term and Pupua New Guinea the Rapporteur. The meeting was preceded by a seminar and exposition on document supply and electronic publishing.

Before the Tsukuba meeting, NISSAT had requested project proposals/ideas from various national institutions. The proposals were discussed by the NISSAT Committee and a select list was forwarded to the UNESCO/ASTINFO for consideration. The list of projects as approved by the ASTINFO/CC is given in Table 1.

3. Ninth Consultative Committee Meeting — India

The next ASTINFO/CC meeting is scheduled to be held in India in 1993. "Library Networking" was identified as the topic of the Regional Seminar which would procede this meeting. □

ASTINFO-NLA-NISSAT Document Supply Service

A regional document delivery service has been set up by ASTINFO/UNESCO. In the scheme the National Library of Australia supported by specialised organisations like the CSIRO, Australia would supply photocopy of documents at a cost of Australian $ 2 irrespective of the number of pages (that is about Rs. 40/- compared to Rs. 200/- charged by BLDSC for 10 pages or part thereof).

The service is open only to ASTINFO member countries, including India.

Operation in India

As the national coordinating unit of ASTINFO, NISSAT has identified a set of institutions on logistics consideration, to handle the requests for services. (See list below).

Users may directly contact any of these institutions and place orders on prescribed forms. The service is priced on cost-recovery basis, (Australian $ 2 approximately plus handling charges payable in Indian rupees only).

However, before you use the system, please ensure that the required document is not available in India.

If you need any further clarification, contact NISSAT.

List of institutions handling ASTINFO-NISSAT Document Supply Services:

NICTAS/ATIRA, Ahmedabad	Shri P.C. Shah
NICMAP/CMTI, Bangalore	Shri M.S. Srikantiah
IACS, Calcutta	Shri Basak
DESIDOC, Delhi	Shri J.P. Singh
IARI, Delhi	Shri Chhote Lal
INSDOC, Delhi	Shri R.P.S. Dhaka
NASSDOC, Delhi	Shri K.G. Tyagi
IICT, Hyderabad	Shri I.R.N. Goudar
NICDAP/CDRI, Lucknow	Dr S.S. Iyer
IIT, Madras	Shri M N. Seetharaman
NICHEM/NCL, Pune	Shri R.S. Singh
NEHU, Shillong	Prof J.C. Binwal

Technical Communication Training Course Rescheduled in February 1992

The Fifth training Course in Technical Communication Organised by Society for Information Science (SIS) and sponsored by NISSAT (DSIR) is now scheduled about the middle of February 1992 at NISTADS, New Delhi, The Course, earlier programmed last November had to be unavoidably postponed.

The programme has several new features to enable scientists, technologists, writers, editors and publishers to upgrade their communication skills and cope with present-day communication problems and responsibilities. Handling modern print media, organising and writing research papers, reports, theses, press handouts and making visual presentations are some of the topics which will be dealt with by well known experts in the field. Participation is limited so please hurry. Nominations will be entertained on first-come-first-serve basis.

For further information, contact the Secretary, Society for Information Science C/o PID, Hillside Road, New Delhi-110 012.

News and Events

IFLA General Conference, New Delhi

The 58th General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions will be held *in New Delhi during 30 Aug.–5 Sept.1992 to coincide with* Birth Centenary Celebration of Dr S.R. Ranganathan, the Father of Indian Library Movement.

The theme of the Conference is **Library and Information Policy and Perspectives.**

The sub-topics are:

a) Conceptual framework for national library and information policies.

b) organization and design of national library system for effective operations — differences between the regions around the world.

c) Role of public, academic and special libraries in providing information needs.

d) Users and their needs.

e) Staff-training and development.

f) Impact of national policies on scientific, technical, cultural and social development.

g) Role of regional and international cooperation.

An official pre-conference seminar will be organized for libraries from the developing countries on the theme image, status and reputation of the library and information profession.

An International Exhibition of Books and Information Technology has also been scheduled from 31 August to 4 September 1992.

For further information write to Shri S.C. Biswas, Secretary General, Indian Organizing Committee (IFLA 1992), IFLA Secretariat, 14 Satsang Vihar Marg, New Delhi-110 067.

Information Technology and National Development : International Conference at BHU

Application of information technology for development of various sectors of national economy in the control theme of an international conference being organized by Banaras Hindu University during 16-17 December 1991 at Varanasi. The Department of Library and Information Science and the Department of Computer Engineering, Institute of Technology (BHU) are the conference organizers while the International Development Research Centre (Canada) South Asia Regional Office, New Delhi is sponsoring the event. The conference is dedicated to the Platinum Jubilee year of BHU.

Topics

1. *Information Technology Applications for Development in:*
   - Agriculture and agro-industry.
   - Social, economic, organisational and management aspects : Decision Support Systems, Expert Systems, Knowledge Systems, Artificial Intelligence, Office Automation.
   - Industrial Production; Process Industries: CAD, CAM, and ROBOTICS.
   - Banks and Retailing.
   - Communications.
   - Education and Literacy Drive.
   - Health Delivery.
   - Environment.
   - Publication.
   - Information Technology and Society.
2. *Information, Information Systems and Services:*
   - Conceptual and theoretical issues of information as a resource for productivity enhancement.
   - Nature of information required for development.
   - National Information Systems: existing situation and needs.
   - Building indigenous capability and infrastructure to ensure accessibility and utilization of information for development by the end users such as government, research and development establishments, the productive sector, professional and individual entrepreneurs in the different sectors and geographical locations including the rural region.
   - Establishing or strengthening material infrastructure *to facilitate the availability of and access to* information resources.
   - Constraints on the flow of information from internal and external sources; technology transfer and flow of information.
   - Establishing network for the exchange of information.
   - National Information Policy.
   - Information Technology and Libraries.

AGLIS Annual Convention

Marketing of information services and products is the theme of the forthcoming one-day AGLIS Annual Convention and Seminar to be held in New Delhi on 24 December, 1991.
Delegation Fee : Rs 75 for members
Rs 100 for non-members

Last Date for receipt of papers is 10 Dec.1991.
Contact : Shri Ambrish Kumar, Secretary, AGLIS
C/o DESIDOC, Metcalfe House, Delhi-110054.

MINISIS User Group Meeting November, 1992

The SNDT Women's University will host 13th International MINISIS User Group Meeting at Bombay during 9-13 November, 1992.

It is expected that Version 1+ of MINISIS as well as the micro computer version will be demonstrated at the meeting.

UNIMARC/CCF Workshop

A Workshop on UNIMARC/CCF was organized by IFLA with UNESCO's financial support, from 5 to 7 June, 1991 in Florence, Italy. It gathered specialists and librarians from all over the world.

The main purpose of this workshop was to promote a wider awareness of the two exchange formats, UNIMARC and CCF, and their implementation on various software packages such as CDS/ISIS.

The resolutions recommended that :

- support of both UNIMARC and CCF be reaffirmed and that the value of each in appropriate circumstances be recognized;
- the bodies entrusted with the maintenance of the two formats (UNIMARC Committee and CCF *ad hoc* Group) ensure continuing liaison and cooperation, and that a review of progress following this workshop take place within two years;
- both bodies promote universal awareness of their formats through education and training, publication of manuals, translations, and dissemination by other appropriate means in partnership with international bodies, and that they facilitate the establishment of performance testing procedures;
- professional staff with appropriate expertise be made available on a continuing basis to support the work of each of the two maintenance bodies;
- both bodies take particular account of the following issues : the multilingual needs of users and the needs of the variety of cultures; developments in authority control as a bridge between languages, cultures and communities; the need to review the content of records in the light of developments in computing and networking and in new media; awareness and evaluation of developments that may affect handling of data in the future.
- the proceedings of this Workshop be published and dedicated to the memory of A.L. van Wesemael, former IFLA Deputy Secretary General.

MINISIS Use in India : Report

According to a preliminary report based on response of some users of MINISIS, there are more than 100,000 computerised bibliographic records in MINISIS in India. The bibliographic databases created by these users, their scope and size are shown in Table 1.

In addition, information about serials subscribed and holdings is maintained in separate databases at NCAER, JNU and SNDT.

Table 1 Bibliographic Databases Created in India

User Name	Database Name	Scope	No. of Records
CERC	LIBDAT	Books on Consumer and Environmental protection	1,200
CSIR-PID	MAPA	Journal articles on Medicinal and Aromatic plants	8,000
JNU	DOC2	Periodical articles in Social Science and Area Studies	20,000
JNU	SS1	Books in Social Sciences	6,000
JNU	SC1	Books in Sciences	2,000
JNU	HUM1	Books in Humanities and European languages	5,000
JNU	IWA4	Documents on Foreign Relations of India	3,000
National Library	ACON	English books acquired by library	2,000
NCAER	CURA	Economic literature on India and South Asia	21,000
NCAER	KITAB	Books on Energy available in the library	350
SNDT	Suchak	Books, journal articles, thesis and conference papers from 1986 in Sociology, Women's Studies, Home Science, Special Education and Library Science	40,000

Earth Science Database on Aspects of Indian Geology Generated

A comprehensive bibliographic database for the entire publications of the Geological Society of India covering Journals, Memoirs and Bulletins of the Society for a thirty-year period commencing the year 1958 to date has been created. This has involved entering of 3,000 records. It is now possible to retrieve data relating to any publication during this period. The system has been developed and is working satisfactorily. Bibliographic information is being furnished to those who request for the same. Although requests for information retrieval are not as many as earlier anticipated, they are slowly growing in volume. Bibliograpic data was originally entered on the basis of a specially designed indigenous software, but has now been transferred to the CDS/ISIS system. The project has been carried out with financial support of DSIR, New Delhi.

For further information contact, Editor, Geological Society of India, P.O. 1922, Gavipuram, Bangalore-560 019.

Single-article Distribution Service

A US firm, The Faxon Company, is to introduce a range of services which send individual articles to those who cannot afford to subscribe to journals.

Faxon claims that its methods will address the legitimate concerns of publishers more effectively than traditional, photocopying-base services. In fact, journal subscriptions will be stimulated, it says.

The company hints that they will involve its electronic network, linking over 30,000 publishers to more than 60,000 libraries worldwide.

A subsidiary company, Faxon Research Services, Inc., has been formed to provide these and other document delivery and current awareness services.

Information World Review, July 1991.

Scanner to Speed Reader

Less than one per cent of the world's information is stored on computer, with four per cent on microfilm or magnetic tape. This leaves an astonishing — in the face of the explosion in the number of computers in recent years — 95 per cent still kept on good old paper.

Optical scanners can "read" pages into computers, but they have remained far too slow and inaccurate to be the panacea for a paperless society.

Until now? A company from Virginia, USA claims to have a system that can read and index more than 1,000 pages an hour. That's about 10 times faster than most of its current rivals. The breakthrough is thanks to the use of multiple processors to scan more quickly and accurately. What is more, the makers, Infinite Images International Inc., claim that their Parallax system cuts the cost of a scanned page from around 50 cents (US) to just a few cents.

The new system which runs software from Californian company Calera Recognition Systems Inc., costs from USD 80,000 to USD 750,000, depending on the number of processors in the computer.

Business Week, June, 1991.

New Thesaurus on Information and Communication

The Communication and Information Thesaurus has been prepared by Jane Aitchison under contract to the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID), with financial support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), the International Programme for the Development of Communication and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. It will shortly be available in English, French and Spanish versions in both printed and electronic formats.

Database Speaks 15 Languages

A talking database that allows organizations to provide information in up to 15 languages has been launched by a US company, Multiverse.

The Multilang 15 works by asking callers to press a touchtone telephone key that designates their choice of languages, for example, "to converse in English, press 1; pour parler en francais, poussez 2", and so on. Communication then begins in the user's chosen language.

Multilang 15, say the makers, combines voice and data processing capabilities in a single unit. On the voice-processing side, these include an automated receptionist, voice mail, audiotext outbound dialling and PBX integration.

Data-processing features include order entry, inventory and shipment status, and front-ending mainframe computers.

Four to 16 callers can be handled simultaneously.

Use of Multilang 15 has been authorized in the UK and seven other western European countries. Approvals for other countries are said to be in hand. Prices start at USD 2500. For more information, Contact : Multiverse, 148 W 77 St, Suite 3a, New York, NY 10024, USA.

Information World Review, June 1991

UNEP/Information Clearinghouse Database

Moves to clean up industry by encouraging minimization of waste and the reduction or elimination of pollution have received a shot in the arm with the establishment of a database to share expertise and research-and-development information, as well as facilitating technology transfer.

The database was agreed on in 1990 at a conference organized by the Paris-based Industry and Environment Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It is known as the International Cleaner Production Information Clearinghouse, or ICPIC.

The database is based on the existing Pollution Prevention Information Exchange System, run by the US Environmental Protection Agency, but it aims to coordinate information currently held in many less comprehensive databases. It is designed for use by research institutions, industry, governments and non-governmental and public interest groups.

The UNEP initiative, is highlighting the importance of a switch to cleaner production methods. For instance, one metal working company looked at substituting halogenated solvent degreasers with commercially available terpene-based substitutes, extracted from citrus fruit. Trials proved effective and the company went further. They substituted the original mineral oils used in machining with vegetable-based biodegradable oils. This eliminated the need for any degreasers apart from a mild alkaline rinse, and removed the disposal cost of the mineral oil.

Institute for New Technologies

The United Nations University (UNU), in collaboration with the Government of the Netherlands, has recently set up an Institute for New Technologies (UNU/INTECH) at Maastricht, the Netherlands.

The objective of the institute is to undertake policy-relevant research on the economic and social impacts of new technologies, especially — though not exclusively — on developing countries. To do so, UNU/INTECH seeks to set up a small, in-house team of researchers, composed of economists, political scientists, sociologists and technologists.

IEC/ISO Information Centre

The information Centre located at the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Central Secretariat is now acting as a joint ISO/International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Information Centre. It will also be the ISONET international node for both organizations (ISONET is ISO's information network).

Within ISONET, the Centre will be a focal point for information on international standards and normative documents. It will provide information on ISO and IEC standards to other international information systems such as AGRIS and INIS, coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) respectively.

The Centre will also be responsible for preparation of publications such as the KWIC Index of International Standards, and selective lists of ISO and IEC standards in given fields. The Centre can also put outsiders in touch with national standards bodies.

The Centre's library, containing, *inter alia*, full collections of ISO and IEC standards is now used by staff and visitors of ISO and IEC central offices.

ISO Bulletin, March, 1991

Directory of National Machinery for Advancement of Women

Prepared by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of women, with the aim of providing new channels of communication and cooperation among women's organizations worldwide, the 1991 edition of this directory includes, entries from 110 countries, and information for another 36.

"National Machinery" is taken to mean any organizational structure established with particular responsibility for the advancement of women and the elimination of discrimination against them at the national level. These include governmental, non-governmental and joint government/NGO bodies, but all of which are recognized by their governments as the national machinery for the advancement of women.

CDS/ISIS Course for BHEL Unit Librarians

At the request of the Department of Advanced Technical Education of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., (BHEL) Hyderabad, the Society for Information Science conducted a five-day CDS/ISIS course for the librarians of BHEL units. Twenty participants from various units were given hands on training on CDS/ISIS package by using PCBs. Course material, manuals and CDS/ISIS package (3 floppies) were provided to each participant. The participants who are working as librarians in executive and supervisory positions, were fully made conversant with the package and its capabilities. The BHEL units represented were, Bhopal, Jhansi, Tiruchirapalli, Madras, Hyderabad, Bangalore and New Delhi.

The Faculty for the Course comprised Mr A. Wahid (NISTADS), Mrs S. Ravindran, (NISSAT), Mr Subhash Deshmukh, TERI and Mr S.N. Sur (INSROC).

The Course, held during 30 Sept-5 Oct. 1991, at NISTADS, New Delhi was cosponsored by the NISSAT (DSIR).

Minisis Patrika

The MINISIS Resource Centre, SNDT Women's University, Bombay has brought out a Newsletter, under the above title, the release of the first issue (Oct. 1991) Coincides with the first meeting of the Indian users of MINISIS.

The Resource Centre set up as a project of IDRC, Ottawa is intended to conduct MINISIS training courses and provide support services and assistance to Indian users.

The Newsletter will be published twice a year. It will carry articles about any aspect of MINISIS and its application and about information technology in general.

***Sanchaya* : Bibliography of Indian Geology**

The Geological Society of India is rendering a comprehensive bibliographical service. The information is published in a quarterly journal under the above title. Leading journals in earth sciences are scanned and all aspects of Indian geology are covered. Abstracts of the information contained in the papers are provided. The information has been computerised and three volumes of *Sanchaya* have been brought out so for.

For further details contact Editor, Geological Society of India, P.B. No. 1922, Gavipuram P.O. Bangalore-560019.

Ceramics Update

A quarterly published by the National Information Centre on Advanced Ceramics (NICAC) of NISSAT leased at CGCRI, Calcutta, the publication disseminates information culled out from a few selected international periodicals and reports dealing with advanced ceramics, high-TC ceramic superconductors, refractories, composites and allied materials. The information is presented under the following sections : Materials/Products/Processes and Indian Industrial and Technological Briefs. The material is arranged under appropriate subject headings. A key word index in also provided for easy retrieval. There is an additional feature of Ceramics Update which deals with forthcoming conferences in the area of glass and ceramics.

The Jan.-March, 1991 issue contains notes from five international periodicals and reports. The scope could perhaps be widened by enlarging the number of source publications.

Ceramics Update has an annual subscription of Rs.400, single copy is priced at Rs.100. Contact Editor, *Ceramics Update*, CGCRI, Calcutta-700 032.

CD-ROM Database at IIM Calcutta

The BC Roy Memorial Library, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta has recently installed CD-ROM in Print: an

international guide in CD-ROM, published by Meckler. The database covers 1600 titles commercially available in Compact Disk edition. Each record includes information about descriptive details, providers, hardware/software and subscription rates.

The Library would extend information service free of charge till December, 1991. Those interested may write to: Librarian, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Diamond Harbour Road, Post Box No, 16757, Alipore Post Office, Calcutta-700 027.

Database of Libraries in India

NISSAT has awarded a project on "Creation of Database of Libraries in India" to Indian Library Association. The database is expected to cover about 10,000 Library and Information Centres in the country. The database will be computerised using CDS/ISIS package. ILA has already despatched the questionnaires to various Library and Information Centres. Those who have not received the questionnaire may kindly contact: Prof. C.P. Vashisth, Indian Library Association, A/40-41, Flat No. 201, Ansal Building, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110 009.

CFTRI Monographs

The Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore has just brought out under the Industrial Monograph Series, a new Monograph entitled "LITCHI IN INDIA—Production, Preservation and Processing". The Monograph covers the following aspects: propagation, cultivation, pests and diseases, physico-chemical composition, yield and harvesting, physiological disorders, grading, packaging, transportation and storage, and physico-chemical changes during ripening and processing. An exhaustive list of references and an appendix of equipment/machinery (with suppliers' address) required for manufacture of litchi products, are useful additions. The publication is priced at RS. 40 (Postage extra).

Other Monographs published in the same series relate to Pineapple Pepper, Papaya, Grapes, Banana, Mandarin Orange, Mango and Guava.

For copies, please write to the Head, FOSTIS, CFTRI, Mysore-570 013.

Transfer of Technology : NISIET Training Programme

The National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training, Hyderabad is organizing a training programme on 'Transfer of Technology' during 6-10 January 1992.

The programme is aimed at providing technology orientation and understanding of effective transfer of technology system to the participants. The participation fees is Rs. 1500 and covers cost of tuition, reading material, field visits and board and lodging. For further particulars contact the Registrar, NISIET, Yousufguda, Hyderabad 500 045.

ATTENTION

Professional Bodies In Information Science

NISSAT is considering the possibility of involving more and more professional bodies in the country in its activities like conducting training courses, creation of databases, technical surveys etc. The objective is to achieve speedy implementation of its schemes in all geographical regions of the country and at the same time to stimulate the activities of the professional bodies.

Those who like to participate in this scheme may send the calendar of events for the period April 92–March 93 by **15 January 1992** to the Jt. Adviser, NISSAT, Department of Science and Technology, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016.