

# NISSAT

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 11

No. 2

April-June 1992

## Editorial Committee

Dr A. Lahiri

Jt. Adviser (NISSAT)

Department 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, President

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

Shri P.C. Bose, Secretary,

Society for Information Science  
c/o Agricultural Extension Information System,  
MANAGE NIRD Campus Hyderabad -500030

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.

© 1991 DSIR, New Delhi.

Published by the Society for Information Science on behalf of National Information System for Science & Technology (NISSAT), DSIR, Government of India, Technology Bhawan, New Delhi-110016.

**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, Jt. Adviser (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.

## Time for Service Orientation

Gone are the days when LIS Managers worked within tight compartments and built mega collections with a blind eye to expenditure involved, users' demands and cooperation with the neighbouring community. Having been accustomed to streamlined flow of funds and low accountability until recently, the LIS managers may now find the Budget Crunch a big deterrent to such indulgence.

As such, there is no clear cut methodology to deal with the situation. The problem needs to be tackled simultaneously from the two ends of supply and consumption. However, the backbone approach warrants a total shift from the centre-orientation to service-orientation.

Measures to reduce the cost of supply are well-known but need to be adopted more rigorously. The other end, that is the consumption part, is not adequately understood — at least in India.

It is likely that the consumers are demanding more than they should be asking for. Brought up in an oasis of affluence, they need to be apprised of the diminishing level and escalating costs of supplies. While consumers need to be reassured about the certainty of supplies, the suppliers find their resources constrained day by day in discharging their responsibilities.

In the new service-oriented approach, therefore, the following broad elements need utmost attention:

- The suppliers should know what the consumers want.
- The suppliers need to explore alternative ways of meeting the demand (for the purpose, they promote establishment of facilities for collective self-reliance).
- The supplies are made from any source and not necessarily from ones' own holdings (the entire transaction should remain transparent to intended consumers).
- At the consumption end, the consumers should learn to articulate their requirements. They should be aware of the real-world situation and be prepared to undergo some degree of logistic inconvenience.

The consumers should be satisfied as the required supplies come in. They should not meddle with the information delivery system by emphasizing that such capabilities be built within their own institution.

In effect, adoption of marketing approach (for information services) is recommended. Let us admit that implementation of the concept is difficult. First, the transactions between suppliers and their in-house users are not fee-based. Moreover, the consumers are not properly apprised of what it takes to provide the information services. In any case, it is surely worth giving a try.

— A. Lahiri

# NISSAT

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 11

No. 2

April-June 1992

### CONTENTS

	Time for Service Orientation	1
	Resource Sharing in Petroleum Sector Libraries : IOC National Convention	3
	Technical Communication Training Course Evokes Keen Participation	5
	INSDOC is Forty	7
	New Software and Databases Available with NISSAT	8
	IFLA : Conference Theme and Programme	10
	Sectoral Centres Move Into Fast Lane as NISSAT Promotes New S&T Information Systems	12
2	Dept. of Scientific & Industrial Research (NISSAT) Passbook Scheme to Import Databases	23
	NISSAT Sponsored Courses During 1992-93	24
	News and Events	25

---

## Resource Sharing in Petroleum Sector Libraries : IOC National Convention

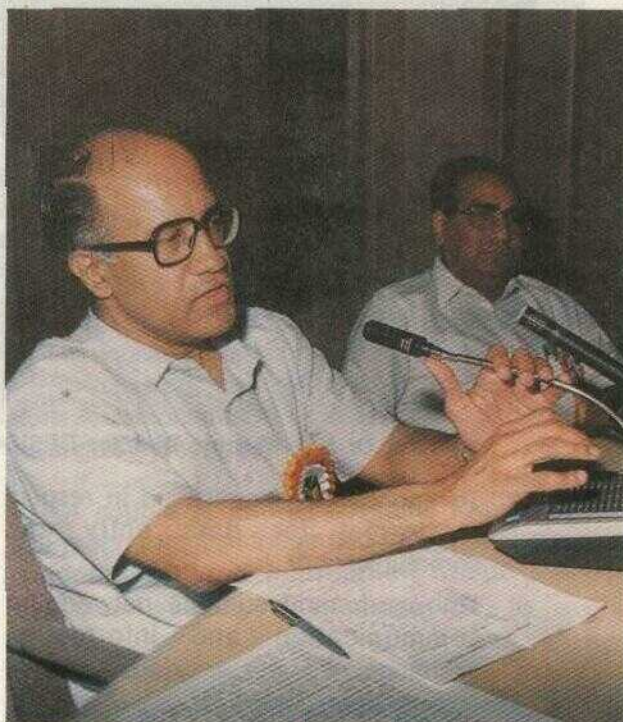
---

A two-day convention of the libraries in the petroleum sector in India was organised by the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., in New Delhi during April 9-10, 1992. The main aim of this convention was to chalk out a plan for sharing the resources available in these libraries.

Forty-three participants from 29 different organisations attended the Convention which was inaugurated by Shri P S Tekchandani, Executive Director, (M&I) of Indian Oil Corporation. Shri Tekchandani traced the history of the development of libraries in Indian Oil Corporation and pointed out how the need of resource sharing and networking of the libraries came to be felt.

Dr N Sheshagiri, Director-General, National Informatics Centre (NIC), who was the Chief Guest, presented an overview of the use of modern technology, which helped NIC to develop a paperless library. By keeping most of the journals in CD-ROM and optical disks and by using the all India computer network, called NICNET, they have been able to substantially reduce the amount paid for subscription to the foreign periodicals. Under a national resource sharing programme, in the field of biotechnology, just like the one for petroleum sector being planned under this convention, the combined number of periodicals being subscribed could be increased from about 400 to more than 600 with the same amount of total subscription paid by these libraries. He stressed the need of utilising computers in the libraries for their routine jobs as well as for information dissemination purposes. According to him, many user friendly computers were now available; now the users need to be computer friendly.

In the two day Convention, six technical sessions were organised. These were chaired by Sarva Shri Harjeet Singh, Advisor, Environmental Information System (ENVIS) of the Ministry of Environment; P Jayarajan, Regional Librarian of the British Council, New Delhi; Prof. T N Rajan formerly of INSDOC, New Delhi; Dr S S Murthy, Director, Defence Scientific Documentation Centre,



Dr N. Sheshagiri, DG, NIC delivered the keynote address. Seated at right is Shri Tekchandani, Executive Director (M & I), IOC

New Delhi; Prof. T Viswanathan, Director, INSDOC, New Delhi, and G N Tripathi, Retd. Addl. Director, ONGC, Dehradun.

In the papers presented during these sessions, different methods for resource sharing were suggested. These ranged from rationalisation of the inter-library-lending systems to the formation of integrated network of all the libraries in the petroleum sector. After protracted discussions the following recommendations emerged:

1. *Formation of a task force with the following objectives :*
  - a) To identify the existing status of the libraries in the petroleum sector in respect of
    - i. technical manpower,
    - ii. material to be shared,
    - iii. available infrastructure.
  - b) Based on existing status, to draw action plans (short range and long range) for providing basic infrastructure to implement resource sharing by networking.



Dr S.S. Murthy, Director DESIDOC Conducting a Technical Session

- c) To suggest standardisation in respect of format for data entry and communication.
- d) To recommend suitable network for communication and information exchange.

At the request of the house, Dr A Lahiri, Jt. Adviser, NISSAT, agreed to offer all possible help from NISSAT in bringing out the report of the task force by November 1992 and all the technical help in the formation of the networking system.

The task force included the following persons:

- i) Dr A Lahiri, Head, NISSAT, *Chairman*.
- ii) Shri K N Misra, *Convenor*
- iii) Shri D V Deshpande, *Member*
- iv) Shri Prakash B Hadgali, *Member*
- v) Km. Veena Dixit, *Member*

## 2. Formation of regional consortia

The following four regional consortia were formed in order to start the resource sharing process on regional basis.

- a) *Northern Region*  
Coordinator: Shri Sunil Kapoor, IOC (Ref. Divn.), New Delhi.
- b) *Eastern Region*  
Coordinator: Shri N C Malakar, Guwahati Refinery, Guwahati.
- c) *Western Region*  
Coordinator: Smt L R Nabar, Lubrizol India Limited, Bombay.

## d) *Southern Region*

Coordinator: Smt G Sobhana, Cochin Refineries Limited, Cochin.

To begin with, these regional consortia were expected to collect information about the current periodicals being subscribed by the libraries in the petroleum sector located in their region thus forming the regional union lists of the current serials. It was suggested that these union lists may be interchanged by all the regional coordinators. Based on these lists IOC, New Delhi will arrange to compile a national union list of current serials being subscribed in all the libraries in the petroleum sector.

## 3. Formation of a forum of petroleum librarians

In order to monitor the actions on the recommendations of the Convention and organise similar conventions in future, a forum of petroleum librarians may be formed. A three-man sub-committee was formed to chalk out the details about this forum and take steps for its formation:

Shri G N Tripathi, Dehradun, *Chairman*  
Shri Bhagwan Das, ONGC, Dehradun  
Shri S K Tyagi, ONGC, Dehradun

## 4. Next Convention

Shri P Duraiswami of Madras Refineries Ltd. offered to hold the next convention of this type. The dates and the topic for discussion will be determined in due course.

---

# Technical Communication Training Course Evokes Keen Participation

---

The fifth NISSAT-sponsored training course in Technical Communication, organized by the Society for Information Science, was conducted at the National Institute for Science, Technology and Development Studies, New Delhi during 26-29 February 1992. There were 20 participants in the course hailing from several organizations/agencies concerned with different facets of the information handling activity — information divisions of CSIR laboratories, DRDO, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National Informatics Centre, and NISSAT. The faculty comprised nine experts belonging to different streams of information science — science editing, technical and popular science writing, and information storage and retrieval.

Shri R N Sharma, formerly Senior Editor, Publications and Information Directorate, CSIR, was the Coordinator for the course, and Shri Ram D Taneja, formerly Chief Editor and Deputy Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards, acted as the Resource Person.

A compilation of advance notes in respect of various topics covered in the course, written out by the faculty members, was made available to the participants. The topics covered fall under five broad categories:

- (1) **General aspects** (Effective communication in today's information society; Basics of effective communication; Mechanisms and processes; Audience analysis and adaptation; Readability yardsticks; Executive and editorial functions; and Oral presentation).
- (2) **Editorial practices** (Elements of a primary communication; Preparation of technical reports, proposals, memoranda and other variants of technical communication; Linguistic aspects; and Consolidation of information).
- (3) **Storage and retrieval of information** (Sources of information; Referencing and indexing; Development of software; and Database creation).

(4) **Communication of S&T Information through mass media.**

(5) **Printing and production.**

Adequate coverage was given in all lectures to innovative approaches being adopted currently for processing, storage and retrieval of information. A demonstration of Desk Top Publishing was arranged by courtesy of IVY Systems.

A couple of tutorial sessions formed part of the programme. At these sessions, the participants gained first-hand information about practical aspects of various editorial functions.

## Inauguration

The programme was inaugurated on 26 February 1992 by Dr G. P. Phondke, Director, Publications and Information Directorate, CSIR, New Delhi. Shri S. Nagarajan, President, SIS, welcomed the Chief Guest, the faculty members, participants and the guests present on the occasion. Shri R. N. Sharma, Coordinator for the course, thereafter, spelt out in brief the objectives of the training courses on technical communication organized under the joint auspices of NISSAT and SIS; the present one was the fifth in the series. He felt that in the context of the overall objectives set for the courses and the composition of the participant groups, the term 'training course' was perhaps a misnomer. He suggested a serious thought be given to the coining of a more appropriate nomenclature.

In his inaugural address, Dr Phondke endorsed the above observation and suggested that the term 'Workshop' would be more appropriate. Dr Phondke made a lucid presentation on emerging trends in the field of information science. Highlighting the distinction between 'dissemination' and 'communication' of information, he pleaded for specific attention to making the various communication processes as user-friendly as possible. Proposing the vote of thanks, Shri Ram D. Taneja expressed satisfaction at the fact that coverage at this programme had been made a bit

more broad-based in comparison to the earlier programmes.

A notable feature of the programme was the enthusiastic interaction from the participants throughout the duration of the course.

#### **Feedback**

In the feedback received from the participants, the overall rating of the course has been indicated as follows: Excellent, 3; very good, 12; and good, 3. The following are the salient observations/suggestions put forth by some of the participants:

- (1) There is need to organize separate courses for senior and junior level participants.
- (2) There should be a larger slot for practical assignments.
- (3) Aspects like designing of publications, cost estimation, choice of paper, etc., should

be included in future courses.

- (4) An in-depth coverage of popular writing and oral presentation would be desirable.
- (5) Problems specific to communication of information in regional languages should be dealt with.
- (6) The course material should be supplied in printed form.
- (7) Elementary aspects of various topics need not be covered extensively.

#### **Concluding Session**

The Valedictory Session was held on 29 February with Dr Sushil Kumar, Head, HRD Division, CSIR, in the chair. In his remarks, Dr Sushil Kumar lauded the role of SIS in organizing these courses which are of considerable utility to the scientific community and suggested expansion of the scope and extent of coverage. He gave away the Certificates to the participants.

## **Attention !!!**

**NISSAT would gladly accept the responsibility of distributing software, databases, etc. on non-commercial terms. Those interested to offer such products for wider use in India may contact NISSAT Secretariat.**

---

## INSDOC is Forty

---

On 20 March 1992 INSDOC celebrated 40 years of its formation. The CSIR Governing Body at its meeting under the Chairmanship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru established the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) in 1952 and located it at the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi under the direct supervision of Dr. K. S. Krishnan, FRS, Director, NPL. In 1963, keeping in view the importance of information services for rapid industrialisation, DGSIR raised the status of INSDOC from its subsidiary position in the NPL to that of an independent institute with its own Executive Council and Director.

The foundation day function included: Foundation day lecture by Prof. M. S. Swaminathan, eminent scientist and Chairman of the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Madras; release of CAPS (Contents, Abstracts and Photocopy Service) a new service from INSDOC; a Software package for small libraries; release of latest issue (March 16, 1992) of ISA (Indian Science Abstracts); and opening of On-line databases of INSDOC to public access.

### Evolution of Information Society

Delivering the foundation day lecture on "Information Technology and National Nutrition Security" Prof. Swaminathan said that India was a sleeping giant in the field of agriculture, which if exploited could provide immense employment opportunities to the educated youth in rural areas and provide nutrition security to the nation. He further said that Indian agriculture depended mainly on four factors — monsoons, raw-material, management and marketing. Information technology would provide the necessary impetus in the form of information for the above mentioned factors for better output. He spoke of the modern concept of the information village and the idea of information shop and information resource centres. Dr. Swaminathan stated that in developing countries there is a slow evolution from industrial

society into information society. Information has already acquired a considerable share in the GNP of developed nations and may play a vital role in removing the unemployment problems of the country if the information technology is appropriately applied in the rural areas. He stressed the importance of value addition to basic data.

Mr. S. K. Bijlani, former Chairman of CII, Northern Region and the Managing Director of MOI Engineering Ltd. inaugurated the function. In his inaugural speech he stated that the Indian industry is hungry for information and is anxiously looking for access to computerised information databases. He further stated that the recent changes in industrial and economic policy of the country have thrown challenges before R&D institutions which may be turned into an opportunity instead of being viewed as threats. Mr. Bijlani stressed the needs for synergy between industry and INSDOC which is the major science and technology information resource of the country.

Mr. N. Vittal, Secretary, Department of Electronics delivered the key-note address. He stated that a strategic alliance should be forged between INSDOC and industry. He also stressed the need for INSDOC disseminating scientific information to the rural population in the vernacular languages.

Dr. S. K. Joshi, Director General, CSIR, who presided over the function observed that information has a crucial role to play in national R&D efforts. He stressed the need for developing two databases, one for reflecting the requirements of industry which can be accessed by the CSIR laboratories and another database on technologies developed by CSIR for consumption by the industry. Dr. Joshi said he would recommend grant of additional funds to INSDOC and hoped that all the off-shoots of CSIR would work in close coordination for the benefit of the society.

---

# New Software and Databases Available with NISSAT

---

## I. Internationally Developed Data Analysis and Management Software (IDAMS)

IDAMS is a set of computer programs for the validation, manipulation and analysis of any data that is in the form of values for the same set of items (variables) for each set of cases, e.g., a survey, information about jobs run on a computer, a database of used cars, etc. The characteristics of these kind of data are:

1. That there is an identifiable "case"
  - a respondent in a survey;
  - a computer job in an accounting file kept by a computer system;
  - a car in a database used cars.
2. For each case, there are values for a set of items
  - questions from a questionnaire used in a survey;
  - details about a computer job;
  - characteristics of a car
3. In any one file of data being processed there are same items for each case.

One of the unique feature of IDAMS is that it also provided facilities for extensive data validation before embarking on data analysis.

Users will find in IDAMS the classical range of univariate and bivariate statistics, and multivariate statistical techniques. IDAMS also provides a series of data management tools, and a powerful language for the transformation of data. The version of IDAMS for micro computers is equipped with high performance editors, graphic facilities and on-line help messages and is interfaced with micro-ISIS. The software can be used without programming skill or knowledge.

FORTRAN was chosen as the basic language. There are about 30 programs in IDAMS for performing several distinctly separate functions. Some of the major capabilities are:

### *Data Management Features*

- Case and variable selection
- Missing data handling
- Data transformation/recording
- Listing data
- Construction of IDAMS data sets;
- Sorting data
- Reformatting data

### *Statistical Techniques*

- Univariate and bivariate frequency distributions and related statistics;
- Scatter diagrams;
- Correlation analysis;
- Analysis of variance;
- Multivariate analysis;
- Factor analysis;
- Partial order scoring;
- Interactive typology, etc.

IDAMS programs are used with a common control language which is prepared by the user on a set of "control cards". The IDAMS dataset uses a separate file for the data, which are generally stored in all-character records of fixed length.

The minimum hardware requirements for IDAMS-PC is

### *IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible with*

- 512 KB RAM
- 360 KB FDD
- One hard disk
- Mono or colour monitor
- One printer
- MS-DOS or PC-DOS ver 2.10 or higher

UNESCO has identified NISSAT as the national distributor, thus providing the right to



transfer IDAMS-PC to third parties on its behalf. Accordingly NISSAT shall supply IDAMS-PC to the interested institutions after signing an agreement. The receiving institution may not use or permit others to use IDAMS-PC for commercial or non-profit making purposes; make alterations or disassemble any of the IDAMS-PC programs or portions thereof, etc.

## II. IDIS : Bi-directional Interface between micro-ISIS and IDAMS-PC

UNESCO has developed an interface program IDIS which performs data description and data transfer between micro-ISIS and IDAMS-PC in both directions. This means a transformation:

- of a selected part of ISIS database into an IDAMS DATASET or
- of a selected part of an IDAMS DATASET into an ISIS database

The interface written in CDS/ISIS Pascal is an optional part of the micro-ISIS package with the following two functions that can be added to the main menu:

- database export to IDAMS
- dataset import from IDAMS

UNESCO is finalising distribution procedures. As soon as they are established distribution will start.

## III Serials Database and SDI Software

A database "SRLS" of serial holdings in International Agricultural Research Centres (IARC) libraries of the world has been developed by ICRISAT. The objective was to make available the Union Catalogue and a micro computer-based database to libraries in different National Agricultural Research Centres (NARCs) of the developing world.

This database is an application under CDS/ISIS Software and contains information about holdings of 5400 serials in 14 international centres of the world. This database will facilitate sharing and experience of information on serials between

libraries. It also helps generate and print the hard copy of the catalogue of serials holdings library-wise.

The IARC union catalogue database is provided with specially written software to enable:

- i) The use of database for automatic generation of interlibrary loans/photocopy requests
- ii) the production of camera-ready copy of the union catalogue of serials and/or any given library represented in the database.

ICRISAT has developed the following programs in Micro-ISIS Pascal.

- i) **ILOAN** : This program is for the production of interlibrary loans/photocopy requests. The program enables the entry of the bibliographical details of the document(s) required on interlibrary loan or as photocopies from one or more libraries represented in the IARC union catalog database. The program also gives information on missing issues. The program is capable of dealing with loan requests with partial or incomplete information about volumes or parts of serial titles.

- ii) **NEWSDI** : This is a general purpose ISIS-PASCAL program for the production of SDI outputs from 'SRLS' database of serial holdings database developed by ICRISAT. The program can be used with any other database for SDI.

*The database and software are now ready for distribution. ICRISAT has authorized NISSAT to distribute the database. Interested licensed CDS/ISIS users in Agriculture-based institutions may contact NISSAT for details.*

---

## IFLA : Conference Theme and Programme (30 Aug-5 Sept,1992)

---

As announced earlier, the main theme of the 58th General Conference at New Delhi is LIBRARY AND INFORMATION POLICY PERSPECTIVES, which is both relevant and topical. Seven sub-topics were also identified, which gave a better view of the ramifications of the main theme. Since then things have taken more concrete shape and it is now possible to get an idea as to what will be available at the 58th General Conference.

**From the preliminary information received from IFLA the following programme content might be useful for the intending participants to decide which sessions to attend.**

- Acquisition and Exchange will address the topic, "South Asian Collections in Libraries of the European Community"
- The theme for the Africa Section is "Library and Information Policy in Africa"
- Art Libraries will concentrate on "Collection Development and Acquisition of Art Materials with Special Reference to South and South-East Asia"
- Bibliography has two themes: "Popular Culture and National Bibliography" and "Cooperation in Retrospective Bibliography between Former Colonial Powers and Emergent Nations"
- Cataloguing's theme will be "Cataloguers and User Needs." The theme will be examined from an educational viewpoint.
- Classification and Indexing plans to have one paper on Ranganathan and a second on classification and indexing in India. A presentation will also be made on the Guidelines for Subject Authority and Reference Entries, following worldwide review of the draft document.
- Continuing Professional Education will feature current successful continuing education programmes in India, Papua New Guinea and China.
- Education and Training has the theme. "Issues in Developing Education for Librarianship in Developing Countries"
- Geography and Map Libraries will offer papers on Russian Maps of Asia; and Indian Map Libraries.
- Government Information and Official Publications will focus on "Government Information on CD-ROMs". Speakers will cover successful CD-ROM applications already in use in the Third World. The selection of a speaker to discuss Indian documents is in progress.
- Information Technology's theme is "Planning the Introduction of Technology" with emphasis on "introduction", especially in developing countries and in situations that are extreme for computer equipment.
- Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons will present results on projects relating to the elderly and to prisoners.
- Library History will offer papers on Relations between European societies in South and Southeast Asia 1780-1840; and Aspects of Indian Library History
- Library Services to Multicultural Populations has chosen the theme, "Library Services to Indian People throughout the World" with speakers invited from the USA, Canada, the Caribbean, Malaysia and South Africa.
- National Libraries will cover "The Role of National Libraries in Developing Countries" in its open meeting.

- Parliamentary Libraries' programme includes papers on The Library of Congress of Chile; Research into the information and policy analysis needs of Australian Parliamentarians; and Strategies of Computerized Legislative Information.
- Public Libraries will present the results of the Section project on Guidelines on Literacy.
- Rare Books and Manuscripts will cover book history and bibliography in relation to India in its open programme session.
- Research in Reading will use its session to present the result of its project on "The Image of Libraries and Librarians"
- School Libraries has as theme, "Meeting the Information Needs of Slow, Average and Gifted Learners"
- Science and Technology Libraries has selected speakers to present papers on "The Feasibility of Using Portable Data Transmitters Using Satellites to Improve Electronic Communication in Developing Countries" and "A Programme to Promote Access to Scientific Literature in Developing countries"
- Social Science Libraries' theme is "International Networking Technology and the Implications for Libraries"
- The theme of the open session of University Libraries is "The Role and Purpose of the University Library in a Rapidly Changing Information Environment with Special Reference to the Situation in Developing Countries.

**The Plenary Session will be addressed by Eric de Grolier with the main focus on S. R. Ranganathan**

### **Announcement**

A National meet on Indian MARC Data: creation, integration and compatibility issues is being organized by NISSAT during 20-21 July 1992.

The objective is to undertake an exercise for the collation of MARC data from various local automation efforts in the country. The other is to work out a plan of action for evolving and maintaining a national facility for bibliographic data.

If you have computerised catalogue database and are willing to share experiences and data with others, contact us at:

NISSAT/DSIR  
Technology Bhawan  
New Mehrauli Road  
New Delhi - 110 016

---

## Sectoral Centres Move Into Fast Lane as NISSAT Promotes New S&T Information Systems

---

A lot is happening, a lot that will be happening and a lot that needs to happen in the Science and Technology Information Scene in India. Though Information may still not be available on tap, a strong foundation has been laid with the setting up of NISSAT Sectoral Centres (now running into double digits) for systematic and orderly growth of a compatible set of Information systems.

Now scientists, technologists, academicians, entrepreneurs, management executives and decision makers generally know where to go for information in the relevant subject area within the country and outside. The NISSAT Programme is planning to experiment with modern information handling tools and techniques to serve the interests of national community of information users more efficiently so as to promote rapid economic and social development.

*An update on some recent activities of NISSAT — Ed.*

The tremendous growth in the output of scientific and technical research and consequently in the number of information users has brought about the need for an effective system for information transfer. The increasing role played by science and technology in the economic and social development of the country has created a pressing demand for quick technology transfer to industry. Apart from getting access to information generated in the country, it is also necessary to draw on the externally generated information to support internal efforts on research and development. Information centres that have come up to serve the needs of different industries and R&D units, require to be coordinated and organised into an integrated system following uniform, national and international standards to avoid haphazard growth and duplication of activities.

The National Information System for Science

& Technology (NISSAT) programme being implemented by DSIR since 1985 envisages promotion and support to the development of a compatible set of information systems on science and technology and interlinking them into a network. The approach adopted is to bring the existing centres, systems and services to a higher level of operation so that the interests of the national community of information users could be better served. The programme also contemplates experimentation with and introduction of modern information handling tools and techniques and development of endogenous capabilities for the purpose.

### Objectives

NISSAT functions are designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Provision of national information services to meet the present needs of users generators, processors and disseminators of information.
- Optimum utilisation of existing information services and systems and the development of new ones.
- Promotion of national and international cooperation liaison for exchange of information.
- Support and provide active encouragement for the development of facilities for education and training in information science and technology.
- Support and provide for active participation in research & development, innovation in information science and communication to enhance both the efficiency of information services and quality of the information provided by these services.
- Support and promote research & development and innovation in information technology.

## 1. Information Centres

An information centre is the major instrument for information resources development and dissemination. The *Sectoral Information Centres* (SIC) were established with the object of creating information awareness and to meet the information needs of scientists, technologists, academicians, entrepreneurs, management executives and decision makers (Table 1).

include *Current Awareness, Industry Highlights, Current Highlights, Patents Awareness, Current Indian Titles* in respective sectors and also semi-technical and popular ones in the form of digests. Besides, the centres have also brought out *ad hoc* publications like Buyers Guides, Directories of Agents, Research, Foreign Collaborations. The centres have also developed information management tools like Thesaurii, Data input procedures and so on.

**Table 1 Sectoral Information Centres**

S. No.	Subject Area (Acronym)	Host Institution
i.	Leather Technology (NICLAI)	Central Leather Research Institute, Madras
ii.	Food Technology (NICFOS)	Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore
iii.	Machine Tools & Production (NICMAP)	Central Machine Tools Institute, Bangalore
iv.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals (NICDAP)	Central Drugs Research Institute, Lucknow
v.	Textiles and Allied Subjects (NICTAS)	Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad
vi.	Chemicals & Allied industries (NICHEM)	National Chemical Laboratory, Pune
vii.	Advanced Ceramics (NICAC)	Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta
viii.	Bibliometrics (NCB)	Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre, New Delhi
ix.	Crystallography (NICRYS)	University of Madras, Madras
x.	CD-ROM (Compact Disk) (NICDROM)	National Aeronautical Laboratory, Bangalore

The Sectoral Information Centres (the first seven SICs) were built around the existing information resources and facilities. However they were provided with a wide range of documents, sophisticated equipment and manpower so that they could provide information services on a national scale. Each SIC maintains an extensive collection of published and unpublished documents in the form of books, periodicals, research reports, development and trade reports, monographs, conference proceedings, standards, pertaining to the relevant subject areas. Regular monthly technical publications from these centres

The sectoral information centres maintain several databases to cater to their clientele. For example, NICDAP maintains databases on *Natural Product, Folklore, Drugs & Pharmaceuticals — Letters of Intent, Industries and Research product, and Union Catalogue* of periodicals in Lucknow city; NICLAI maintains database on Leather Science and Technology and Allied areas (LESA). *Holdings of Periodicals, Thesaurus of Leather Technology terms*; NICFOS maintains *Food Sciences & Technology Abstracts* (FSTA), *Indian Food Technology Abstracts* (IFTA) database, *Indian Food Industry Directory, Food Patents, CFTRI*

*Publications and Bibliographies*; NICMAP maintains database like *Metal working Abstracts & Bulletin, Patents, World Machine Tool Statistics, Indian Machine Tool production Statistics & Import/Export Statics*. NICTAS has also stored the *Indexes of World Textile Abstracts* for 1975-1989. In addition to *TEXINCON*, a quarterly compilation of abstracts of articles relevant to the Indian textiles and allied industries, NICTAS has launched a series of *state-of-art reports*. NICHEM provides the *Monthly Indian Chemical Patenst Abstracts*, various library, information, reprographic and translation services. Similarly NICAC brings out various publications such as *Documentation List on Glass & Ceramics; Superconductor Abstracts; Ceramics Update; New Industrial Developments in Glass & Ceramics and Indian Industrial & Technological Briefs*.

Some of the NISSAT SICs mentioned have also taken certain additional responsibilities. For example, NICDAP is a WHO Collaborating Unit in India; the User Centre for Biotechnology Information System and also runs information activities on Marine Drugs. NICFOS collaborates with Technology Information. Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFACLINE) for the development of a database on Food Technology and with Food Science Technology Information System (FOSTIS), provides inputs to the global FSTA database. NICHEM interacts with the *Chemical Information System (ChIN)* of UNESCO towards developing a *Chemical Reaction* database.

Information services provided by these centres include document supply, preparation of special bibliographies, patent search, reprography & micrography, industrial inquiry and translation. As a part of creating awareness among library and information professionals and user community in the use of modern information technologies, they conduct seminars/conferences, workshops/training programmes and participate in national/international exhibitions.

14 In contrast to a sectoral information centre which provides mainly bibliographic support, Information analysis centres and data centres (NCB, NICRYS and NICDROM) have been established under NISSAT scheme for undertaking the task of acquiring, evaluating, integrating, consolidating and analysing factual and numeric information.

The National Information Centre for Crystallography (NICRYS) is the first hard data Centre established at the University of Madras. The centre obtains global information compiled and collated at Cambridge on organic and organo-metallic compounds and stored on magnetic tapes. The database pertains to *X-Ray & Neutron diffraction* and also provides *structural* as well as *bibliographic* information on about 70,000 compounds. This data service essentially offline computer searches operated by NICRYS. The Center also extends services to a large cross-section of scientists in major institutions by providing them with copies of data files on bulk charge basis. *Protein crystallographic structural data (PCSD)* and *Nucleic acid sequence data (Genebank)* are also currently available. Some more hard databases are proposed to be added to NICRYS collection subject to the availability of financial resources. Presently, the University Grants Commission (UGC) also provides complementary support to NICRYS activities. In the scheme of things, NISSAT, UGC and Madras University are to share the costs equally.

NCB's regular activities include analysis of CSIR Research Output. Citation Profile of individual scientists/institutions. Indian Science Citation Index, Bibliographic Services and Computation of Impact Factor for Indian Journals. Other services include consultancy (COSIST — UGC project) and creation of databases like *Citation Profiles (CITPROF)* and *CSIR Research Output (CRES)*. The Indian Science Citation Index is under preparation in character.

NICDROM caters to the Information professionals and institutions providing information on CD-ROM — a reference collection of books and journals on CD-ROM, technical specifications, choice & cost of the CD-ROM equipment, CD-ROM database and services. Though not comparable to the other SICs, NICDROM services are nonetheless national in character.

## 2. Online and SDI Services

In order to bring the information support services to the scientists and technologists in India at par with those available to their counterparts in the developed countries. NISSAT has established five Online National Access Centres to international databases — NACIDS (Table 2).

**Table 2 National Access Centres to International Databases (NACID)**

S. No.	Place	NACID Host Institution (Acronym)
i.	Bangalore	National Aeronautical Laboratory (NAL)
ii.	Calcutta	Indian Association for Cultivation of Science (IACS)
iii.	Madras	Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI)
iv.	New Delhi	Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC)
v.	Pune	National Chemical Laboratory (NCL)

The NACIDs use PSTN telephone lines upto the local PAD of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) and there onwards, the international carriers via the Gateway Packet Switching Services (GPSS) at Bombay. Online access by Telex is a standby. NACIDs have trained intermediaries to assist or conduct online searches. The centres are slowly gaining popularity considering that there is an increased number of users and full search costs are being recovered from them.

Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) is provided regularly to users on the basis of their information profile. Such services are offered by NICMAP/CMTI, Bangalore using the COMPENDEX database and by NICDROM/NAL, Bangalore using NTIS database. Steps have been taken to generate similar services using CD-ROM databases (*FSTA, ERIC, MEDLINE, INSPEC, CHEMBANK, EMBASE* and so on).

### 3. Library Networking

NISSAT has taken the initiative for the development of metropolitan library networks

- to ensure better utilisation of S&T information resources through resource sharing
- to moderate functional load of information centre management and to take care of motivational factors to a large extent through better means of communication.

The implementation of Calcutta Library Network (CALIBNET) has been taken up in two phases. In CALIBNET Phase-I, the Network Services Center at the Regional Computer Centre (RCC), Calcutta and 7 participating library/

information centres in and around Jadavpur area are being networked. The necessary hardware, software, and sites are now ready. Meanwhile, in collaboration with RCC and Regional Center, INSDOC, Calcutta, NISSAT has taken up manpower development activities.

MAITRAYEE, the CALIBNET Library Automation and Networking Software, has been developed and demonstrated to the library and information professionals in New Delhi, Calcutta and Bangalore. Activities related to database creation and retrospective conversion are also now initiated.

On similar lines, the Delhi Library Network (DELNET) aims at connecting about 30 libraries in Delhi. In DELNET Phase-O, 20 library/information centers have been connected through Electronic Mail. As in CALIBNET, NISSAT regularly organises computer courses for the operational level professional from the participating institutions.

Similar metropolitan networks are contemplated for Bombay, Bangalore, Madras and Pune in the immediate future.

NISSAT has further taken initiatives for providing E-Mail facilities to the various NISSAT information centres dispersed in the country. This connectivity would greatly enhance the resource sharing capabilities among NISSAT information centres and also the provision of user services more efficiently. The ERNET group of the Department of Electronics provides the overall knowhow in these ventures.

### 4. Computer Based Bibliographic Information Processing

The demand for use of computers varies from

automation of routine management functions in libraries to information retrieval or analysis of global databases. NISSAT gives a high priority to all aspects of computer based bibliographic information processing.

NISSAT acquired proven software packages like CDS/ISIS Mini-Micro version, SUPERDOC and IDAMS (Statistical package) from UNESCO. On behalf of UNESCO-PGI, Paris, NISSAT has official rights for the distribution of CDS/ISIS in India.

At the present time, CDS/ISIS ver. 2.32 is distributed to libraries, information centres and non-profit institutions along with adequate training support. There are over 604 installations in India (as on 31st December, 1991). The implementation of CDS/ISIS in these institutions is monitored regularly through exchange of information, user's group meetings and periodic surveys. NISSAT has also acquired the CDS/ISIS VAX version package, tested and distributed to 13 user institutions. The statewise and yearwise distribution of Micro-ISIS is given in Fig. 1 and 2 respectively.

Going a step further, in collaboration with Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre (DESIDOC), New Delhi, NISSAT has helped the development of a software for Library Automation on CDS/ISIS (now called SANJAY). The package is capable of inter-linking two or more databases for a single application, handling numerical calculations and of carrying out several other library house-keeping activities. SANJAY has been implemented in the DST Library, Technology Bhawan, New Delhi as a model application. A generalised version of SANJAY is also expected to be ready shortly for application in any Indian library with a medium size document collection and user clientele.

Another CDS/ISIS based package known as TRISHNA has been developed in collaboration with National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS), New Delhi, TRISHNA supports database in Devnagri and several other Indian scripts using a GIST CARD.

### 5. Union Catalogue

16

In view of the high potential of the National

Distribution of Micro-ISIS (Statewise)

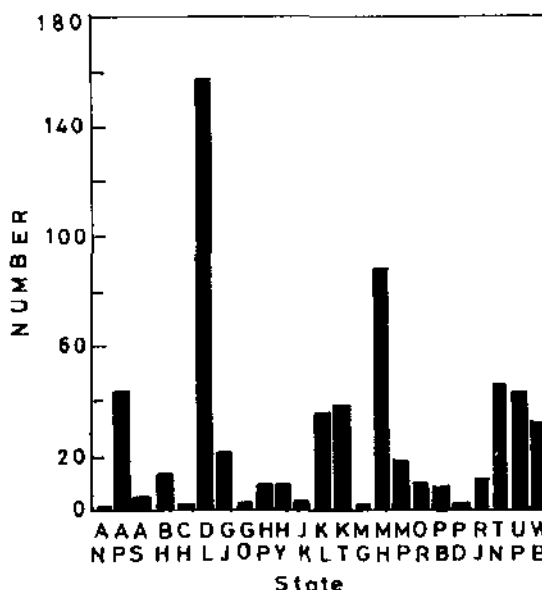


Fig. 1 Distribution of Micro-ISIS — Statewise  
 AN—Andman and Nicobar, AP—Andhra Pradesh, AS—Assam, BH—Bihar, CH—Chandigarh, D—Delhi, GJ—Gujarat, GO—Goa, HP—Himachal Pradesh, HY—Haryana, JK—Jammu and Kashmir, KL—Kerala, KT—Karnataka, MG—Meghalaya, MH—Maharashtra, MP—Madhya Pradesh, OR—Orissa, PB—Punjab, PD—Pondicherry, RJ—Rajasthan, TN—Tamilnadu, UP—Uttar Pradesh, WB—West Bengal

Distribution of Micro-ISIS (Yearwise)

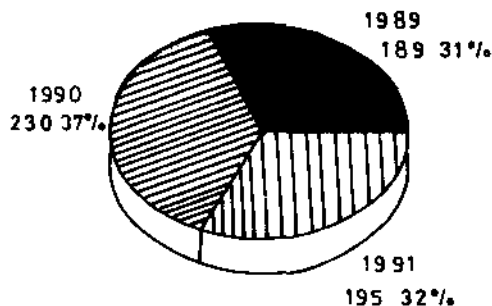


Fig. 2 Distribution of Micro-ISIS — Yearwise



**Table 3 List of Consultative Committees**

S.No.	City	Institution/Association
1.	Ahmedabad	ATIRA
2.	Bangalore	CMTI
3.	Bhopal	*
4.	Bombay	IIT
5.	Calcutta	CGCRI
6.	Chandigarh	*
7.	Cochin	*
8.	Delhi	India International Centre
9.	Hyderabad	*
10.	Kanpur	*
11.	Lucknow	CDRI
12.	Mysore	CFTRI
13.	Nagpur	NEERI
14.	Pune	NCL
15.	Trivandrum	Kerala Lib. Association
16.	Vishakhapatnam	*

\* Convenor Institution/Association to be identified.

Union Catalogue of Scientific Serials in India (NUCSSI) as an access tool to support various information programmes, NISSAT has incorporated a plan of action for updation and maintenance of NUCSSI. The NUCSSI data has been converted into a database with a view to making it appropriate for online searching and online ordering for journals and articles. Production of secondary databases, namely, holdings of libraries in specific regions, institutions, subject area, etc. would be made available on floppies for use on PC/AT/XT. It is also being contemplated that NUCSSI database may be loaded on CALIBNET, INDONET, NICNET etc. for Online search & retrieval. Efforts are being made to prepare catalogues on specific type of materials, cover-to-cover translated periodicals and Indexing & Abstracting periodicals in India.

#### **6. Rationalisation of Periodicals Through Consultative Committee**

The cost of S & T periodicals increases at a rate of 15-20 per cent. Recent devaluation of Indian Rupee would imply another 20 per cent

higher cost. As the library in most institutions tends to remain static, the net result would be a reduction in acquisition of journal titles. On the other hand, our scientists and technologists are delving into newer areas. Their activities naturally would demand acquisition of periodicals in those newer areas.

The aim of the consultative committees promoted in 16 cities, is to get the librarians in a city together and to discuss their acquisitions especially renewal of subscriptions of periodicals, and explore resource sharing possibilities. Such an exchange of notes is expected to lead to a rationalised acquisition effort and considerable savings to the institutions or the group of cooperating libraries. For the subscription year 1991 savings through mutually agreed adjustments are estimated at Rs. 29.9 lakhs. Such mechanisms are already operational in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Lucknow, Mysore, Nagpur, Pune and Trivandrum. Efforts are underway to set up these mechanisms in Bhopal, Chandigarh, Cochin, Hyderabad, Kanpur and Vishakhapatnam. The list of various consultative Committees is given in Table 3.

## 7. NISSATCARD

It is extremely difficult for an end user to access or use resources located outside the library of her/his own institution. In such cases, an information/literature search gets restricted to the resources available within the institution and the user would need to depend entirely on external courtesy.

The concept of NISSATCARD is to develop a Universal Library Card System that would facilitate utilisation of external library resources with due safeguards for protection of the interests of cooperating libraries. A feasibility study on this concept is nearing completion.

## 8. Document Supply Service

ASTINFO/UNESCO has set up a regional document supply service for its member states. Under this scheme, the National Library of Australia would service overseas document requests at a cost of \$ 2 irrespective of the number of pages as compared to Rs. 200/- charged by an international document delivery service for 10 pages or part thereof. The service is open only to the ASTINFO member countries.

To handle Indian requests for the services, NISSAT as the ASTINFO national coordinating unit in India, has identified a set of institutions on considerations of logistics. These participant institutions are as indicated in Table 4.

**Table 4 Institutions Handling ASTINFO Document Supply Service**

S. No.	Place	Institution/Association
1.	Ahmedabad	NICTAS/ATIRA
2.	Bangalore	NICMAP/CMTI
3.	Calcutta	NICAC/CGCRI
4.	Delhi	DESIDOC, IARI, INSDOC
5.	Hyderabad	IICT
6.	Lucknow	NICDAP/CDRI
7.	Madras	NICLAI/CLRI
8.	Pune	NICHEM/NCL
9.	Shillong	NEHU

The service is priced on cost-recovery basis.

## 9. Manpower Development

NISSAT has been organising short term courses with a view to improving upon and updating the skills of information professionals on a continuing basis. The list of courses is given in Table 5.

It would be seen that NISSAT has developed facilities for the conduct of regular series of courses at INSDOC, New Delhi; DRTC, Bangalore; RCC, Calcutta and University of Poona, Pune.

NISSAT, on its own initiative or at the behest of UNESCO has undertaken preparation of standard course materials. Some of these are:

- Anglo American Cataloguing Rules II
- Common Communication Format
- CDS/ISIS
- Management Information System for Libraries

NISSAT also organises/supports several demonstration and technical group meetings as given in Table 6.

**Table 5 Short Term Courses Organized by NISSAT**

<b>Subject/Place</b>	<b>Organiser/s</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
<b>Bibliometrics</b>			
<i>New Delhi</i>	INSDOC	30-09-91	12.10.91
<b>CALIBNET: Computer Course for operation personnel</b>			
<i>Calcutta</i>	RCC	17.02.92	28.02.92
		02.03.92	13.02.92
		16.03.92	27.03.92
<b>CDS/ISIS</b>			
<i>New Delhi</i>	CENDIT	03.06.91	08.06.91
	INSDOC	08.07.91	02.08.91
<i>Eluru</i>	ILA	07.10.91	12.10.91
<i>Madras</i>	INFOTEX	07.10.91	12.10.91
<b>Common Communication Format</b>			
<i>Bangalore</i>	DESIDOC — NAL	11.06.91	13.06.91
<b>Computer Applications</b>			
<i>Bangalore</i>	DRTC	12.06.91	23.07.91
		21.10.91	29.11.91
		20.01.92	28.02.92
<i>Calcutta</i>	IASLIC — IIM	23.10.91	31.10.91
<i>New Delhi</i>	ILA — IGNOU	26.08.91	06.09.91
	INSDOC	15.04.91	10.05.91
		19.08.91	20.09.91
		11.11.91	13.12.91
		02.03.92	04.04.92
<i>Pune</i>	Univ. Poona	29.08.91	13.09.91
		20.11.91	10.12.91
		12.02.92	26.02.92
<i>Vizag</i>	IASLIC — Andhra Univ.	18.11.91	04.12.91
<b>DBMS &amp; dBase</b>			
<i>New Delhi</i>	INSDOC	20.12.91	24.01.92
<b>Information Consolidation</b>			
<i>Pune</i>	IASLIC — MACS	21.10.91	26.10.91
<b>Information Science &amp; Technology : Recent Developments</b>			
<i>New Delhi</i>	INSODC	04.02.92	14.02.92
<b>Refresher Course for working librarians</b>			
<i>Trivandrum</i>	KLA	06.01.92	01.02.92
<b>Technical Communication</b>			
<i>New Delhi</i>	SIS — NISTADS	26.02.92	29.02.92
<b>Visual Communication</b>			
<i>Madras</i>	INFOTEK	17.02.92	22.02.92

**Table 6 Demonstrations and Technical Group Meetings Organized by NISSAT**

S. No.	Venue	From	To	Organiser	Subject
1.	N. Delhi (NISSAT)	18.07.91	—	DELNET	CALIBNET/MAITRAYEE: Exposition & Demo.
2.	Bangalore	09.08.91	12.08.91	DRTC	Informetrics: 3rd International Conference
3.	N. Delhi (IIC)	14.01.92	15.01.92	IIC	Library Networking: Indo British Meet
4.	N. Delhi	16.12.91	20.12.92	NISTADS	Machine Translation Regional Workshop on New Information Technologies
5.	Calcutta	17.12.91	—	INSDOC	MAITRAYEE Demo
6.	Calcutta	19.12.91	20.12.91	INSDOC	Retrospective Conversion

## 10. Studies/Directories

NISSAT promotes and supports studies, preparation of directories, databases, basic and applied research in information science. Table 7 lists such supported projects/efforts, operational during 1991-92.

### 10.1 Promotion of NISSAT Activities, Products & Services

In order to reduce the dependence on government investments for the development of scientific & technical information infrastructure in the country, NISSAT products and services are to be marketed aggressively. In this regard several measures have been taken for market promotion. For example, operative level personnel are given orientation courses on information marketing. The NISSAT supported centres are being encouraged to generate revenue and to plough back this revenue for infrastructural development. As an incentive, NISSAT provides a matching grant for the revenue earned.

20 In collaboration with the Science Communication Unit of the CSIR, a video presentation on NISSAT and its activities has been produced. Another video on Online access would be ready by June, 1992. A Compendium of activities of NISSAT Centres has also been

drafted. Besides, brochures highlighting various aspects of NISSAT e.g. CDS/ISIS, NLA-ASTINFO-NISSAT Document Supply, NISSATCARD and Rationalisation of Periodicals Acquisitions — An Appeal from NISSAT and a poster on Online Access have been brought out. NISSAT would also display and demonstrate products and services generated by SICs, NACIDs and several short/long term projects in the exhibition during IFLA Conference in New Delhi, during 1992.

## 11. International Activities

The activities of ASTINFO/UNESCO (Regional Network for the Exchange of Information and Experiences in Asia and the Pacific/UNESCO) are closely coordinated with those of NISSAT. The NISSAT advisory Committee also functions as the National Advisory Committee of UNISIST and the National Advisory Group for ASTINFO. The activities carried out under ASTINFO are:

- a. The Regional node as well as the national node of Asia and Pacific Information Network for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (APINMAP) located at CSIR-Publications and Information Directorate, New Delhi. India contributes about 30 per cent to the APINMAP database with its 33000 records. Activities on information dissemination are picking up; the number

**Table 7 Projects Supported by NISSAT During 1991-92**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Institute</b>	
<b>Database Creation</b>			
1.	Current Serials in Delhi including Sectional Directories on Agricultural, Medical, Physical and Engineering Sciences, Social Sciences & Humanities	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	
2.	Generation of Earth Science	Geological Society of India, Bangalore	
3.	Indian databases in S & T	NISSAT/DSIR, New Delhi	
4.	Library & Information Centres	Indian Lib. Association, New Delhi	
<b>Database Services/ECC/NISSAT</b>			
5.	An Indian Model	NISSAT/DSIR, New Delhi	
<b>Networking: Feasibility Study</b>			
6.	Delhi Libraries (DELNET)	IIC, New Delhi	
7.	Madras Libraries (MALIBNET)	INSDOC Regional Centre, Madras	
8.	Pune Libraries (PUNENET)	Univ. of Poona, Pune.	
<b>NISSATCARD: Feasibility Study</b>			
9.	NISSATCARD — A Feasibility Study	CASAD, Pune	
<b>Marketing : Information Products</b>			
10.	Marketability of Information Products	INSDOC, New Delhi	
<b>Software: Library Automation</b>			
11.	Software packages developed for lib. automation in India and their appln. in library	Univ. of Poona, Pune	
<b>Software: CDS/ISIS</b>			
12.	Survey of CDS/ISIS Application in India	NISSAT/DSIR, New Delhi.	
<b>Use : S &amp; T Information</b>			
13.	Study of the Scientific & Technical Information use in India : Information needs and behaviour of scientists	Instt. of Social Analysis & Communication, New Delhi	
<b>Use : S &amp; T Information</b>			
14.	Use of Scientific and Technical Periodicals in Research and Academic Libraries with special reference to Institutional attitudes to sharing of such periodicals in India.	Instt. of Social Analysis & Communication, New Delhi	
<b>User : Survey</b>			
15.	Survey of the Information needs of Textile Exporters/Importers.	NICTAS/ATIRA, Ahmedabad	21

of queries served is about 600 through mail and another 200 per year through personal contact. Services include preparation of bibliographies, supply of photocopy of documents, provision of abstracts, etc. A token pricing has also been introduced.

Considerable progress has been made for the development of an Oceanographic Information System at National Institute of Oceanography, Goa. A PC/AT, ASFA database on CD-ROM, a CD-ROM drive have been acquired and staff members were provided suitable training.

- b. At the request of PGI/UNESCO, information specialists of the NICHEM at NCL, Pune undertook a detailed survey of existing databases and software for storage and retrieval of chemical reaction data and prepared a feasibility report for creation of a micro-computer-based chemical reactions database within the framework of the International Chemical Information Network (ChIN). The recommendations are being actively followed up by PGI/UNESCO.
- c. NISSAT is coordinating the ASTINFO document supply service promoted and supported by UNESCO, ASTINFO and National Library of Australia. The user Library/Information Centres pay for this service in Indian Rupees only.
- d. The NISSAT Secretariat has been given a contract to prepare standard course materials and teaching aids on the following topics:

- CCF : the Common Communication Format.
- CDS/ISIS, and
- Management Information System (MIS)

- e. A Regional Workshop on "New Information Technologies: Machine Translation" was organized on Dec 16-20, 1991 at New Delhi to identify:

- Machine Translation Systems needed for the countries in the Asia and Pacific region.
- Coordinated R&D projects in this important area.

This workshop was supported by UNESCO under its Participation Programme and jointly organised by NISSAT and NISTADS.

## 12. NISSAT Newsletter

In cooperation with the Society for Information Science (SIS), NISSAT has been publishing its quarterly *NISSAT Newsletter*. This effort is an expression of the sincerely behind NISSAT's intentions to mobilize the technical expertise available with professional bodies. The *Newsletter* covers wide-ranging issues relating to information and the development of information services networks and centres. Individuals and professional bodies are invited to contribute features and news items on new concepts and services, seminars and training courses, new products, status of information systems both national & international and trends in their development. All the four issues of this quarterly were published in time in the calendar year 1991. With a present circulation of over 4000 institutions and individuals, *NISSAT Newsletter* enjoys a high user appreciation and professional esteem in India.

# DEPT. OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (NISSAT)

## Passbook Scheme to Import Databases

A passbook scheme has been introduced to facilitate expeditious import and clearance of scientific equipment, etc. for research purposes. All scientific and technical instruments, apparatus, equipment, accessories, spare parts and consumable goods, when imported into India by a public funded research institution or a university, are exempted from the following duties under the passbook scheme:

- i. The whole of the customs duty leviable thereon under the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975), and
- ii. The whole of the additional duty leviable thereon under Section 3 of the said Customs Tariff Act.

For imports under the Passbook Scheme, the institution is not required to apply to the administrative Ministry for the Duty Exemption Certificate and to the DGTD for the NMI Certificate. The Head of institution is authorised to certify the essentiality and NMI conditions.

Public funded research institutions which are getting grants not less than 50% towards their recurring expenditure from the Central Government/State Government/Union Territory, and universities, including institutes of national importance, and colleges are eligible under this scheme.

The maximum upper limits allowed annually are:

Consumables	:	Rs. 1.50 crores (Aggregate cif value)
Equipment	:	Rs. 3 crores (Aggregate cif value)

However, any single item of equipment or apparatus or spare part or accessory whose cif value exceeds Rs. 10 lakhs and any single consumable item whose aggregate cif value exceeds Rs. 5 lakhs in a year are excluded. Institutions interested to use the scheme may obtain necessary forms from:

(in the case of public funded research institutes)

DIRECTOR  
S & T Interfacing Division  
Department of Science & Technology  
Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road  
NEW DELHI - 110016

OR

(in the case of universities & colleges)

DY. EDUCATIONAL ADVISOR  
Department of Education  
Ministry of Human Resource Development  
Section T-14, Shastri Bhawan  
NEW DELHI - 110001

## NISSAT Sponsored Courses Proposed During 1992-93

Institute	Topic	Date & Duration
Poona University	Computer Applications for Library Automation	18 Aug - 15 Sep. 92
		6 Oct - 20 Oct. 92
		27 Jan - 26 Feb. 93
CALIBNET	CDS/ISIS and Computer Applications	14 Sept - 18 Sept 92
		21 Sept - 25 Sept 92
DRTC	Computer Applications to Library and Information Sc.	11 May - 19 June 92
		Oct - Nov. 92
		Feb - March 93
INSDOC*	Computer Applications to Library & Information Sc.	13 Apr - 15 May 92
		25 May - 26 June 92
		2 Nov - 4 Dec 92
		8 Feb - 12 March 93
		4 Jan - 29 Jan 93
		12 Oct - 23 Oct. 92
SCTIMST	Computer Applications	22 Mar - 2 Apr. 93
		16 July - 11 Aug. 92

\* For details refer NISSAT Newsletter, No 1 (Jan-March) 1992

### Contact Address

1. Poona University
 

Prof. S.C. Mahajan  
Dept. of Library & Inf. Science  
Jaykar Library, Poona University  
Pune - 411 007
2. CALIBNET
 

Mr A C Mitra  
INSDOC Regional Centre  
IICB, Campus  
4 Raja S.C. Mullick Rd  
Calcutta 700032
3. DRTC
 

Prof. G Bhattacharyya  
ISI/DRTC  
8th Mile, Mysore Road  
R V College Post, Bangalore - 560 059

Telex : 845 8376 ISIB IN  
Gram : STATISTICA  
Tele : 623616/623617
4. INSDOC
 

Mr. B.K. Sen  
INSDOC, 14 Satsang Vihar Marg  
Special Institutional Area  
New Delh-110 067

Tele : 6863521  
660141/223
5. SCTIMST
 

Mrs. Prasanna Kumari  
Librarian  
Sree Chitra Tirunal  
Institute for Medical Science & Technology  
Trivandrum - 695011

Telex : 0436 - 290  
Gram : CHITRAMET  
Tele : 443152



---

# News and Events

---

## **SATCOMM: High Speed Data Communication Network**

With a view to integrating the Indian IT industry with the rest of the world, the Department of Electronics of the Government of India has taken the initiative to set up a Value Added Data Communication Network. This network would allay the fears of European industry which is hesitant to collaborate with Indian firms for fear of unsatisfactory data communication links with India. The network will take care of the existing drawbacks in data communication and its tariff structure will conform to internationally prevailing rates. The link-up would help European industry to become more competitive in the international arena and provide its industry the "cutting edge" in its endeavour to garner a large slice of the world IT business. It would also enable Indian firms to enter into strategic alliances with European industry and thereby promote joint ventures in Information Technology between Europe and India.

*Objectives of the Network:* The objectives of the network are to provide Value Added High Speed Data Communication facilities upto the customer's premises to facilitate transfer of data to meet the following requirements:

- i) Reliable high speed data link to the customer premises at no extra cost.
- ii) Ability to provide international high speed links at short notice.
- iii) Ability to provide links at different speeds for different periods and different timings of the day.
- iv) A flexible system of charging for the services based on the actual utilisation as per (iii) above.
- v) Flexibility of providing access to different countries.
- vi) Facilities to provide fully digital connectivity between Indian enterprises and their overseas clients/partners.

In the first phase the Network is proposed to be set up in Delhi, Bombay and Bangalore.

The Network is being provided in India by the Department of Electronics through SATCOMM Services (India). This will provide the necessary back up support to CESIA (Council En Systems d'Information) which will be managing a closed user group in Europe. For details contact Executive Director, SATCOMM Services (India), 6 CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

## **Information Handling as a Profession: Informatics Lecture**

Informatics (India) Pvt Ltd., the Bangalore based information company organised their "Second annual lecture on Informatics" on February 8, 1992 in New Delhi. The annual lecture series, intended to focus on current issues and emerging trends in information management was instituted by Informatics on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the company in May 1990 at Bangalore.

This year's lectures were delivered by Mr Srihari Raju, Editor, *Computers Today* (who was also the Chief Guest)

and Mr Kevin B Ring, Managing Director of Faxon Asia Pacific Co Ltd Japan. The lectures were presided over by Dr N Seshagiri, additional secretary & Director General, National Informatics Centre, New Delhi.

In his lecture on "Information Handling as a profession and the business: current trends and emerging opportunities" Mr Raju differentiated information technology from the intangible 'information' although both are strategic weapons to attain a competitive edge. Describing the evolution of online information systems, Mr Raju explained how several technological improvements have been achieved in the last decade making the job of online access to information easier and trouble-free. The applications have also increased with databases catering to all segments of the market. Mr Raju urged information professionals to become more market oriented and emphasised the need to educate users and update them in terms of technology.

Speaking on "Path to a Tele-library through knowledge management services" Mr Kevin Ring, drew comparisons between the traditional and technology models of library while maintaining that functionally they can all continue their role as facilitators of knowledge. Mr Ring went on to explain three different publishing media — tangible, viz the traditional print products, partially tangible viz tapes, cassettes & CD-ROM and intangible medium viz online databases where the data exist in electronic format only.

The tele-library, Mr Ring explained, provides the convenience of having access to information without having to physically move to the library, besides, providing the economy of resource sharing, as only one copy of any work needs to exist. The exciting element of a tele-library, he said, is not the technology nor is it the transition of the library. It is the fact that the tele-library fraternity is feasible for all nations — rich or poor, big or small, developed or developing — to participate as equals in its establishment and use. Mr Ring concluded his lecture with the hope that there would be no apprehension as to the practicability of a tele-library concept. The joint development of a tele-library committee here in India, he hoped, would be the first investment towards appropriate positioning of library and information science community.

Taking the cue, Dr N Seshagiri, The Director General of National Informatics Centre (NIC), explained how this evolution has caught on in India. The two library networks, DELNET and CALIBNET, are already functional, and by the year-end, 707 libraries are to be connected by NICNET, he added. Deprecating the negative planning in our country, as "whenever there is a budget cut, it is always on IT — Library or knowledge based sector", Dr Seshagiri urged to bring our whole planning concept around the development of information industry.

Dr Seshagiri also expressed his happiness over the initiative taken by private organisations in developing databases and the desire to use NICNET as a distribution vehicle for the indigenous databases. Dr Seshagiri urged that "virtue of selfishness" should be imposed on NICNET to

develop a new breed of entrepreneurs as high quality database producers, thereby evolving a new industry. He said, India is internationally better suited for the information industry than most other countries as India has the largest pool of intellectual manpower available at low cost and urged information professionals and entrepreneurs to take the lead.

#### ICSSR to Strengthen Information Support Systems

A meeting of librarians and senior officers of Indian Council of Social Science Research Regional Centres including National Social Science Documentation Centre was held at ICSSR Western Regional Centre, Bombay during 21-22 January 1992.

The objective of the meeting was to assess the current status of documentation and library services in social sciences in India and to discuss measures for effecting coordination in such services so as to strengthen the information support infrastructure.

The recommendations that emerged from the discussions included the following:

- To achieve optimum use of resources, RCs should extensively exchange their publications with other research institutions and universities in their respective areas.
- To promote exchange of bibliographic data in machine readable form, standardisation in areas like use of subject descriptors, bibliographical format, etc. should be achieved.
- To enrich the resource material, the RCs should acquire government documents, conference proceedings and working papers brought out in English and regional languages within their respective geographical areas.
- In depth survey of current social science documentation activities at national and regional level should be attempted.
- For planning customer oriented information services, a study of the information needs of the social scientists in India should be taken up.
- To promote greater use of existing material and documentation resources in the country, a directory of major social science research libraries, containing information about their special collection, documentation activities and services, publications, etc. may be compiled.

#### Housing Information Centre

Madras has the distinction of having been chosen by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the establishment of the 9th UNCHS Information Office in the World. The international organisation with its headquarters in Nairobi has established this centre in Madras in cooperation with Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO).

26

The office is being set up in the premises of the Southern Zonal Office of HUDCO. The Centre is reported to have a wide range of publications including technical reports, and bibliographies on various aspects of housing such as planning and national strategy, infrastructure, shelter upgrading, community participation, land management and even

human resources development. — *Mala Newsletter*, April 1992.

#### Jnanaganga—Canara Bank Scheme for Purchase of Books

Hire purchase comes to books! The Canara Bank has introduced a loan scheme called Jnanaganga for helping people to buy expensive books. Textbooks are not covered under the scheme, but novels are. Other subjects included are business, professional and technical manuals, religion, literature, philosophy, art, science, technology etc. Encyclopaedias are of course in it. There is a ceiling on the loan which can be between Rs.1000/- and Rs. 5000/- towards 75% of the cost of the books. This amount, together with interest is repayable in 30 equal instalments. The scheme was first launched in Bangalore and is being gradually extended to the rest of the country.

#### Electronic Journal Promotes Scholarly Exchange

Stevan Harnad, a visiting fellow in the psychology department at Princeton University, in New Jersey, is developing a new concept in publishing — the electronic journal. A paperless publication, it reaches readers on their computer screens. The concept, says Harnad, combines the technology of electronic mail with the editorial discipline of a refereed journal.

Cited by the *Library Journal* as one of the best new magazines of 1990, *PSYCOLOQUY* works in the following manner:

When a contributor sends in an article, it is read by one of the coeditors of the magazine and then forwarded to a member of the journal's editorial board for review. If accepted, the article is returned to the writer for revisions. When the revisions have been made, the writer returns the article for publication.

These procedures are similar to those for publishing in a conventional refereed journal. According to Harnad, the significant difference is that, because all communications are made electronically, they can be made much faster than is possible with print — "within days, even within hours."

Where the radical potential of speedy electronic turnaround really comes into play is in the phase of peer feedback. Readers can respond "within minutes" by posting their comments on a given article. After review by the editors, these comments follow hard on the heels of the article in question offering criticism and elaboration.

This procedure, which Harnad has dubbed "scholarly skywriting," turns the electronic magazine into a forum for ongoing discussion and debate. "Skywriting," he says, "promises to bring the speed of scholarly communication much closer to the speed of thought, while adding to it a global scope and an interactive dimension without precedent — all conducted through the discipline of the written medium, monitored by peer review and permanently archived for future reference."

*PSYCOLOQUY* is available free of charge to anyone who has access to Princeton University's mainframe as it is distributed on both Usenet and Bitnet, computer networks to which the university subscribes.

Ira Fuchs, vice president for computing and information technology of Bitnet and its originator, is enthusiastic about PSYCOLOQUY. It provides, he says, one example of "what we've hoped computer networks would allow people to do: serious scholarly work via electronic communication."

An application such as this electronic journal, Fuchs believes, highlights the potential of computers to transform and expand the variety of ways in which people exchange ideas. "Electronic communication is not a substitute for formal written communication or voice communication or personal meetings. But it can complement these in ways that haven't been available before." — *Science Update*, Feb. 1992

#### Global Bibliography on Rotifera

This global bibliography covers applied and basic aspects.

The present Release REFERA 1.1 covers the period 1696-1990 and has 6500 entries created and maintained using UNESCO'S CDS/ISIS software.

REFERA is a Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, sponsored database, compiled by Dr. S.S.S. Sarma and produced by Bioinformatics, Madurai Kamaraj University.

Rotifers are used as: live food in aquaculture, bioassay animals in ecotoxicological tests.

They are used by aquaculturists, pollution biologists, fishery biologists, limnologists, marine biologists, zoologists, toxicologists, evolutionary biologists, taxonomists, information scientists, other researchers.

Available on Non-profit basis the entire database to priced at

USD 50 (Foreign),

Rs. 1000 (Institutional), and

Rs. 750 (Individual).

OR

Set covering customised extracts. Variable pricing based on type of query.

Output : Hard copy (or) Floppies  $5 \frac{1}{2}$  \* 360 KB/  $5 \frac{1}{2}$  \* 1.2 MB/3  $\frac{1}{4}$  \* 1.44 MB IBM PC compatible.

#### Exchange of Bibliographical Data: NASSDOC Lecture-cum-Workshop

A two-day Lecture-cum-Workshop on "Exchange of Bibliographical Data" was organised by National Social Science Documentation Centre (ICSSR) at ICSSR Western Regional Centre, Bombay, during 19-20 January 1992.

About 30 senior library professionals working in the libraries of ICSSR and its Regional Centres, social science research institutes, universities and colleges in India, participated in the workshop.

The main objective of the workshop was to improve participants' skills in creation and exchange of bibliographical databases in machine readable form. Professor Alan Hopkin-

son was invited to act as workshop Director. His services were made available through the courtesy of British Council, Calcutta. The other resource persons were, Professor A.C. Tikekar, Librarian, Bombay University and Ms. Harsha Parekh, Dy. Librarian, S.N.D.T. Women's University, Bombay. The participants were exposed to international and national exchange formats. The emphasis was, however, on two international formats, "CCF" and "uNIMARC". To prepare for the workshop, the participants were provided copies of CCF Manual and CCF implementation notes. The workshop schedule was a judicious mix of theory, demonstration and practice sessions.

#### Current Research in Plant Science (CRIPS)

A monthly computerised Current Awareness Service, namely, *Current Research in Plant Science* (CRIPS) is being published since 1990, by Economic Botany Information Service of National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.

The CRIPS database, at present contains over 21,000 records. Every month 1,000 — 1,200 records are added to the database. The database carries references from approximately 600 National and International periodicals (received in NBRI Library) on the latest research and development work in the following fields:

1. Morphology, Taxonomy and — Angiosperm taxonomy, Cryptogamy, Ethnobotany, Electron microscopy, Palynology
2. Plant Wealth Utilisation — Pharmacognosy, Betelvine, Gums, Phytochemistry
3. Floriculture — Ornamentals
4. Environmental Sciences — Pollution, Aquatic botany, Conservation
5. Plant Biotechnology — Physiology, Biochemistry, Tissue culture, Molecular Biology, Microbiology
6. Biomass/Energy Plants — Fuel crops, Alcohol crops, Latex-crops
7. Diseases and Pests — Fungal, Viral, Bacterial, Nematode, Insect diseases
8. Genetics — Evolution, Cytogenetics, Breeding
9. General

CRIPS satisfies the current information needs of the scientific community, in general, and the Institute's scientists, in particular. The Service is available both on Diskette and Hard copies. Retrospective search facilities from the database are also made available on request, for cumulative references.

The computer used is PC AT 386. Operating system is MS-DOS ver. 4.00. The software used is CDS/ISIS (ver. 2.3) supplied by UNESCO, Paris.

Further details can be had from the Head, Economic Botany Information Service, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.

### UN Alphabetical Index of Goods

Anything from almonds to anoraks, margarine to mydratics, rabies vaccine to record players is the subject of a new UN publication. The *United Nations Common Coding System (UNCCS) Thesaurus alphabetical index of goods* is part of common codification system prepared in the follow-up phase to the 15th Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group (IAPWG) meeting, held in Tunis in 1990.

The index was produced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together with the Inter Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO). It is designed to facilitate: simplification of statistical reporting, with a subsequent reduction in the cost of this recurrent activity; interchange of information on sources of supply and the maintenance of the central IAPSO database of verified supply sources in target countries.

The UNCCS thesaurus covers more than 10,000 types and goods and services, some 7,500 types are normally procured by the UN system.

### Information and Earth Summit

The UNCED working Party on Information met in October 1991 at UNCED's Geneva headquarters to prepare a draft chapter for agenda 21.

Agenda 21 is a statement of goals, strategies and concrete actions for sustainable development, which will be discussed at the *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED — or the "Earth Summit"*, as it is popularly known). The conference will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 1-12 June 1992.

The chapter, entitled "Information for decision-making", discusses the need for environmental information to be accessible to all sections of the community; the environment is an area in which everyone is a decision-maker. It will detail objectives and activities as well as institutional issues.

### Joint Venture Software for Pen PC

Just as most of us have got to grips with our function keys, it looks like the writing may be on the wall for the computer keyboard. The "pen PC", a laptop computer that can recognize numbers and letters written on its screen with a special "pen", is proliferating. One big factor in its seemingly unstoppable rise is the new ability of the pen PC to recognize cursive handwriting as well as the painstaking printing that was previously necessary.

28 Some of the breakthroughs needed for this feat came out of what was until recently the Soviet Union, via a Soviet-US joint venture called ParaGraph Inc., based in Moscow. Its US outpost, paraGraph International in Boulder, Colo., recently sold a nonexclusive license for its cursive-recognition software to Apple Computer Inc. The Software is also said to be able to recognize formulae, symbols, and simple graphics.

Although the software currently "understands" only English, Paragraph plans to create versions that recognize Russian and other languages. — *Business week*, November 1991.

### ISDS REGISTER ON CD-ROM

The International Serials Data System (ISDS) Register, The world register of ISSN's is now available on CD-ROM under the title **ISSN Compact**.

The ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) is universally accepted as the prime means of identifying serials. Its use is essential throughout a periodical's chain of supply, from publisher, to subscription agent to library, for the efficient management of research, ordering and cataloguing.

ISDS, which assigns the ISSN's, is an intergovernmental organization which functions as a network with an International Centre in Paris and National Centres in more than 50 participating countries. It provides comprehensive global coverage, with records of periodicals published in 193 countries and in more than 144 languages. This goes to make up a total of more than 600,000 entries, with over 40,000 new entries and 60,000 updates per year.

The ISDS International Centre records all periodical titles published by international organizations such as those of the UN system, OECD and the European Community. In 1987 the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) of the United Nations adopted the ISSN as a UN system-wide standard.

The database contains 24 search indexes, and comes with a user manual and help screens. Menus and help messages can be displayed in English and French and, in the near future, German and Spanish.

### Disseminating Agrometeorological Information

Disseminating agrometeorological information requires different methods in different countries. In the countries of the Sahel region of Africa, many pilot projects have been carried out on the nature and formulation of agrometeorological information to be used by selected farmers. As long as these projects remain relatively small, the information can be transmitted rapidly either during visits or by single side-band radio.

As more and more farmers wish to take part in these projects, however, other means of efficient data dissemination need to be developed. To this end, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Centre for Techniques in Agriculture (CTA) of the European Community and the ACP countries are organizing, in technical collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), a workshop on the use of rural radio for data dissemination.

WMO also promotes the dissemination of data to farmers through national seminars and workshops, in which participants from the meteorological, agricultural, agricultural research, agricultural extension, plant protection and soil conservation services participate. Such a seminar was held in Cape Verde in May 1991. — *WMO Bulletin*, January 1992.

## Cementing Information

The International Ferrocement Information Centre (IFIC) collects, processes and disseminates information on ferrocement and related materials, particularly for the benefit of developing countries.

IFIC offers various information services, ranging from conducting ferrocement training and providing bibliographic computer searches to running workshops and responding to technical queries.

The quarterly *Journal of Ferrocement* is IFIC's main communication tool, but it also has a host of other publications, intended to benefit its diverse clientele of academics, researchers, engineers, amateur builders, extension workers, development officers and others.

IFIC offers services to those seeking information on how to solve specific problems in the field. Its consultants, 141 of them in 39 countries, are individuals willing to share their expertise with others.

To transfer technology to rural areas of developing countries, IFIC organizes training programmes, seminars, study tours, conferences, and symposia. IFIC identifies needs, solicits funds, and brings experts and lay people together.

To accelerate the flow of information, IFIC established the Ferrocement Information Network (FIN) and the IFIC Reference Centres Network. A FIN pilot project, with participation from universities in Malaysia, The Philippines, India, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia, began in 1985. IFIC also has a Reference Centre, which houses its basic ferrocement reference collection. — *Agricultural Information Development Bulletin*, December 1991.

## SDI Service at NICMAP

NICMAP has introduced the SDI (Selective Dissemination of Information) service under the membership scheme. Under the SDI service the member will register his name as SDI user and will send his subject interest (profile) to NICMAP. NICMAP will store this subject profile in the computer and once in every two months search will be made of the newly added references and printouts of bibliographical references are sent to the members. Thus, the SDI users regularly get the latest references on the subject of their interest during first week of every alternate month.

The SDI service is available to all NICMAP members. The number of references sent to members under SDI shall be debited to their accounts.

The main advantage of SDI service is that the user can indicate his subject interest once and the list of references on this subject will be sent to the user routinely every two months, thus keeping the user abreast of the latest literature in the field. The documents referred to in these lists are available in NICMAP library and users can order for photocopies of documents of their interest.

An SDI user can change his subject profile, register more than one profile or cancel his profile by writing to NICMAP.

For Further details, please write to: NICMAP, Central Machine Tool Institute, Tumkur Road, Bangalore.

## Information Resource-Sharing and Mobilization — Jakarta Workshop

A Workshop was organized in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 2 to 6 December 1991, to improve national and regional capabilities to develop more effective information resource-sharing techniques and approaches, identify and mobilize available information resources and develop skills in project formulation, in order to ensure progressive self-sufficiency of information activities and projects in developing countries.

Twenty-six participants from six Asian countries attended the workshop organized by the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO and PGI.

The formulation of a national information policy and a perspective plan for library and information services were recommended as the action to be taken in each country as well as the development of pragmatic resource-sharing activities and projects. It was also recommended that analytical reports of the state of development of information services in individual countries be undertaken with UNESCO assistance and that further workshops be held at national and regional levels.

The participants agreed to approach their respective national authorities to ensure the implementation of these recommendations.

## ChIN — SIOC EXPERT Visits NCL

With financial support of UNESCO, an expert from the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry (SIOC), People's Republic of China, travelled to Pune, India, in December 1991, to advise the National Information Centre on Chemistry and Chemical Technology at the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) on the establishment of a microcomputer-based chemical reactions database of use to developing countries in Asia and the Pacific and give a lecture at NCL on recent advances in chemical databases.

The establishment of a chemical reactions database, available at no high cost by developing countries, will provide a new tool for scientists and facilitate their research work. It will promote collaboration between developed and developing countries and strengthen regional and international cooperation.

Some co-operative work will be initiated between SIOC and NCL.

## Use of CD-ROM In Documentation

The Ecole Internationale de Bordeaux (EIB), France, organized jointly with UNESCO and the Banque Internationale d'information sur les Etats Francophones (BIEF), an International Training Workshop on CD-ROM during 11-15 May 1992.

This Workshop was designed for documentalists, librarians and archivists from French-speaking developing countries having more experience in microcomputer applications to library work.

The programme included: Introduction to CD-ROM in library and information work; CD-ROM market and products; search techniques; CD-ROM Product and services evaluation;

installing CD-ROMs; user training; the future of CD-ROM in library and information work.

### ARIC Information Retrieval Services

The Agricultural Research Information Centre of the I.C.A.R., created in 1967 as a repository of agricultural research information in the country, provides the following Information Retrieval Services:

#### 1. *Research In Progress*

Complete record of Agricultural Research Projects conducted under ICAR Research Institutes, *Ad hoc* Research Schemes. All India Co-ordinated Research Projects are available in hard copy for consultation at the Centre by research scholars and workers.

A database of research in progress using Micro CDS/ISIS ver. 2.3 software is available.

#### 2. *Bibliographical Database on Agriculture*

A bibliographical database on Agricultural Sciences and Technology indexed and abstracted from core Indian journals is available using Micro CDS/ISIS ver. 2.3 software.

#### 3. *Database for Scientists Visited Abroad*

A database on deputation reports of scientists visited abroad has been created and maintained in the computer system. Copies of reports are available for consultation.

#### 4. *Database of State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes*

A database on disk information pertaining to SAU's and ICAR Institutes is available in computer system using dBase III Plus software.

#### 5. *Directory of Conferences, Seminars, Symposia, Workshops in Agriculture*

Half yearly Directory of Conferences, Seminars, Symposia and Workshops in Agriculture is being published regularly.

#### 6. *Bio-data of Agricultural Research Workers*

Information of brief bio-data of Agricultural Research Workers is available.

#### 7. *Selective Dissemination of Information Services using CD-ROM Disks*

SDI Service using CD-ROM Disk is available to agricultural scientists of ICAR system including State Agricultural Universities.

30 Requests for any of the above services can be sent to the Information System Officer, Agricultural Research Information Centre, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Anusandhan Bhavan, Dr. K.S. Krishnan Marg, Pusa, New Delhi-110 012.

### Catalogue Management Software Package for Libraries

A low-cost, user-friendly, menu-driven catalogue management software for small libraries under MS-DOS environment has been developed by INSDOC, New Delhi.

Its Main Features are:

- data input and modification
- database activation, automatic indexing, etc.
- search & retrieval of two databases namely, Recent Additions & Complete Catalogue
- transfer of records for Recent Additions to Complete Catalogue
- help for display of
  - catalogue card
  - main subject headings.

The software can handle upto 50,000 records. Price Rs 5800

For further details, contact:

Marketing and Customer Services Division  
INSDOC  
New Delhi-110067

### NICFOS: New Publications

The National Information Centre for Food Science and Technology (NICFOS) at Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, has just brought out the following two publications:

1. *"DIRECTORY OF ONGOING PROJECTS IN FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN INDIA"*: This is the 3rd edition covering the period 1986-90 and includes information on 409 projects collected from 54 institutions. Nominally priced at Rs. 70/- + Postage, the Directory aims at serving the needs of R&D workers and management personnel in Food Science and Technology. The Directory can also be supplied in floppy, the rate for which will be intimated on request.
2. *"CFTRI SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PAPERS: A BIBLIOGRAPHY— 1950-1990"*: Lists nearly 4600 papers published in periodicals by R&D personnel of CFTRI since its inception. Arranged year-wise and author alphabetical within the year; also provided a consolidated Author Index. Aimed to highlight work already done in specific subject areas in food science and technology and helpful in understanding gaps for planning future work. Material also available in floppy. Price details on request to the area Coordinator, FOSTIS, CFTRI, Mysore-570 013.

### Computerised Database Search at NBRI

The Economic Botany Information Service (EBIS) at National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, has developed facilities for Computerised Database Search of world literature in Plant Science. The database, at present, contains over 21,000 records. Retrospective search-service facility is available on nominal payment basis. Further details can be had from the Head, EBIS, NBRI, Lucknow-226 001.

### 13th International MINISIS User Group Meeting

The SNDT Women's University has been invited to host the Thirteenth International MINISIS User Group Meeting which will be held at Bombay during November 9-13, 1992. This is the first time the group will meet in India. The meeting will be regarded as a landmark in the development of library software as Version H, which incorporates many user friendly features and is more function oriented, is expected to be released at the meeting. This version will now also be available for use on personal computers. An Integrated Library System will be released soon after the release of the Standard MINISIS Application.

The Five day meeting will provide Indian librarians wishing to automate an ideal opportunity to preview MINISIS Version H and the Integrated Library System.

The SNDT Women's University has been an active user of MINISIS in India since 1987. It is also the MINISIS Resource Centre for India since 1989. It acts as a national Training Centre offering specialized training programmes for users and installing the software on behalf of IDRC. It offers support to users in India by solving their problems and through the publication of a Newsletter. (*MINISIS Patrika*) which acts as a communication channel among users.

### Cybernetics and Systems — New Delhi to Host 9th International Congress

The Society for Management Science and Applied Cybernetics, New Delhi and Systems Engineering and Cybernetics Centre, Tata Consultancy Services, Hyderabad will jointly hold the Ninth international Congress of Cybernetics and Systems (ICCS) in New Delhi during 18-23 January 1993.

ICCS is held once in three years under the aegis of the World Organization of Systems and Cybernetics (WOSC). This is the first time that the congress would be held in an Asian Country.

The deadline for submission of papers is 30 June 1992.

Conveners for the Congress are: A. Ghosal, Society of Management, Science and Applied Cybernetics, New Delhi and PN Murthy, Systems Engineering and Cybernetics Centre, Tata Consultancy Services, Hyderabad.

### APINESS Regional Advisory Group and Training Seminar

Unesco Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, in collaboration with Indian Council of Social Science Research, will organise the Third Meeting of the Regional Advisory Group of the Asia-Pacific Information Network in Social Sciences and Regional Training Seminar at New Delhi. The meeting, to coincide with IFLA General Conference, scheduled from 30 August to 5 September, 1992, will be held from 25-29 August 1992.

### CODATA 92

The Committee on Data for Science and Technology of the International Council of Scientific Union (ICSU) is organizing the 13th International CODATA Conference on **New Data Challenges in our Information Age**, to be held during 19-22 October 1992, in Beijing, People's Republic of China.

Contact address:

*Prof. J.E. Dubois, CODATA Secretariat,  
51 bd. de Montmorency, 75016 Paris, France or  
Prof. Xu Zhihong, Institute of Chemical  
Metallurgy, Chinese Academy of Sciences,  
Box 353, Beijing 100 080, People's Republic of China.*

### Abstracting and Indexing — SENDOC Training Programme

An intensive short term training programme on Abstracting and Indexing is being organized by the Small Enterprises National Documentation Centre (SENDOC) in Hyderabad during July 13-24, 1992.

The fee for the course is Rs 3000 per participant. For details contact Mrs. K. Subhashini, Course Director, NISIET, Yousufguda, Hyderabad 500 045.

### Ph. D. (Lib. Sc) for DESIDOC Scientist

The Panjab University, Chandigarh has awarded Ph.D. in library Science to Shri Rajeev Vij, Scientist C DESIDOC. The topic of his thesis was "Information needs, awareness, habits and problems of Defence Scientists in India: A study". The study was conducted under the guidance of Dr H.R. Chopra, Chairman, Dept. of Library and Information Science, Panjab University.

## Announcement

NISSAT plans to hold a National Online/CD-ROM User Group Meeting at Technology Bhawan in New Delhi, during July 16-17, 1992.

The objective is to provide a forum for users to share experience, ideas, and skills in the provision of information speedily, comprehensively and most economically through Online and CD-ROM technologies.

If you wish to participate/make a presentation/or demonstrate your product, write to the Jt. Advisor NISSAT, Technology Bhawan New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi - 110016