Information Today & Tomorrow

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Contents

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 journal may be addressed to Dr. A. Lahiri, Joint Adviser (NISSAT), Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Government of India, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110 016. Material published in the Newsletter can be reproduced with due acknowledgement to the source.

Editorial

Whither Ranganathan?

We all remember Dr. Ranganathan, don't we? But we seem to be doing it at our convenience. Like one fondly takes his name when it is desirable to do so or drop it most reverentially when personal benefits are in sight.

Why else, Indian experts did not (or could not) do a wee bit to further the leads that Ranganathan had set for us decades back. Unfortunately, he did not live to see the miracles that the information technology revolution has brought about. His genius would have worked to adapt the *Colon Classification* and the *Classified Catalogue Code* to the new technology environment. And large libraries using these standards, could have been saved from their present situation similar to that of a gigantic python gorging a large deer_which it can neither swallow nor throw up.

The famous Five Laws remain in the text books, only to be read before one's examination. Why do librarians block or screen out well meaning users while he championed all his life the cause of universal access. Why his ardent disciples fight for splitting collections while all his life Ranganathan fervently promoted collection building (The tale of two city libraries refers).

Sycophancy is the name of the game in which only we can claim uncrowned supremacy. Study circles named after him have mushroomed, but these only add up to the prevalent noise at a higher decibel level.Amidst the tinkling coffee tumblers and tea cups, the same subject is repeatedly discussed over and over again. Of late, new institutes have begun to spring up. On one such endeavour, a state government is understood to have coughed up a hefty sum for establishing a non-descript institute managed by a person with remote attachment, if any, to the discipline. Come to think of it! Even his close followers could not muster enough courage to come out of the protective umbrella of a big establishment and set up an institute in his cherished memory. And the corpus he left behind continues to be managed in a closely guarded fasion by a group of disciples who think Ranganathan is their private property.

Idol worship is our forte. Our senior professionals take the trouble of visiting his birthplace for a scoop of earth to be treasured or immersed in holy places. Not to be left behind, a stalwart institutes a medal (with his own name attached to the giant lest not the *sishya* is forgotten). An afffectionate father christened his kids Popsy and Precis as a constant reminder. A sword bearer went to the extent of changing the family name. SR's more ardent followers thought it prudent to entangle him perpetually with another eminent professional in an ideological conflict. So much so that even two decades after the death of Ranganathan, some of them did not miss the opportunity to pass slighted remarks at the other octogenarian leader of the profession in a public meeting of a professional body.

But all of them sing in chorus that the boundaries of library science knowledge have not extended even by an inch beyond where he left them. And that solutions to all library related matters could be found from the works of Ranganathan in the same vein as our religious leaders — the self professed custodians of our faiths, try to dig out solutions or explanations to all scientific and societal phenomena from our ancient scricptures. Copious materials in the form of articles, books, memoirs are written and a lot of sweet talks / speeches are made about what he was and what he wasn't. Had we only diverted this tremendous energy in doing good to the profession, we would have paid a more befitting tribute to the man who lived for the cause of the users and the profession.

To cut the soliloquy short, Ranganathan is to the Indian librarian community what Bapuji is to all of us. Alas! Ranganathan is getting lost among the millions of Indians who were born, died and invariably slipped out of the memory.

— A. Lahiri

Dr. R.A.Mashelkar Appointed Director General CSIR
Prof. S.K.Joshi Retires

Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director NCL has been appointed Director General CSIR and Secretary, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research. He took over charge of his new office on 30th June 1995. At 52, he is the youngest DG of CSIR.

Prof. S.K.Joshi [Photograph]

Dr.Joshi retired as DG, CSIR on 30th June,1995 on superannuation. He has served as DG, CSIR since April, 1991. Prof.Joshi was born on 6th June, 1935, studied at Allahabad University and did his Ph.D. in Physics from there in 1962. The broad areas of his research specialization are Condensed Matter Physics and Collision Processes.

Dr. Joshi was elected Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy in 1974. He was the Secretary of the Academy during 1983-86 and its Foreign Secretary during 1989-92. He was elected President of the INSA in 1993. He is Fellow, Indian Academy of Sciences since 1974 and was Vice President from 1989 to 1991. Prof.Joshi was President of Indian Physics Association during 1989-90. He is President, Materials Research Society of India. Prof.Joshi is a Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences; and a Foreign Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

He won the Watmull Memorial Prize for 1965, Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Prize for Physical Sciences in 1972; CSIR Silver Jubilee Award in 1973, and Meghnad Saha Award for Research in Theoretical Sciences in 1974. He also won Dr.K.S.Krishanan Memorial Lectureship of INSA in 1987, and FICCI Award in Physical Sciences for 1990; Dr.Mahendra Lal Sircar Prize by IACS Calcutta for 1989 in 1994. He was awarded Padma Shri in 1991; Goyal Prize in Physics by Goyal Foundation in 1993; D.Sc. (honoris causa) Kumaun University in 1994; and Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award in 1994.

Prof.Joshi's major research contributions span over a wide variety of topics in solid state theory and in atomic and molecular collisions. His early researches were concerned mainly with study of photons in metals and insulators. Dr.Joshi did research work in area of electronic states in disordered systems and theory of electron correlation in narrow band solids. He has also worked on surface states and surface segregation. Dr. Joshi has conducted studies on excitation and ionization processes in atoms ions and molecules due to the impact of electrons and protons. The current research interests of Dr. Joshi lie in high temperature superconductivity and heavy fermion systems.

Prof.Joshi has supervised the Ph.D. theses of 18 scholars and has published more than 175 research papers.

On retirement as DG, CSIR Prof.Joshi has been awarded the Sarabhai Research Professorship in Physics. He will work on condensed matter theory at the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.

Dr.R.A. Mashelkar, an internationally acclaimed chemical engineer, took over as the Director of National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) in June 1989. At 46, he was the youngest Director to take over the charge of this premier research laboratory.

Dr. R.A. Mashelkar [Photograph]

Dr.Mashelkar has brought in new concepts in research and technology management and moved NCL on the path of being a global R&D platform by offering its technologies and services worldwide. The recently adopted Mashelkar Committee report gave a refreshing new market and users orientation to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Dr. Mashelkar has been an active consultant in research and technology to Indian industry as well to leading companies in USA and Europe. Dr.Mashelkar has been on the Board of Directors of IPCL, MPCL, TDICI, IVS, etc. He has been consultant to the World Bank on restructuring of industrial R&D.

Dr.Mashelkar was a Member of the Science Advisory Council (SAC) to the Prime Minister of India (1988-90). He was appointed as an Assessor for the Inquiry Commission set up by the Government to investigate the Bhopal gas tragedy and also the Chairman of the Committee that investigated into the accident in the giant petrochemical complex of MGCC at Nagothane.

Dr.Mashelkar has published over 180 research papers in international journals and he has edited 16 books. Dr.Mashelkar has won many awards, which include the prestigious S.S.Bhatnagar Prize(1982), K.G.Naik Gold Medal (1985), FICCI Award(1987), Viswakarma Medal (1988), O.P.Bhasin Award (1991), Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Award for Technology (1991) , G.D. Birla Award (1993) & Raj Kristo Memorial Award(1995). In 1991, the President of India honoured him with Padmashri in recognition of his contributions to Science.

Dr.Mashelkar has received a number of international honours. In1993, University of Salford (UK) honoured him with an Honorary Doctorate of Science honoris causa and in the same year he was elected a Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences in Trieste, Italy. He delivered the prestigious Danckwerts Memorial Lecture in London in June 1994.

The Bar Code: Technology and Applications

Look at the cover page of any international magazine and you will notice stripes of black bars against white background. This tiny and ubiquitous printed label is the visible tip of a widespread yet almost unnoticed technology taken for granted but bursting with innovations.

With its complex web of embedded data, a bar code is a miniscule monument of ingenuity. It can be read from across a room; the very latest systems encode hundreds of characters on a square inch of paper.

But many of us, are not yet familiar with this useful and interesting technology, which has proved to be very popular in all advanced countries. Almost 90 per cent of all the goods manufactured and consumables overseas carry a bar code.

Bar code technology embodies a technique that can go hand-in-hand with automation in identifying, locating and tracking all the bewildering data and surrounding business activity. Advances in bar code and related data collection techologies enable business from a warehouse to hospitals to chemical processing plants to combine their operations more closely with the operational data. These advances stem from the miniaturisation of optics and processing electronics and more densily packed bar code labelling techniques.

A comprehensive and very informative article published in a recent issue of *Electronics For You* examines in detail such questions as *What are bar codes*? *Reading the bar codes,The bar* codes system, Laser Scanners, CCD Scanners, Advantage of Using bar code and Applications. A list of Bar Code Suppliers is also appended.

—Electronics For You, April 1995

The Bar Code: Suppliers

Efficient Data Processing Pvt.Ltd. 462/4D, Shriram Bhuvan NP Marg, Matunga BOMBAY - 400019	**MR. UN Mahalik** Vice President (Marketing) **MR. Pradeep Gandhi** Vice President(Customer Support)	Phone: 022-409 7772/7092/7093 Fax: 022- 4096323
Great Eastern Impex Pvt.Ltd. Pragati Tower, 10th Floor 26, Rajinder Place NEW DELHI - 110008	**MR. P.C. Jain** Business Manager	Phone: 011-5711751,573 7287/9849 Fax: 011-5754185 Telex: 031-77197
Great Eastern Impex Pvt.Ltd. 110, Bombay A/C Market 1st Floor, Tardeo BOMBAY- 400034	**MR. Dilip Joshi** Business Manager **MR. Rajesh J Pawoolkar** Systems Executive	Ph.: 022-494 6059/2337,4938387 Fax : 022- 4950510
Intellicon Private Limited B-20, GIDC Electronics Estate Sector - 25 GANDHINAGAR - 380244		Phone: 02712-2299 4/5 Fax: 02712-23373
Sagarika Electronics Pvt.Ltd. A-10, Vaibhav Industrial Estate Saki Vihar Road BOMBAY- 400072	**MR. Pankaj Sharma** Group Manager **MR. Rajeev Shukla** Director	Phone: 022-8328353 Fax : 022-8210451, 5148574 Telex: 011-75813
Symbol Systems of India Post Box No. 37379 Andheri (West) BOMBAY- 400058	**MRS. S.K.Dharia** Director	Phone: 022-623 9440/7152/0049 Fax : 022-6239650

—Vimal Kumar Varun

National Information Centre on Management (NICMAN)

The country's first information centre on Management Science, namely, NICMAN, under NISSAT programme would become operational soon. The centre is being developed around the nucleus of Vikram Sarabhai Library (VSL) of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA). The database being developed covers global databases on management science, applications on management concepts, business information, applied management research, etc.

IIMA is one of the primary institutions in the country with a mission of professionalising Indian management through teaching, training and research.

Vikram Sarabhai Library

VSL has over 1,30,000 books and about 35,000 back volumes of journals. It subscribes to 600 Indian and foreign periodicals. The Institute has a LAN and VSL is a node on the LAN. LAN facility is used to provide value-added services to the faculty such as circulation information, weekly receipts of journals, research and publication bibliography of the institute and World Bank Publication Index.

Need Assessment Study

A comprehensive nation-wide study was conducted for need assessment, through questionnaire, among academic, business and industry and services sector segments. The findings have underlined

— Criticality of information for decision making

— Inadqeuacy of currently available information

— Non-availability of critical information on time

— Uniformly high intention to use products / services such as annotated bibliographies, abstracts, executive summaries, statistical databases on different kinds of environments in machine readable form, online and hard copy.

Mission

A professionally managed centre to provide timely management and business information for improving decision making by managers in India and for supporting applied management research that leads to improved management practices.

Objectives

1. Serve the information needs of management students, teachers researchers and managers.

2. Prepare value-added information products and services and cases.

3. Strengthen the resouce base, and provide organizations access to international databases for management information.

4. Collect, process and disseminate information on various sectors of the economy and conduct industry and sector studies.

5. Establish a network of management and other allied libraries to strengthen the resource base.

6. Use appropriate information technology for internal management, networking and marketing.

7. Develop and conduct training/teaching programs for professionals of library/ information centres in organizing, designing and developing, and marketing of information products and services.

Functions

1. Conduct research for assessing user needs, developing appropriate products and services and marketing strategies

2. Conduct information technology assessment and develop innovative applications for storage, retrieval and dissemination

3. Develop and conduct training for internal as well as external library and information professionals for improving decision making and marketing skills

4. Analyze information and prepare reports and industry studies

5. Provide library facilities

6. Provide documentation and information services including computerized information retrieval

7. Provide database search service

8. Develop close cooperation among libraries/information centres for exchange of information and resource sharing

9. Provide reprographic services

Services

It is proposed to expand the range of services and attempt value addition for serving the external clients both academic and business and industry. The programme would be implemented in Phases.

In the **first phase** the following services are proposed :

1. Extend indexing and current awareness services to external clients (both academic and business and industry)

2. Start abstracting service from our own database as well as CD-ROM based databases and extend to external clients

3. Extend database search service using our own database and CD-ROMs to external clients

4. Extend access to external clients for case bibliography and develop electronic delivery system i.e. through E-mail or floppy diskettes

5. Undertake design of selected industry profiles, country profiles, and management digest/executive summaries.

In the **second phase**, it is proposed to offer the following additional services.

- Industry / Country information service

- Management Digest / Executive summeries
- Develop a system for online delivery wherever possible

The **third phase** is likely to achieve delivery of above services through all the three delivery systems i.e. hard copy, floppy and online.

From the **second phase** onwards the center would assess market requirements and develop new products/ services.

Organization of the Centre

1. Library and Documentation Division

    1.1 Library Unit
    1.2 Documentation & Information Unit
    1.3 Computerized Information Retrieval Unit

2. Research Division

    2.1 Industry database & Research unit
    2.2 Teaching & Training Material Unit

3. Marketing & Training Division

    3.1 Marketing Unit
    3.2 Training Unit

4. Services Division

Networking & Resource Sharing

The centre would share resources with VSL of IIMA for base materials. In addition, the centre would make efforts to create a network of management institutions' libraries particularly the IIMs and other national level institutions, to promote effective use of resources by academic as well as business and industry segments.

Training

With the expertise, skills and experience available at the IIMA, the centre would also focus on training programs to reorient the library and information professionals to adopt and implement marketing programs for their library/information centre. This would include organizing, designing and developing, and marketing of information products and services.

Teaching Materials in the Field of Information

The education and training of information specialists requires the availability of teaching materials of good quality. PGI has always been concerned by this issue and has closely followed the recent evolution of both the techniques of production and the contents of teaching material.

Thirty years ago,the production of teaching material was easier and inexpensive. Only one medium was available : paper. Many techniques for preparing and reproducing on paper were easily accessible and the preparation of texts did not require specific competence except the ability to express oneself clearly in writing. In this connection, it is worth noting that the revised and augmented edition of the General Introduction to Information and Documentation Work, which was published in French in 1991, has in 1993 reached the selling figure of almost 5,000 copies. Despite rapid technological progress, the book is still a well appreciated instrument of communication and teaching.

The very rapid and drastic changes in information technologies started long ago : the appearance of AV material; transparencies, fixed films, slides, video, audio-tapes, etc. Soon after came the computer; first as a main frame located only in specific sites, then the micro-computer available everywhere. The digitization of print was soon complemented by the production of huge memories and led to the digitization of the multimedia. CD-ROM and video-discs are now almost ten years old.

On the other hand, the miniaturization of equipment has been so rapid that the processing of data coming from print, sound and image from all types of media is now common practice. What are the consequences of these changes on the production and use of teaching materials?

The production of teaching materials is more costly and requires specific technical competence; it is more difficult to translate non-printed documents from one language to another, including computer software; the use of those documents requires specific technical abilities of the users; images and sound convey local particularities which make adaptations necessary when using the document in another linguistic or cultural context.

PGI recently participated in a joint project for the production of Computer Assisted Instruction modules in the field of information retrieval.The time necessary, the amount of funding and the large number of personnel involved in the project clearly showed that the resources required are beyond those which can be expected in the near future at UNESCO. It is therefore reasonable to consider that international cooperation should concentrate on providing general guidance on the production of teaching materials.

At the international level, another role might be to create links among institutions so that they can collaborate in the production, distribution and use of teaching materials.

Intergovernmental Council for the General Information Programme

The tenth session of the Intergovernmental Council for the General Information Programme (PGI) took place at UNESCO Headquarters from 28 to 30 November 1994. Twenty six of the thirty Member States of the Council were represented. In addition, thirty-six observers from UNESCO Member States as well as observers from two non-Members States and nine international and non-governmental organizations also attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review the activities carried out by PGI since the last session of the Council, to guide the Secretariat in planning future programmes and to advise on the Medium-Term Strategy for the period 1996 -2001.

In his opening remarks, the Assistant Director-General for Commumication, Information and Informatics, Mr.Henrikas Yushkiavitshus, stressed that this session of the Council is taking place at a particularly

important moment in the life of the Organization: the preparation of the Medium-term Strategy for 1996-2001,and informed the Council of the vast consulation and reflection process which took place in Member States, within the Secretariat and at the 145th Session of the Executive Board.

He added "In a period marked by unprecedented political, economic and social changes, one of the major issues facing PGI will be its ability to adapt to the rapid evolution of information and communication technologies and to the tremendous potential offered by the expanding planetary telecommunication networks"

"Without adequate assistance, the risk was high that the gap between developing countries in accessing and obtaining information would be ever increasing. Investments in the development of libraries, archives and information centres are generally very modest. The development of information infrastructures also raises a number of legal and ethical issues". Mr.Yushkiavitshus concluded by inviting the Council to make a substantive contribution to these issues and to the role PGI should play at the dawn of the twenty-first century.

The Chairperson, Mrs. Suzanne Richer, presented a report on the activities of the Bureau since the last session and informed the Council on the other Bureau meetings which were held since then. Two major issues were addressed at the 20th meeting: the dicussion and adoption of the "PGI Long Schools of Archives and Library and Information Sciences have already created bilateral links of cooperation, which have led to fruitful results. But in addition to existing bilateral and regional links, there is room for truly international collaboration mechanisms which could assure the following functions: identify priority areas for the production of teaching materials; identify trends in the use of technology for teaching; assist in the identification funding sources; assist in the identification of potential bilateral links; maintain a database on the material available on a world-wide basis.

To fulfil those functions, there is no need for expensive or complex mechanisms.With the means of communication available today, particularly Internet, it is possible to support a flexible network of institutions which could play that role. Such a project is now under consideration within UNESCO, and further developments will be reported in due course.

— UNISIST Newsletter,Vol.22,No.3

Information Sources

Traking Down `Grey Literature'

The wealth of information found in publications such as scientific reports, doctoral dissertations and conference proceedings-known collectively as `grey literature'- is often difficult to identify and obtain. This is usually because the research institutes, universities, authorities and firms which publish them see no need to distribute or publicise their research results widely.

However, ever-increasing global competition is fueling the need to transfer scientific knowledge developed in one country to scientists and industries throughout Europe. Grey literature is often the key to this knowledge transfer. Unfortunatelly, Europe has been weak in database publishing, particularly relating to grey literature, compared with its international competitors. The United States, for example,has long had databases such as those of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) for technology reports and the UMI for dissertations.

The System for Information on Grey Literature in Europe(SIGLE) was formed to tackle this problem in Europe in 1980, two years after a seminar organised by the European Commission in York(UK). Operated by a network of national information or document supply centres active in collecting and promoting grey literature, SIGLE is an on line, pan-European electronic database and document delivery system. SIGLE was funded by the European Commision until 1985, when the members formed the European Association for Grey Literature Exploitation (EAGLE). EAGLE is now self-supporting and growing fast, with members and national SIGLE centres throughout Europe.

A Growing Network

In October 1993 the SIGLE database contained 336,650 records, with around 40,000 new records being added each year. Pure and applied sciences were the first subjects to be covered, with economics, social sciences and humanities added in 1984.

A typical SIGLE record contains the document's title (with an English translation if necessary),plus information on the author(s), the source,the document's length and where it can be obtained. Subject search is possible through 246 subject category codes. In addition, some 15% of the records contain `added keywords'to clarify the document title, and EAGLE is researching the possibility of adding more.

SIGLE's descriptive cataloguing rules are based on those of the Internationl Nuclear Information System (INIS), and the subject classfication scheme is a modified version of that endorsed by the Committee on Scientific and Technical Information (COSATI) of the US Federal Council for Science and Technology.

All the documents listed in the SIGLE database can be obtained from or through the national centre which originally entered the record. Various ways of receiving copies exist, such as through national and international interlibrary loan networks.

International Links

One of EAGLE'S overarching aims -to foster international cooperation in grey literature distribution - was reflected by their co-sponsorship of the First International Conference on Grey Literature, held last December in Amsterdam. Other sponsors included the Japan Information Centre of Science and Technology and the American NTIS.

The conference reinforced the growing recognition of the importance of the grey literature, as well as underlining the need for more international, even intercontinental, cooperation in the field. However, the

conference also raised a number of questions, ranging from the scientific `quality' of grey literature to the way it is used. Further research is necessary, but in the meantime EAGLE will continue to improve SIGLE's comprehensiveness and subject access, as well as develop new products.

EAGLE's members are Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK.The Czech Republic and Hungary are also planning to join.

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- Innovation & Technology Transfer,Vol.3, June 1994

Laboratory Animals Information Service Centre (ICMR)

Use of good quality (genetically and microbiologically defined) animals is essential for obtaining reliable and reproducible results in biomedical research and for the production and testing of drugs and vaccines. Most biomedical institutions, vaccine producing units and pharmaceutical concerns do not have their research and testing facilities. Setting up of an animal facility for production of good quality animals is very costly,time consuming and requires professionally qualified staff.It is for this reason that the laboratory animals information service centre was established by the Indian Council of Medical Research at the Cancer Research Institute, Bombay in 1956 with the sole aim of promoting the laboratory animal science in the country. Later it was shifted to the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN, Hyderabad) in 1976 to broaden its activities and establish it on a permanent basis.

Subsequently to meet the growing demand for high quality laboratory animals and to augment training and research facilities in the country a new National Infrastructural Facility for Laboratory Animals (NIFLA) was established during the 7th Five Year Plan with financial support from the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. The centre has been recognised by the International Council of Laboratory Animals for all aspects of Laboratory Animal Science.

Following are the activities of the centre :

Breeding and supply of conventional and microbiologically defined animals

The centre is breeding and maintaining 4 strains of mice (Swiss,Balb/C Nude and C57 BL/6J),7 strains of rats (wistar/NIN, Fischer 344, Holtzman, CFY, Sprague Dawley, Copenhagan and Wistar kiyoto), 4 strains of guinea pigs (English coloured NIH Hurtley NIH coloured, Dunken Hurtley). Apart from these golden hamsters, New Zealand white rabbits and Rhesus monkeys are maintained. The mice,rats, guinea pigs and rabbits are supplied in microbiologically defined status. The various animals maintained in the facility are routinely supplied for the purpose of breeding and research work all over India,through train and air services. A total of 2.5 lakhs laboratory animals have been supplied during the last 5 years. It is likely to be increased by 25% during the coming five years period. The centre has plans to develop Cryopreservation of embryos of different strains of laboratory animals for long term stability and for the prevention of genetic drift.

Health and genetic monitoring of laboratory animals & development of animals & development of animal models

The centre has established Microbiology, Virology, Pathology Genetics & Biochemistry laboratories for monitoring the health and genetic purity of the animals maintained in the centre. Under the health monitoring programme, animals (retired breeders and random representative samples from the colony) are routinely monitored for pathogenic viruses, bacteria, fungi protozoa and other parasites.The microbiology department has developed a microbial identification kit for rapid identification and typing of bacteria which is now ready for patenting.

The laboratory animals are genetically monitored using various morphological, biochemical, immunological and molecular methods like skin grafting, mandible analysis, isoenzyme profiles, DNA finger printing etc. Recently two spontaneous mutants were identified from Wistar/NIN rat colony which are excellent animal models for the study of diabetes and obesity.

Consultancy services

Consultancy is provided for planning and layout of laboratory animal facilities and for the conduct of animal experiments. Advice is also given on space requirements, housing of animals, breeding and maintenance, experimental protocols and choice of animal models for research.In addition assistance and training are

provided for conducting experiments including surgical manipulations.

Diet analysis

The centre has evolved its own animal feeds for various laboratory animals maintained in the facility. These feeds which are prepared in the form of pellets are developed using locally available ingredients. Diet ingredients and final feed pellets are routinely analysed for quality. This facility is also extended to outsiders. Attempts are currently being made to develop low cost animal diets based on soya and similar low cost protein source.

Dissemination of information

The centre encourages queries regarding various aspects of laboratory animals from the users and these are attended to immediately. It also publishs a bi-monthly titled "LAIS CENTRE NEWS" covering news on laboratory animals and this is sent free of cost to research institutes, colleges, university laboratories and Govt. and public sector Pharmaceutical companies, who are in the centre's mailing list. The centre has recently published a booklet entitled "Users guide for laboratory animals" which will be quite useful for both planners as well as experimental research workers. It has also prepared a brochure on the activities of the centre titled "National Infrastructure Facility for Laboratory Animals."

Training programmes

Formal and adhoc training programmes at supervisory and technicians levels are being conducted for animal house personnel every year to improve and augment human resources. The centre is recognised by the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science, (ICLAS) for training people from South East Asia and Africa.

Supply of blood and blood products

A programme has been started recently to supply animal blood(mouse, rat, hamster, guinea pig, rabbit, monkey and sheep) and its products at a reduced cost to the various local organisations and universities. This programme is quite a success and is well appreciated by the users.

Library facility

The centre has a well established library with more than 200 National and International periodicals and has a good collection of journals and periodicals in the field of Laboratory Animal Science in the country.

Liaison with Animal Welfare Board of India

One of the officers from the centre has been appointed as an honorary animal welfare officer of the Animal Welfare Board of India under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India.

For further details please contact:

Senior Research Officer
Laboratory Animals Information
Service Centre
National Institute of Nutrition
Hyderabad 500 007 A.P.

— Biobytes Vol.2,No.3,1994

International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics, 1995

Where do women work? Does knowing the answer matter? If you provide gender-specific goods anf services to an industrial sector in a country, it certainly does matter. It helps to know that Jordan in 1991 had among the lowest percentage of women employed in manufacturing industries (9.1%) while Macao in 1992 had the highest (67.8%).

If you plan to make an invesment in a country's industrial sector, it can be helpful to know how much value each employee adds and how much the employee costs. In food products, for example, value added per employee in 1991 in the United States America was $91,600 while in Bangladesh in 1990 it was $2,400. Comparable wages were $22,400 and $600. The ratios, however, were 4.09 and 4.00 respectively,showing little U.S. advantage.

These figures and countless others come from UNIDO's new publication, the *International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics*. This unique and comprehensive source of industrial information is the only international publication providing economists, planners, policy makers and business people with world-wide statistics on current performance and trend in the manufacturing sector.

Covering more than 120 countries and areas and providing various up-to-date statistical indicators, the 636-page volume is designed to facilitate detailed international comparisons relating to the manufacturing sector. One can use the data to analyse patterns of growth, structural change and industrial performance in individual industries.

The book consists of two parts :

Part I refers to the manufacturing sector as a whole and its branches. Statistical indicators are presented in terms of a common currency, percentage distributions,cross-country averages, ratios and real growth rates that facilitate international comparison among selected country groups and/or countries. Data for manufacturing branches are arranged according to revision 2 of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) at the three_digit code (or major-group) level.

Part II consists of a series of country/area-specific tables. These show detailed data on selected basic statistics at the 3-and 4-digit code levels of ISIC for 1985 and the latest three years (upto 1992) for which data were reported by national statistical sources, as well as selected indicators that were derived from the basic statistics. The basic statistics presented are: number of establishments, employment, wages and salaries, output, value added, gross fixed capital formation and production indexes.All value data are presented in current national currencies.

This new annual publication succeeds UNIDO's *Handbook of Industrial Statistics* and also replaces the United Nations' *Industrial Statistics Yearbook*, volume I (*General Industrial Statistics*).The information comes from the UNIDO General Industrial Statistics Database,which contains data compiled directly, or through the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), from national statistical sources, and from UNIDO estimates. These data were, whenever necessary, adjusted to the requirements of international comparability and the standards for this work as promulgated by the United Nations.

The *International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics* is an essential reference source for economists, analysts and government officials needing an assessment of industrial trends. It is also invaluable for business people seeking investment opportunities, industrial joint ventures and financial agreements in both industrialized and developing countries.

Order:

Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.,
8 Landsdown Place,
Cheltenham, Glos.
GL50 2HU,United Kingdom.
Fax: (+44) 1 242 262 111.
Price £ 75

— UNIDO Links,May 1995

Company Profile

Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd. (CMIE)

During the industrial revolution, the most remarkable creativity was displayed by those thinkers who could exploit the nascent technologies of power and mechanics which were growing at an explosive pace and throwing up new opportunities for those who knew how to exploit them.

In the near future, growth in databases, computers and communications technology will revolutionise the means of doing business and will throw a host of completely unimaginable opportunities for those who know how to wield these tools. The recent phase of economic liberalisation and globalisation has accelarated the pace at which this change actually happens. Decision makers and planners are relying increasingly on hard facts and figures and sophisticated analytical tools and analysis to survive in a ruthlessly competitive environment.

CMIE is uniquely placed to meet the challenges of the new world of information, computers and communications. It has a clear edge in terms of database size, diversity, and quality and a clear perception of the larger framework in which the economy functions.

It is a research body dedicated to proving efficient Economic Information Services. The Centre, established by the eminent economist Dr.Narottam Shah in 1976. It is private and independent research organisation owned by the family members of the late Dr. Narottam Shah. **CMIE** is a unique ***enterprise*** which ***productise*** economic research activities with regular services.It is relied upon the most recent and authentic data on business and economics by a wide range of business enterprises, government organisations and the academia. The centre, today is a key source of the most uptodate and reliable information, the most incisive analysis and the best insights into the future trends available in the Indian economy.

CMIE's think tank comprises of professionals with longstanding experience in economics, corporate analysis and computing technology.

CMIE has more computers than total number of employees, including all Directors and support staff. All computers are uncompromisingly networked through TCP/IP. Connectivity to the outside world is accomplished through a leased line into the Internet and a pool of fax/modems which are used both for incoming dial-up users and outgoing information. CMIE was among the earliest users of the Internet technologies in India.

Numerous government and non-government organisations generate miles of Statistics. CMIE specialises in interpreting and analysing this economic information to make it readily usable. It provide cohesive and comprenhensive Business Information Systems.

Increasing specilisation and interdependence of economic activties have entwined business fortunes closely with changes in external enviroment. CMIE provides the most reliable information on the external economic environment_Information on the contingencies, the opportunities and direction of the future.

CMIE is headquartered in Bombay and has offices in Bangalore, Calcutta and Delhi.

Services

CMIE has built a large and well integrated database on Indian economy. Although CMIE is, essentially, a value added information services company, it's presence is clearly spread over the entire food-chain of the

information industry. Currently, CMIE provides four kinds of services.

Corporate Information on Magnetic Medium (CIMM)

CIMM is a computerised database on more than 3,300 India's medium and large companies combined with a powerful easy-to-use querying, report generation and charting software. The coverage includes listed companies, public sector companies, joint sector companies,co-operatives and several closely held firms.

CIMM is an efficient analytical tool in all organisations which require analytical and informational decision support pertaining to companies and industries. Its application include equity research, portfolio analysis, credit analysis, corporate planning, investment decision-making, inter-company and inter-industry analysis, researching competitors, studying industries, consulting, journalism, etc.

CIMM analytical capability rests on the twin foundations of a sound database and flexible querying.

CIMM installation set comes with more than a hundred ready-to-use reports. These are meticulously designed by experts in the field to provide useful insights.

CIMM runs on IBM Compatible Computer, and updates fortnightly. Daily updates are also available through modem in Bombay and will soon be made available in Delhi and Bangalore.

Some of the features include Corporate Analysis, Industry Research and Investment Toolkit including Technicals.

CIMM is available in Stand-alone Version as well as LAN version.

Economic Intelligence Service (EIS)

EIS is the backbone of management information systems. The Service features a series of documents which keep abreast with the latest and most reliable information and analysis about Indian economy.

The Service provides about 60 documents spanning around 5,000 information packed pages. The documents are created by experts in respective fields, and always feature the most recent and authoritative data. The documents contain information on all the major sectors of the economy including agriculture, industry and individual firms.

Macro_economic indicators like national income, public finance, the financial sector, balance of payments, prices and exchange rates are covered extensively. Historical, current and prespective trends in the economy are presented in the documents along with expert analysis. Forcasts are provided at the economy, sectoral and sub-sectoral levels.

The reports reflect competent technical understanding of the Indian economic-system and data are comprehensive but concise and lucidly written.

Some of the reports are Economic Outlook (Quarterly), Review of Indian Economy (Monthly), Basic Statistics : Vol. 1 - All India and Vol. 2 - States(Annual), World Economy and India's Place in it, Statistical Profiles of 500 Private Corporate Giants (Annual), Corporate Results accompanied by insight analysis of the developments witnessed (Half Yearly), Company Finance : Industry Aggregates, Market and Market Shares (Annual), Shape of things to come : Vol. 1 & 2, Profiles of Districts, Key Parameters on Urban Centres of India, Trends in Industrial Production, Performance of Agriculture and Foreign Trade Statistics.

Investments Intelligence Service

This service has been designed to provide you with continuous and detailed updates on investment activity in the country. The information on investment projects under this Service is complemented with incisive analysis on investment trends by industry, business houses,location, etc.

More than 3,000 investment projects are surveyed in a compendium of projects in mining, manufacturing, electricity, transport and irrigation sectors, Survey of Investment Projects, issued quarterly and running into nearly a thousand information packed pages. All major new units being set up, renovation and modernization projects being implemented or capacities being expanded are covered in the quarterly compendium.

The information content per project include : names of promoters, copromoters, collaborators, etc., capital cost, its sources of finance and uses, plant location, products and capacity details and stages of implementation of the individual projects.

The Service also provides a Monthly Review of Investment Projects which provides the latest update on projects under implementation. This also presents features on investment trends in individual industries, business houses, regions, etc.

The Service is invaluable to corporate planners and investors in estimating future trends in supply and demand in industry and infrastructure sectors, marketing executives in identifying potential emerging markets and researchers and policy makers in evaluating policy options.

Commissioned Projects

It is a relatively new area of activity. Currently, the demand for projects is higher than our current capacities in terms of human resources and this is an area where we are currently expanding and are likely to set up a full-fledged projects division in New Delhi.

New Services on the Anvil Online Information Service

This would provide easy access to CMIE's large and integrated economic and business database.The service is designed to be priced low and aim at large volumes of users. CMIE is expanding its presence by setting up offices in 12 centres in the country by the end of the next year. There are efforts to set up overseas offices as well.

CIMM-add-ons

These are a set of analytical tools which will work on top of a user's cimm installation. The tools are designed for application in very specialised areas such as credit risk evaluation, portfolio optimisation, portfolio evaluation as collateral for loans and corporate preformance forecasting.

Industry Information Services

This would be a service which would cater to the specific needs of in_depth industry research work. CMIE intends to use its sophisticated databases and its expertise in this region for a specialised service to meet this growing market.

Marketing and Regional Information Services

This service emanates from CMIE'S unique regional economy databases. This is one of CMIE's large databases built over the past two and half years. This service would find wide application amongst marketing and regional planning experts.

International Marketing

Today the demand, for information and analysis on Indian Economy, from international community has considerably increased. In reponse to this demand CMIE has entered into strategic marketing alliances with a number of international agencies involved in dissemination of information. These include :

Reuters Corporate Information

Datastream International, This is a U.K. based company with an annual turnover of about USD100. They would disseminate company level information sourced from CMIE.

Knight Ridder Information Inc.

Dialog the online information service arm of Knight Ridder would distribute a wide range of information on Indian economy and corporate sector, provided by CMIE, to its clients spread all around the world.

Ravi Data Bases

This is an NRI company which would disseminate corporate information from CMIE through Internet.

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS AND OTHER DETAILS, CONTACT:

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— Vimal Kumar Varun

CDS/ISIS Corner

Using CCF Among CDS/ISIS Users

The Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO organized a one-day seminar on the importance of using the Common Communication Format(CCF) among CDS/ISIS users in Egypt. The participants represented seventeen institutions using UNESCO'S package or intending to automate their information services in addition to university teachers of documentation and information science and university researchers.

Working papers presented national and international methods of communication formatting such as US Marc, the UK Marc, UNISIST and the CCF. The paper highlighted resource sharing as a means of saving efforts and expenses as well as raising the standard of processing information.

The general features of the CCF were demonstrated and models of unified work sheets were presented as a suggestion for adopting standardized formats covering bibliographies, and factual data to be used by CDS/ISIS users in order to permit internal and communicational exchange.

— UNISIST NEWSLETTER Vol.22, NO.2

IASLIC Manpower Development Workshops

During March, 1995 IASLIC organized three Workshops each of two week duration on `Computer-aided Library & Information Services and Use of CDS/ISIS' in different parts of the country sponsored under the NISSAT Manpower Development Programme.

[Photograph] *Mr. J.N. Satpathi, General Secretary, IASLIC (Left), Mr. S.L. Choudhury, Adviser, IIAS(Middle) and Professor Mrinal Miri, Director, IIAS(Right)*

Annamalainagar : Thirty participants attended the workshop organised in collaboration with the University Library, Annamalai University during 1-15 March, 1995. Dr. M.Q. Muthukumarasamy, Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University inaugurated the Workshop. Dr. P.L. Sabaratinam, Registerar, Annamalai University, delivered the special address. Dr. V. Gomathinyagam, Dean, Faculty of Arts presided over the function. Dr. A Neelameghan, Director, School of Information studies from Africa Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia delivered the keynote address. The Velidectory function was presided over by Shri J.M. Das, Joint Secretary, IASLIC. Dr(Mrs.) M. Suriya, University Librarian and Prof & Head, DLIS, Annamalai University was the Course Co-ordinator.

Medinipur(W.B.) : DLIS, Vidyasagar University, Medinipur Co-sponsored the Workshop during 6-18 March, 1995 and attended by. Twenty three participants from different parts of eastern India. Dr. M Maity, Prof & Head, Dept of Applied Mathematics, Vidyasagar University inaugurated the Workshop. Dr.A.R.D.Prasad, DRTC, Bangalore was the Chief resource person and Prof. P.K. Panigrahi, DLIS, Vidyasagar University was the Course Co-ordinator. Demonstrations were also arranged at Central Library, IIT, Kharagpur and NICNET Centre at Medinipur. The Velidictory function was presided over by Prof. A. Sengupta, Head, DLIS, Vidyasagar University. Prof. S.N. Ghosh, Vice-Chancellor, Vidyasagar University gave away certificates to the participants.

Shimla: Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla hosted the Workshop from 20-31 March 1995. Twelve participants from different parts of the country attended the workshop. Shri S.L. Chaudhary, Adviser, IIAS, Shimla delivered the welcme address. Shri J.N. Satpathi, Honorary General Secretary, IASLIC explained the aims and objectives of the Association in general and IASLIC's continuing Education Programme in

particular. Prof. Mrinal Miri, Director IIAS, Shimla inaugurated the Workshop. Shri S.N. Sur, Ex-Scientist, INSDOC, New Delhi was the key resource person. The participants successfully completed their individual assignment and at the end of the workshop a, lively panel discussion was arranged. Mrs. Alekha Shaikh, IIAS, Shimla was the Course-Coordinator. In the Valedictory Function Prof. J K Khanna spoke about the Workshop.

Training Course on CDS/ISIS

The U.P. Library Association organised a two week training course on the application of CDS/ISIS (ver. 3.0) software in Libraries & Information Centres during May 29 to June 8, 1995 at the Computer Centre, Lucknow University. The course was inaugurated by Prof M.S. Sodha, Vice-Chancellor, Lucknow University. Dr. P.V. Sane, Director, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, presided over the function.

Twenty five persons participated in the training course, Mr. S.N. Sur, retired scientist from INSDOC, New Delhi, was the key resource person in the training programme.

There were other faculty member drawn from Computer Centre, Lucknow University; Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow; National Botanical Research Institute and Tagore Library, Lucknow University.

The training programme concluded on 8 June after the valedictory session in which Prof. D.D. Sharma, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Lucknow University distributed the certificates to the participants. Prof. R.N. Singh, Incharge, Computer Centre, Lucknow University and Shri S.N. Agarwal, General Secretary of U.P. Library Association acted as the Director of the training course.

CALENDER OF TRAINING COURSES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1995-96

as on october, 1995

Topic	Venue	Date
Bengal Library Association		
Library Automation	Calcutta	16.10.95 to 31.10.95
Calibnet Society, Calcutta		
Library Automation : Microcomputer for Library & Infomation Systems	- do -	13.11.95 to 24.11.95
Advanced Application of Micro CDS/ISIS CDS\ISIS	- do -	08.01.96 to 19.01.96
CD-ROM & Online Systems	- do -	05.02.96 to 16.02.96
UNIX in Information Processing	- do -	04.03.96 to 15.03.96
Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalay		

Library Automation	Indore	16.12.95 to 30.12.95
Indian Association for Special Libraries & Information Centres		
Computerized Cataloguing	Calcutta	08.11.95 to 21.11.95
Computer aided Library & Information Services and use of CDS/ISIS	TTTI/Calcutta	04.12.95 to 15.12.95
Computer aided Library & Information systems and use of CDS/ISIS	IIAS/Shimla	05.03.96 to 19.03.96
Indian Institute of Management		
Total Quality Management in Library Services	IIM/Lucknow	Yet to announce
Total Quality Management in Library Services	- do -	14.02.96 to 16.02.96
Marketing of Library and Information Products and Services	- do -	Yet to announce
Information Technology Application in Library & Information Services	- do -	10.04.96 to 12.04.96

Contact Addresses

Mr. A.C. Mitra, Director Calibnet Society Regional Computer Centre Jadavpur University Calcutta-700 032	Mr. H.V. Padhye Devi Ahilya Vishawavidyalaya University House Indore-452 001
Mr. P. S. G. Kumar, President, Elect Indian Library Association A/40-41 Flat No. 201, Ansal Building New Delhi-110 009	The General Secretary Bengal Library Association P-134, CIT Scheme - 52 Calcutta-700 014
The Secretary IASLIC P-291 CIT, Scheme No. 6 M Kankurgachi	Mr. Roshan Raina Indian Institute of Management Prabandh Nagar Off. Sitapur Lucknow

News & Events

CD-ROM Networking

Considering the advantages of CD-ROM products over printed media and On line search, the Central Library, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras recently installed a CD-ROM System on a Local Area Network using Novell Netware Ver. 3.11 consisting of a PC-AT486 file server connected to a CD-ROM tower having 8 high speed internal drives. Three disk-less workstations of PC-AT-386 computers are connected to the system and are kept in an air-conditioned Periodicals reading hall for the users to access the CD-ROM Databases. Further, the service is now available through-out the library working hours including Saturdays & Sundays.

Currently the Library subscribes to two CD-ROM Databases, namely INSPEC(Science Abstracts) containing abstracts from thousands of Journals, Conference proceedings, Books, Technical reports and dissertations, covering all aspects of Physics, Electrical Eng, Electronics, Computers and Information technology from 1989 onwards; and COMPENDEX+ (Engineering Index) containing abstracts from 4,500 Journals, Technicals reports, Books, Conference proceedings, covering Aerospace Engg., Applied physics, Chemical Engg., Civil Engg., Environmental Sciences, Control Engg., Electronics, Energy Technology, Industrial Engg. & Management, Optics, Marine & Ocean Engg., Mechanical Engg., Automotive/Transport Engg., Mining & Metalurgical Engg., and Materials Science.

The advantages of the this system is that it allows multiple users to access all the CD-ROM discs simultaneously from any workstation. the users ae permitted to download the selected records on to floppy diskettes on the workstation. Due to networking, the retrieval speed too has improved significantly and the users now find the service very effective and efficient. The library intends to add more CD-ROM Databases pertaining to Applied Sciences and Engineering in future.

CD-ROM Technology Workshop

A three-day workshop on CD-ROM Technology was organized at National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore, from 22 to 24 February 1995 by National Information Centre for Compact Discs, ICAST, NAL, Bangalore, with support of NISSAT/DSIR, New Delhi. The workshop was attended by 30 members. Inaugurated by Dr. B.R. Somashekar, Acting Director, NAL, the keynote address was delivered by Dr. N.M. Malwad, Librarian, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Dr. A.K. Singh, Head, Materials Science Division and the Chairman, Library Committee, NAL, presided over the function.

While welcoming the delegates of the workshop Mr. I.R.N. Goudar, Head, ICAST, NAL, explained the need for conducting such workshops for the benefit of Indian information professionals and users.

In his inaugural address Dr. Somashekar gave an account of the strong foundation laid by his predecessors to develop the Information Centre at NAL, which has a comprehensive collection and all modern infrastructural facilities. He was happy to note that the Information Centre of NAL has a fully automated and well-maintaind library and has made a name by providing on-line and CD-ROM based information search facilities. He recalled the revolution created by the CD-ROM technology in dissemination of information. He said that the science and technology available in the country can be made available to other countries by exploiting the low cost storage media like CD-ROM to earn sizeable foreign exchange.

In his keynote address ` Changing Scenario of Information Storage Media', Dr. Malwad traced the developments of communication system right from the clay tablets to the latest hi-tech storage retrieval media , i.e., CD-ROM. He said that by the beginning of the 22nd century, libraries would be dynamic information

distribution centres through electronic media. However, he felt that the print media would exist despite the developments taking place in storing and dissemination of information through electronic gadgets of information technology.

In his presidential remarks Dr. A.K. Singh hoped that the price of the CD-ROM would drastically come down consequent upon its large usage and thereby even the small libraries would be able harness this new technology.

Shri P.V.R. Prasad of Rajaram Informatics, Bangalore, gave a lecture cum demonstration on Multimedia, which was attended by more than 200 persons apart from delegates of the workshop. Shri Goudar gave a bird's eye view of CD-ROM technology and explained CD-system requirements, developments, advantages, disadvantages and future trends. This was followed by a lecture on CD-ROM database acquisition, issues and solution by Shri N.V. Satyanarayana, President, Informatics (India) Pvt. Ltd. He also gave an account of the latest hardware and software available and their compatibility in setting up of a CD-ROM system in a library. Shri A. Kottai of Software Support and Services, Bangalore, explained the steps involved in installing CD-ROM retrieval software taking the example of on-discs of DIALOG and SPIRS of Silver Platter. Shri R. Chandrashekar, Informatics (India) Pvt. Ltd., while highlighting the trends in CD-Publishing, explained the steps involved and the budgetary requirements of CD. Shri Goudar, in his lecture on' CD-ROM Technology : World Scenario and Indian Experience' gave various statistics concerning CD-ROM and highlighted the number of published CD databases by countries, languages, publishers and their compatibilities to computers and operating systems, etc. He also gave an account of the adoption of this new technology in various libraries/information centres in India. Shri Sreenivasa Ravi of NCSI, IISc., gave an account of CD-ROM standards and explained how these standards have over-come certain problems like their compatibility at various levels such as physical, logical and other applications. In his lecture on CD-ROM Search Software Dr. T.B. Rajashekar on NCSI explained the relationship between retrieval interface, retrieval engine and CD-ROM database and the mechanisms involved in the retrieval process. Smt Poornima Narayana of ICAST, NAL, gave an account of literature sources on CD-ROM technology such as journals, indexing and abstracting services, directories, handbooks, on line and CD-ROM databases, list servers, etc.

Shri H.S. Subramanya of ICAST gave a brief account of the licensing and copyright issues concerning CD-ROM and suggested possible solutions. Dr. M.S. Mrdhar, Head, ISAC Library, Bangalore, explained the value of CD-ROM applications in libraries with library automation, retrospective conversion, current awareness service, resource sharing, development of local databases, collection development, reference service etc. Shri H.S. Siddamalaiah, Librarian, NIMHANS, Bangalore, gave a bird's eye view of CD-ROM database available in the area of food, agriculture and bio-medical science. Shri T.N. Prakash, Manager, Information Technology, ADA, Bangalore, gave an account of CD-ROM databases in the areas of business and management, standards, patents and their applications. Shri H.S.S. Murty, ICAST, NAL, reviewed various CD-ROM databases available in physical, chemical and engineering sciences and explained in detail their contents and applications. In the post lunch sessions on the second and third days of the workshop, practical demonstrations/hands-on experience in searching popular CD-ROM database of DIALOG, Silver Platter, British Library, TFPL and Ulrich's Plus were arranged for the benefit of the participants. They were provided with lists of CD-ROM databases in their respective areas.

An evaluation and the feedback of the workshop showed that the workshop was very helpful and the new technology should be adopted by various libraries taking the example of NICDROM Centre; most of the participants advocated the organization of five day workshop so as to allow more practical sessions and discussions.

Training Course on Computer Applications to Library and Information Services for College Librarians of Gulbarga University

A Training Course was organised jointly by INFLIBNET- Gulbarga University during May 18-28, 1995 at Gulbarga University for college librarians of Gulbarga University in the area of Computer applications to library and information services.

The course was inaugurated by Mr. Sudhir Krishna, IAS, Divisional Commissioner with Dr. N. Rudraiah, Vice-Chancellor, Gulbarga University in chair. Mr. Sudhir Krishna emphasised the need for utilizing the latest technology for offering better library services, while Dr. N. Rudraiah highlighted the need for training the college librarians as part of the University's programme to link all the college libraries in the Gulbarga City.

About 25 participants from university library and various colleges participated in the course, Mr. Ravi Gaddagimath served as the course Co-ordinator. Dr (Mrs) N. Parvathamma, Dept. of Library & Information Science, Gulbarga University, and Mr. Paul Pandian and Mr. Mahesh Gohel from INFLIBNET, Ahmedabad served as Resource Persons.

Helecon CD-ROM

The nineth version of HELECON CD-ROM produced by the Helsinki School of Economics Library has been released. The library has developed the databank in co-operation with several European libraries. Considered as the latest international economic and business management information including 7,000,000 references to research reports, books, periodicals, articles and working papers on a single CD-ROM disc, the HELECON is one of the most widely spread sources of information about Europe. The seven separate databases of HELECON CD-ROM contain references to articles, books and research reports published in English, German, French, Spanish and in Scandinavian languages. There is also a considerable number of dissertations and working papers. Most references have comprehensive abstracts.

For more information write to Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration Library, Runeberginkatu 22-24,00100 Helsinki, Finland.

— UNISIST Newsletter. Vol. 22, No. 2

Hvnet

HVNET, a high speed data-cum-voice network using Very Small Aperture Terminals (V-SAT) is being commissioned by Department of Telecommunications (DoT). The network would operate on frequency available on INSAT-IIB satellite transponder incorporating Time Division Multiple Access(TDMA) technology, and will have a speed of 64 kilobits per second(Kbps),claims DoT. By the middle of next year 200 VSAT terminals are proposed to be commissioned in major Indian Centres. A registration fee of Rs. 10,000 will be collected from subscribers. The subscribers will be able to communicate among each other through mediums like voice, telex, fax and e-mail.

A unique feature of this network is that the subscribers can also communicate with other sub-centres of DoT.

— Agrobytes Vol.1 No.1

Legume database

The leguminosae family of plants have important medicinal applications in the treatment of tumours and AIDS. Many ofthe chemical compounds identified in this plant family have found important applications in pharmaceutical and medical research. They also form an important source of nitrogen fixation. This plant family has 18,000 species. Researchers in many countries have pooled information and formed a database, International Legume Database and Information Service(ILDIS). The National Botanical Research Institute,

Lucknow is the regional centre of ILDIS for South Asia.

— Agrobytes Vol. 1, No. 2

National Symposium and Workshop: Medical Library Association of India

The Medical Library Association of India in Collaboration with All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi is organising a National Symposium on `Educational for Medical Librarinship in the Information Age' in the third week of September 1995 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
There will be one day workshop on the State of the art in CD-ROM technology along with the symposium. There will be an exhibition of CD-ROM products also.

Correspondence regarding Symposium and Workshop should be addressed on the following address:

Dr. R.P. KUMAR
Organising Secretary
C/o B.B. Dikshit Library
All India Institute of Medical Sciences
Ansari Nagar, New Delhi - 110029

Asian Bioinformatics Network

The planning workshop of Asian Biotechnology and Biodiversity sub-programme of the FAO held at New Delhi between August 22-26, 1994 prepared the blue print for setting up an Asian Bioinformatics Network. The proposed network will be linking all the participating countries, namely, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philipines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. It is expected that the network will come into existence by Feb., 1995. The participating countries will develop databases in areas of their forte and share them with other countries through the network. The broad areas in which information and databases will be generated are :

1. Biosafety Regulations and Bioethics
2. Biodiversity Conservation and Utilization
3. Micropropagation
4. Genetic Engineering-Genome maping, Sequencing, RFLP/RAPD, Immunology
5. Biocontrol Agents and Biopesticides
6. Biofertilizers
7. Genetic enhancement for multiple disease and pest resistance

Gistnic

GISTNIC (General Information Service Terminal National Informatics Centre) provides online information on Traditional Sciences and Technologies of India. Compiled from varied sources such as field surveys, traditional literature, traditional scholars, artisans and other experts in various Indian traditions and integrated into a computer based database, this is now available online.

This database can be searched from any of the NICNET nodes, of course, one needs a user id and password. One can log on to NECS-1000 computer at New Delhi and at `System?' prompt, the database can be invoked

by typing VIJN. The retrieval of information can be menu driven or key word based.

The database has been classified into 10 major subject areas and 100 minor subject areas. The major subject areas are :

- Traditional Indian Medical, Health Care, Yoga and Other Related Systems
- Traditional Indian Architecture, Building Materials, Town Planning and Construction Methodologies
- Traditional Indian Metallurgy, Mining, Geology and Material Sciences
- Traditional Indian Textile and Handloom Technologies
- Traditional Irrigation, Water Resource Management, Hydrology and Ground Water ManagementMethodologies of India
- Traditional Indian Agriculture, Agronomical Methods, Practices and Implements
- Traditional Skills, Trades, Professions, Arts, Crafts and Handicrafts.
- Ancient Indian Science and Technology
- Traditional and Ancient Indian Management, Administration, Economic, Social and Political Systems and Science.
- Miscellaneous and General.

— Agrobytes, Vol. 1, No. 1

INFLIBNET Newsletter

The INFLIBNET Programme of UGC at Ahmedabad has brought out a quarterly Newsletter to report on the activities of INFLIBNET Programme. Initiated in 1991, the programme carries out training activities to enable librarians to initiate computerisation in University libraries. It encourages database development, software development for library management, Contents with Abstracts of Periodicals in Science & Technology (COPSAT) Service, and start Computer Networks like Ahmedabad Libraries Network (ADINET) which links libraries of 32 important institutions in Ahmedabad. The Network was sponsored by NISSAT/DSIR and inaugurated in March 1995.

Till date 54 Universities have been identified by UGC for participation in INLIBNET.

Libraries and Information Centres as Profit-making Institutions

Since libraries and information centres were seen as conservative organisations with traditional values and time-honoured practices, financial resources were virtually guaranteed in the past. But, this outlook seems to be changing due to pressure from certain environmental factors — pertaining to the nature and provision of income or funds, and the changing perception of information and its use. In other words, funding from traditional sources, such as, direct grants or subsidies from government and/or non-governmental sources is on the way out. Added to this is the government pressure for greater financial accountability on the one hand, and emphasis upon self-supporting and/or "User Pays" principle on the other. Thus, the need of the hour is for libraries and librarians to think of income-earning or resource/revenue generation and/or cost recovery

activities. In this context, the Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC) is proposing to organise a Workshop on Libraries and Information Centres as Profit-making Institutions at Bangalore from 9 - 11 August 1995.

Papers are invited on any of the following topics:

- Libraries and Information Centres in the context of change External forces (Political, Economic, Social, Managerial, Technological), Changing Financial Environment and Increased Demand for Services from Users.

- Resource Generation : Need and Scope for Resource Generation, Demands of Income Generating Services/Products, Advantages of Charging.

- Marketing Concepts : Market research and segmentation, Consumer analysis, Market positioning (Prioritizing clients, groups and information services), Marketing Programme (Optimal mix of Products, Costing and Pricing, Promotion, Distribution, Delivery mode), and Market Audit (Evaluation of plan and implementation).

  Note:- Only case studies, including comparative studies, and/or report of actual work done in real-life situations will be accepted. No theoretical papers will be entertained.
  Registration Fee Rs. 400 per participant.

Participants are to inform the Convener of the Workshop latest by 31st July 1995.

All correspondence to be addressed to

S. Seetharama, Convener, Workshop on Libraries and Information Centres As Profit-making institutions
Documentation Research & Training Centre
Indian Statistical Institute
8th Mile, Mysore Road
Bangalore - 560 059

IIML/NISSAT Management Development Programme

A Management Development Programme (MDP) on Marketing of Library & Information Products & Services was conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (IIML) during April 05-07, 1995. Thirteen senior level library and information managers from all over the country attended the programme which was inaugurated on April 05, 1995 by Dr. J.L. Batra, Director IIML.

The programme was designed to equip the participants with adequate knowhow to that they are able to :

1. Identify and understand their potential users (internal as well as external) in relation to their resources and facilities;

2. Understand the information needs of such users more accurately;

3. Generate information products and services that are tailored to meet the needs of such users; and

4. Remain cost-effective in the process of generating information products and services.

The training package developed by Mr. Roshan Raina (Librarian) and Prof. Prem C. Purwar (Faculty Member, Programme Director), had been designed around the following themes:

- Understanding the marketing process;
- Marketing in the library context;
- 4 Ps (Product, Price, Promotion & Distribution) of marketing in the context of information products and services; and
- Information products and services as sustainable sources of revenue generation.

The technical sessions were organised on the following topics : i. Conceptual Framework of Marketing; ii. Marketing Mix; iii.Marketing in Library & Information Context; iv. Marketing Cases in the Service Sector; and v. Building Quality. Sessions on experience sharing and video film were the other enriching components of the programme. Learning through cases was a unique feature of the programme.

The programme, which was financially supported by NISSAT (DSIR), concluded with a valedictory session. Participants provided the feedback on the programme, with the help of a structured questionnaire designed for the purpose as well as through a report presented in the valedictory function. Going by the feedback, the programme seemed to have achieved its objectives, well.

— Roshan Raina

British Council Specialist Course Marketing & Library Services A new Marriage

This seminar will provide a framework for understanding the key issues of services marketing, and is intended for middle/senior library and information services managers. It will begin with an overview of marketing and an assessment of its relevance to the management of library and information services. Subsequent sessions will examine aspects of marketing mix planning, based loosely on the traditional four `Ps' but supplemented by analysis of issues which are unique to the service sector. The traditional `P' for place is redefined here in terms of accessibility to services, and a fifth `P' for people is added. The seminar will end with a look at the topical issue of service quality.

Topics will cover the following major areas :

- What is marketing?
- Functions of marketing
- Service/product policy
- Pricing of services
- Service promotion
- Place and services
- Market analysis and research
- Strategic marketing planning
- People in marketing
- Marketing and customers

- Service quality

Workshop on Modern Information Access Facilities to S&T Business and Industry

The Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) and National Information System for Science & Technology (NISSAT), DSIR intend to organise a series of workshops on "Modern Information Access Facilities to S&T, Business and Industries". The first workshop was organised in collaboration with IIT, Delhi, TIFAC(DST) and SBI Books from 24th to 28th April, 1995 at the Central Library, IIT, Delhi.

The participants (11 from industries, 15 from Government Institutions) were exposed on a Modern Method of Information Access and Techniques and were given hands-on training on CD-ROM Databases, INSDOC online database and DIALOG ontap databases. Some of the participants had brought specific searches which they were allowed to search on.

Prof. V.S. Raju, Director, IIT Delhi inaugurated the workshop and stressed the need for modern information access facilities. He wished the workshop success and mentioned that modern facilities available at IIT Central Library may be utilized by the Industry. Dr. A.K. Sengupta, Managing Director, FITT initiated the workshop and mentioned the need for Industry-Institute interaction. Mr. Y.S. Rajan, Executive Director, TIFAC(DST) spoke about the needs of such workshops. He introduced the role of TIFAC on value added information.

Besides, lectures and demonstrations, the Workshop also devoted extensively on industry interaction, networks and networking components, information technology, CD-ROM databases, marketing and business information and online databases. Apart from these general discussions, institutional library support to industrial R&D, Local Area Networks, different Library Networks in India, Electronic Information Marketing, Business Information for Small and Medium Scale Industries were also projected in the workshop.

— Vasant Sharma

Damn the IT-deficient?

Even the best-laid information highway is of no value if we do not learn how to use it fully. Hence the need for IT-fluency; fluency in Information and fluency in Technology. And we must be able to translate this fluency into purposeful gain.

To attain information fluency, we must make the Internet available to computer literates and students and encourage them to explore it. The connections must be available freely and cheaply to schools, colleges and universities. Students and teachers must be trained and encouraged to surf the Internet. The tools to navigate through and analyse the vast amount of information available on databases worldwide must be mastered, so that we can quickly discern the relevant from the irrelevant.

Professionals Have a Role

To make India an IT-fluent country, all our technologists must contribute. The elite must volunteer to teach the new-comers in the industry. Mass media must be used more effectively to help more and more people feel comfortable with computers. Common applications must be made available cheaply and easily to end-users; help-lines must be created to enable users to solve their peoblems. E-mail services must be made easily and cheaply available to enable worldwide communication. IT professionals must come out of their ivory towers and become facilitators to create a viable IT infrastructure and popularise IT usage. This movement must include policy makers, industry and professional bodies, infrastructure development agencies and anyone who can contribute towards creating awareness, understanding and opportunity to use IT in the course of work and

play. Only then we will be able to join to global information revolution and realise a better impact of IT.

— Computers Today May 1995

Electronic Publications Regulated in China

The Chinese News and Publications Administration of Ministry of Culture recently issued a directive saying that all domestic electronic publications would need its approval to be legal. The directive defines electronic publications as texts or graphics recorded on magnetic or optical media. The Administration has ordered that local news and publications bureaus check and register existing electronic publications. All electronic publications, whether newly published or reprinted, must henceforth use an assigned standard Chinese book number of six digits. All electronic publications must also use bar code labels, with film of the bar code provided by the Barcode Centre under the Administration. Electronic publications not pressed by the approved publishing houses with an assigned number, nor imported with an approval, will not be allowed to be distributed, sold, or rented.

— Computers Today May 1995

Workshop on Internet

Internet has acquired immense importance in the recent years for information professionals. It is now a veritable treasure-house of information resources in science & technology. Researchers all over the world are mounting pre-prints of their papers, even databases of them on the network and are exchanging information through network discussion forums or electronic mailing lists making invisible colleges electronically visible. Today it is essential for an information professional to learn the skills of surfing the Internet and to know the tools and techniques for locating and exploiting the information resources in order to provide better information services. This Workshop on Internet for Information Professionals is being held with these objectives in view. The workshop aims to provide a guided tour of the Internet, oriented towards the needs of a science information provider by giving hands-on experience right from e-mail to World Wide Web browsers.

The workshop covers a range of topics :

- **What is Internet?**
  Overview of computer networks and Internet
  Its origin, growth and usage
  Its significance to information professionals

- **Basic Communication Facilities**
  Using E-mail
  mail, mailx, elm commands
  Address formats: Internet style, UUCP style
  Using ftp
  Basic ftp commands
  Anonymous ftp
  IP Addresses, Domain Name System
  Using telnet
  Other tools: ping, nslookup, finger etc.

- **Resources on Internet**
  E-mail based discussion forums

Electronic journals and newsletters
Information/archive servers
Library catalogues and databases
Anonymous ftp sites
pre-print sources, software sources
Other resources like Uncover
Directory Services

- **Network Navigation Tools**
  Overview of Client-Server software
  Archie
  Wide Area Information Server (WAIS)
  Gopher
  World Wide Web (WWW)

- **Getting connected**
  Type of connectivity
  E-mail only connection
  TCP/IP connectivity
  E-mail providers: SIRNET, AXess, DART, GEMS 400 etc.
  Network providers: ERNET, RENNIC etc.
  Internet protocols
  Internet Servers
  Stand-alone
  LAN-based
  High speed networks

The workshop is open for science librarians and information professionals. The participants are expected to have good familarity with personal computers. Knowledge of e-mail and UNIX is desirable. Obviously the workshop will be very useful for those who are likely to get an Internet connection in their organisation.

The registration fee for the workshop is Rs. 1000/- per participant, payable through demand draft in favour of Secretary, Organising Committee, IfIP. For registration, please fill up the enclosed form and mail it alongwith the registration form to :

Secretary
Organising Committee, IfIP
National Centre for Science Information
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore - 560 012

Sam Pitroda to Chair WorldTel

Advisor to Indian Prime Minister on Technology Missions, Mr.Sam Pitroda, has been appointed as Chairman of WorldTel, the newly launched bank and venture capital fund to finance telecommunications in the Third World.

"The WorldTel, like the World Bank, is meant for funding telecommunication projects in the underdeveloped nations where the telephone density is less than one per cent," Mr. Pitroda noted. "It is important to set up a separate institution to fund the telecom projects and it is a difficult task. The US based consultancy firm McKinsey and Company was asked to prepare a study before the formation of WorldTel at a cost of $ 2

million and after it was tabled, things started moving".

Mr. Pitroda said in the first phase of the WorldTel's programme, "and investment of about $ 10 million will be needed and in the second phase, an investment of $ 500 million is envisaged."

— NAM S &T Newsletter April-June, 1995

Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Centre

The Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center (APHRIC) launched on 1st August, 1994 started its operation on 7th December, 1994 at Minato-ku, Osaka. The Center is managed by the Foundation, chaired by Prof. Kinhide Mushakoji. The Director of the Centre is Prof. Kim Dong-Hoon, an expert in international human rights law. APHRIC is planning to have people from other countries in the Asia-Pacific region on his staff.

Goals

1. To promote human rights in the Asia-Pacific region and to realize the spirit of international human rights instruments such as the Universal Delcaration of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific region;

2. To convey and reflect Asia-Pacific perspectives on human rights based on different cultural, social and economic conditions to the international community;

3. To ensure that human rights principles are included in Japanese economic and other activities in the Asia-Pacific region and to work for the inclusion of human rights considerations in Japanese business and other private activities abroad and also in official development aid policies; and

4. To raise human rights awareness among the Japanese and increase their understanding and acceptance of different cultures and different people.

Activities

1. **Information handling**
   APHRIC will collect and distribute the following information :

   - basic international human rights documents : human rights legislation, case law and information on human rights issues in the region.

   - information on social, economic and cultural conditions throughout the region.

   - human rights education materials including audio-visual materials and the creation of an information exchange on human rights education initiatives worldwide.

2. **Research**
   APHRIC will conduct research on a range of human rights issues in the region in collaboration with experts in Japan and in the region as a whole. The research may include themes such as :

   - vulnerable people, such as indigenous peoples, minorities, refugees and migrant workers.

   - discrimination based on social status.

   - development and human rights.

3. **Education and training**

    - APHRIC will promote human rights education for both citizens and corporations.
    - Organization of human rights courses for those who are working for human rights in the Asia-Pacific region is also envisaged.

4. **Consultancy**

    Consultancy services will be provided on human rights issues. This includes a referral service to other source of information, for example introductions to similarly concerned organizations.

5. **Publications**

    The Center will publish a regular newsletter, and an annual report and produce audio-visual and other materials.

— APINESS Newsletter No. 17

Database Society of India : First National Conference

The Database Society of India is organizing its first Annual Conference at Bangalore during 23-24 Sept., 1995 on Indian Databases & National Distribution Networks. The Conference Theme :

- Creation of awareness on Database electronic media
- Use & promotion of Database development culture in India
- Standardising Indian Databases to cope up with International Network Distribution Systems.
- Standardising Storage & Retrieval Systems for evolving National Distribution Network for India.
- National funding agency for developing Public & Private Sector databases in India.
- Multi-disciplinary database manpower development programme in India involving Information Science, Computer Science, Communication Science and Marketing Science areas.
- Database Industries : National & International perspective.

Time Schedule for Papers :

- Last date for sending descriptive abstracts not exceeding 200 words : July 15, 1995.
- Last date for sending full text of papers is July 31, 1995.

Database Introducer

Sustainable utilisation of plant resources can improve the quality of life for millions who live in dryland areas. Sepasal (the Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands) is a major economic botany database on useful plants of drylands, developed and maintained at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The database is used to provide development organisations and individual research workers with information on useful plants and to target species for germplasm collection and storage. An extensive upgradation and expansion of the present database is underway.

Arid and semi-arid environments occupy approximately one-third of the world's land surface, including about 50% of the surface area of developing countries. Of the one in six (850 million) people who live in arid and semi-arid lands, more than 80% live in rural areas and are dependent upon agriculture and/or animal husbandry. Many also rely on local plant resources to supply a range of basic commodities, such as food, fodder, fuel and medicines. Proper utilisation of plant resources is a critical factor in preventing damage to the environment and helping people live a better, healthier life.

However, information on useful plants of drylands is often patchy and scattered, and traditional knowledge on the value or management of plant resources varies from place to place. The value of a plant species for a particular purpose may, for example, only be realised in a small part of its geographic range. The Sepasal database brings together diverse traditional and academic knowledge on useful plants of drylands to enable evaluation and assessment of plant species, and to help transfer knowledge between areas and disciplines and facilitate development and improvement of people's lives.

What is the Sepasal database?

Sepasal began in 1981 with funding from Oxfam and more recently, the Clothworker's Foundation.

At present, the database contains information on approximately 6,000 useful drylands species, excluding major crop species. Data currently held in the computer database include :

Scientific name (including synonyms); Geographical distribution (to country or state level); Life form and life cycle; Habit; Uses (linked to plant part used); Site and climate tolerances (e.g. soil moisture, pH salinity, moisture, rainfall, frost tolerance, altitudinal range). Additional information is also stored in manual files.

Alongside the Sepasal database, Kew maintains an Economic Botany Bibliographic Database which currently contains citations to more than 150,000 references dealing with plants of economic value (including those of arid and semi-arid lands). From these and other resources at Kew we can also provide additional information on species cultivation requirements, management, harvesting, yields, preparation, processing, economic importance and development constraints.

When making enquiries of the database, please state clearly what information you would like, and give as much detail as possible, including the reasons for your interest in the subject.

For further information contact:

SEPASAL, Centre for Economic Botany
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond
Surrey TW9 3AE, U.K.

Immedplan

Data goods being set on shelves

A database training workshop for the nodal agency staff of Immedplan was held at a few months ago National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Darshan Shankar, Director, FRLHT.

Mr. Shankar's introductory speech likened the Immedplan network to a supermarket where various goods were available under a single roof : the user can access Immedplan and get multi-disciplinary information on medicinal plants. To make such a reality possible, each nodal agency must take on the roles of data producer, data generator and promote distribution of its data through viable outlets. The Immedplan secretariat could

become one such viable outlet, and being a supermarket, there would be a value addition for the data goods of any single data producer.

Mr. Shankar stressed that only information which the nodal agencies want to make available to users should be put on the network. He urged the following three points be considered :

1. The database designer should have end-users in mind;

2. Pricing of the data should be at an affordable rate, and

3. Each database should steadily grow so that users perceive change in both the quantum and quality of data.

Mr. Shankar pointed out that medicinal plants and traditional medicine are a national treasure which the country can use to improve its public health services, enhance production of herbal remedies and create income and employment for tribals, farmers and industrial workers. Today, the potential of traditional medicine is hardly being tapped, unlike China which has a comparable traditional heritage but is putting it to far more extensive use within the country and also for exports.

Mr. Shankar advised Immedplan to explore avenues for exchanging data on plants common to India and China with Chinese database holders.

The nodal agencies in addition to their database services should also think of preparing products (in the form of CD-ROMs etc.,) which could be marketed.

Action plans

A joint Immedplan database project : A list of 100 of the clinically most important medicinal plants has been prepared for which all Immedplan nodal members will compile data and send in to the network secretariat. The nodal agencies will send in the data in floppy form. The network secretariat will put all the data together to form a consolidated Immedplan database product.

The network secretariat will liaise with Chinese medicinal plants databases to exchange their data through Immedplan. Data for plants common to India and China is likely to be provided through this exchange.

Capturing Biblio Data straight from INSPEC Database

Using the NS-CONVERT software developed by NPL, New Delhi, you can now capture bibliographical data from INSPEC CD-ROM database straightaway and store it in a database format which you can process on dBase, FoxPro, FoxBase.
This software runs on DOS platform and requires no other software to support this function. It is user friendly and can be used without any special training.

At present the software does not capture data stored in the abstract field of INSPEC database.

The software can be used for a variety of applications such as creation of specialised databases, compilation of data for bibliometric studies, manipulation of search output in any preferred sequence.

Software for capturing data from other databases can be developed on demand.

The NS-CONVERT software costs Rs. 500/-.

For more details contact :

Scientist-in-Charge
Library, National Physical Laboratory
New Delhi-110 012.

Bhava-A 17th Century Database

The Bhavaprakasa Nighantu is a compendium on medicinal plants written in the 17th century AD by Bhavamisra who was an Ayurvedic scholar of the period. Along with the data on 450 medicinal plants he has described the usage of metals & minerals and animal products. In his work, medicinal plants were classified in such a way that their identify could be easily understood by the student. Bhavaprakasa Nighantu is now being studied in most Ayurvedic Colleges.

CIMH (Centre for Indian Medical Heritage), an Immedplan nodal agency, has now computerized the Bhavaprakasa Nighantu. The package is named "BHAVA" and can run in any system equipped with a "GIST" card which will assist the user to read the data in any Indian language.

"BHAVA" is also available in English for non-GIST users.

On the user front there is around 450 medicinal plants and one can search the data based on Sanskrit synonyms or botanical names which has been tentatively correlated.

To minimize the difficulty in understanding Sanskrit terminologies of Ayurveda, approximate English translations are given in every case. The options range also has multiple search facilities to locate particular medicinal plants.

CIMH is now working on developing different database packages for medicinal plants related data in the lines of "BHAVA".

For further details contact :

Dr. S.N. Venugopal, C.I.M.H.
P.B.No.7102, Ramanathapuram P.O.
Coimbatore-641 045

UNDP and UNEP Agreements on Desertification and Computer Networking Programmes for Sustainable Development

Two important partnership agreements signed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will help combat desertification and increase the flow of information on sustainable development and the environment in developing countries.

"Both of these agreements address urgent areas of concern - the serious challenge of desertification and the growing need for computer networking information systems in developing countries."

— UNDP Update Vol.8 No.9

APINMAP

Organized by University Kebangsaan Malaysia (APINMAP National Node for Malaysia), the 4th APINMAP Management Board meeting held recently.

Focused discussions on the development and marketing of APINMAP information products and services and set a variable pricing policy to ensure competitiveness in the world market and general sustainability of the network. A marketing drive will be launched to target. A marketing drive will be launched to target prospective clients, which include scientists, researchers, technologists, health professionals and extension workers, industrialists and entrepreneurs.

Aside from existing products, APINMAP will undertake ventures including the one it has already started with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) supported project on CD-ROM on Health & Environment. The network will also embark on new products like subject oriented publications. A series of training courses will be organized to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the technical staff of the national nodes and consequently improve APINMAP's overall delivery of services at all levels.

— UNISIST Newsletter, Vol.22, No.3

NISTADS Contribution to Information Systems and Archival Resources

NISTADS has created databases on journals covered by SCI, impact factors of journals, Indian research output 1988-1992 and the CSIR staff.

TRISHNA A software package of Devnagri Version of CDS/ISIS 2.3 and CDS/ISIS Pascal Interface has been developed. This package is being distributed by NISSAT. It is also given to Nepal and Bangladesh.

— CSIR News, 30/4/95

Kalinga Award : 1994

Dr. Nikolai Nikolaevich Drozdov, Associate Professor of Biogeography at Moscow State University, has been awarded the Kalinga Award for science popularisation, for the year 1994. The Kalinga Prize was instituted by UNESCO in the year 1951 for outstanding work in the area of science popularisation. The one thousand pounds sterling prize is based on a grant to UNESCO by India's Shri Biju Patnaik, Founder and Chairman of the Kalinga Foundation Trust. The prize is awarded every year to a person who has, as a writer, editor, lecturer, radio/TV programme director, or film producer, made exceptional contribution in the field of science popularisation, and who also has an understanding of the role of science and technology and general research in the solution of problems of humanity, enrichment of the cultural heritage of nations and improvements in the welfare of the common people.

1994 award winner, Dr. Drozdov is a prolific writer. His publications include 23 books and 183 research papers in biology, geography and nature conservation as well as text books and educational manuals for school children, students and teachers. For the last twentythree years Dr. Drozdov has been presenting a bi-monthly television programme called "In the world of animals".

AMU Refresher Course in Library and Information Science

The Department of library & Information Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh has once again been selected as a centre to conduct subject oriented Refresher Course in Library & Information Science in the session 1995-96.

Date	Theme	Closing Date
24.07.95-24.08.95	Modernisation of Library Services and Operations	10.06.95

11.01.96-08.02.96	Information Management in Libraries	27.11.95

Prof. Mohd. Sabir Husain and Mr. S. Husan Zamarrud and Messers Shabahat Husain & Mustafa K.Q. Zaidi will be the Course Coordinator respectively. The application form obtainable either from the Director, A.S.C. or the Chairman, Department of Library & Information Science, may be sent duly completed bearing the recommendation of the sponsoring authority to the Director, Academic Staff College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh-202 002 by the closing date of the concerned course.

Biotechnology Technical Information Service for Thailand

The National Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (NCGEB), a centre for information exchange and transfer of technology between academia and the private sectors in Thailand has set-up a Biotechnology Technical Information Service (BTIS).

BTIS provides computerised SDI service to enable registered subscribers to keep abreast of the most recent developments in the field of bio technology. The service pays particular attention to bio technology developments in ASEAN region and the information needs of developing countries. The information disseminated is mainly in the form of technical reports, conference papers, magazine and journal articles covering about 50 topics from ten main categories namely, General issues; Industrial applications; Agricultural applications; Plants - General issues; Animals-General issues; Health application; Energy & environment applications; Genetic resources; Fundamentals; Micro-Organisms. The service provides current and selected information systematically matched to the subscribers specific requirements. The service is to be offered free of charge initially.

For further details contact :

BTIS
Technical Information Service
P.O.Box-28, Ratburana
Bangkok-10140 Thailand.

IASLIC Annual Conference

The XX All India Conference of the Indian Association of Special Libraries & Information Centres (IASLIC) will be hosted by the Department of Library & Information Science, Lucknow University, Lucknow, U.P. during 26-29 December, 1995. Full particular of the same will be announced in duecourse.

Theme

Information Technology Products of 1990 and Library and Information Centres: *Issues for Consideration*

1. Information Technology as Media

    11 Computer-Communication Media
    12 On Line Databases
    13 Optical Media-CD-ROM and their varieties CD-ROM Application Technology
    14 Multimedia and Hypermedia Products
    15 Telecommunication Products (Satellite Information Access)
    16 Network Communication Systems

17 Virtual Library Access

2. Computer-Software Information Products

21 Information Processing Systems
22 Full Text Processing Systems
23 Information-Modelling Systems
24 Pattern Recognition Systems
25 Knowledge Base Systems
26 Network Software
27 Image Technology

3. Information Seeking Behaviour and Information Technology Products

31 Intellectual Format/Cognitive Formats/Cognitive Styles
32 Data Compression Formats/Indexing Formats.

4. Infrastructural Facilities Needed for Utilisation and Maintenance of Information Products

41 (a) Computer-Facilities
(b) Building Facilities
(c) Telecommunication facilities
(d) Work Station Facility

5. Economic Feasibility Studies of Information Technology Products

51 Acquisition Costs
52 Utilisation Costs
53 Maintenance Costs
54 Products Evaluation
55 Finance for I T

6. Legal Implication to Utilisation of Information Technology Products

61 International Legal Rights
62 National Legal Rights
63 Institutional Legal Rights
64 Libraries' Legal Rights
65 Individual Legal Rights
66 Intellectual Property Rights
67 Copyright

7. Competence in Utilisation of Information Technology Products Knowledge and Skills of

71 (a) Library and Information Processing
(b) End Users of Infotech Products

Birth of an Idea

The Indian Medicinal Plants National Network of Distributed Databases (Inmedplan), is a national initiative to develop an information resource on medicinal plants to cater to the needs of various user groups.

The network has been developed in consultation and collaboration with several specialised agencies involved in plant related research and information and is being serviced by the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT)

The prime objective of the network is to help users access medicinal plants data pertaining to botany, ecology, agrotechnology, ethnomedicine, pharmacognosy, pharmacology, phytochemistry and traditional systems of medicine. The Inmedplan newsletter will hopefully boost user interface of Inmedplan. It will cover developments within the network, highlight related news both in India and abroad, and generate interest in medicinal plants themselves.

Inmedplan is right now at the natal stage. A remote user can request for data of his specific interest from off-line database, i.e. nodal agencies. Alternately, the network secretariat at FRLHT forwards user request to the appropriate nodal agency. FRLHT can be accessed via E- mail and the user can utilise this facility to request for data.

Inmedplan will endeavour to provide "on-line" access to users as soon as user demd grows to a viable level.

For further details contact :

J. Ravi Chander, Program Officer, FRLHT.

Wisdom, Knowledge and Information

"Where is the wisdom that we have lost in our knowledge? Where is the knowledge that we have lost in our information?"asked the poet T.S.Eliot. Recent developments abroad and at home make us pause to ponder these lines in a world where the scholar is increasingly expendable. According to reports, in New York, the 226_year *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, the oldest English language compendium of knowledge, is up for sale and that it might fetch U.S. $500 million. A Chicago-based company which now publishes the *Encyclopaedia* with help from experts in the Universities of Chicago, Oxford, Cambridge and London, claims its losses are heavy and the sales dewindling.

— Times of India 14 June 1995

NISIET Training Programmes

There are 6 short-term specialised, highly intensive training programmes on the following themes being organised by the Small Enterprises National Documentation Centre (SENDOC) located at NISIET in Hyderabad as per the dates mentioned.

S.No.	Title of the Program	Duration & Date	Eligibility	Fees (Rs.)	Contact Persion
1.	Library Automation through CDS/ISIS	2 weeks 21 August - 1 September, 1995	Librarians & Information Officers who are not familiar with CDS/ISIS	10,000	V. Vishwas Rao
2.	Marketing of Information	1 week 4-8 Sept., 1995	Information personnel engaged in communication, Information transfer	5,000	(Mrs.) Mary H. Powell

			and dissemination		
3.	Office Automation	1 week 4-8 Sept, 1995	Executives, Office Managers, O & M personnel from industries, and commercial and govt. organisations	5,000	Ch. V. S. Murthy B. Chalva Rai
4.	Management of Libraries and Information Centres	1 week 11-15 Sept, 1995	Personnel from Library and Information Centres responsible for collection development, budgeting and personal management	5,000	M. Ramachander
5.	Technology Data Base	1 week 16-20 Oct, 1995	Personnel from science and technology and R&D information centres. Technical consultancy organisations, public and private sector organisations and national research laboratories	5,000	(Mrs.) I. Vasantha Kumari
6.	Computer Applications in Library and Information Sevices	2 weeks 6-17 Nov, 1995	Librarians, Information scientists, subject specialists responsible for providing services or managing library and information systems	10,000	K. S. Dutta Reddy

One of the secrets of life is to make stepping stones out of stumbling blocks

— Jack Penn

Gossip : The only thing that travels faster than E-mail

— Agie Papadakis

When did wisdom become knowledge?
Whwn did knowledge become information?

— T.S.Eliot
Auguries of Innocence

Form IV

(See Rule 8)

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

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Sd/- A. Lahiri
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