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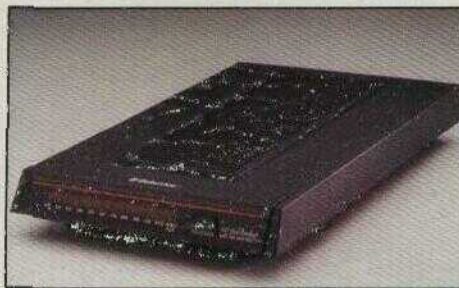
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NISSAT

NEWSLETTER

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PGI in Peril?

So far traditional libraries and archives have been dominant in information scenario in developing countries. Information products and services were designed as input only to research and education in science and technology, social sciences and humanities. This kind of information accounted for a small fraction of the global information market. Contrary to popular belief, library and information scientists now constitute only a tiny segment of information buyers community. On the whole, the gap between information capabilities of the developed and developing economies has been ever widening. Developing countries are now hopelessly dependent upon imports of information; adoption, adaptation and absorption of modern information technologies are also in a low key.

Had the UNISIST programme been implemented in right earnest, such a crisis situation would not have arisen in the first place. Surprisingly the UNISIST National Committees continue to exist in many countries while its proponent UNESCO dropped the banner on the way long back. In other words, this may imply that these countries still feel that the UNISIST objectives are worth pursuing even today, and the banner could still attract information players to rally around.

To make matters worse, UNESCO mooted a proposal to disperse the activities of the General Information Programme coming under the Communication Information and Informatics Division to the subject based programmes like science, social science and education.

It is true that for any activity, whether in the science sector, social science sector or the education sector, information constitutes the most vital input. At the same time, it is also true that the users of information need not necessarily be information specialists or information managers. Involvement of true professionals is essential to run an information programme. Further, in a mix up with a subject based programme, there is a likelihood that information related activities would be given a priority much lower than is their due. The success of the ASTINFO programme in South East Asia at the Pacific coming under the PGI in contrast to the RINSCA programme belonging to the science sector would give home the point.

There was also a suggestion to the effect that the programme handling methodologies, tools and techniques like the CDS/ISIS and IDAMS would have an identity separate from those using them. We have also seen how these activities had suffered in the past when transferred to the General Administration handling the pay and pension accounting. Only at the strong intervention of the Inter-Governmental Council for the PGI, the activities were reassigned back to PGI to yield marked results.

Many member countries opposed the move, and wanted the PGI to retain its existing identity and continuation of the role the Inter-Governmental Council had been playing in programming and monitoring PGI activities.

The Executive Board of UNESCO finally decided to constitute an independent expert group to advise the Director General UNESCO on actions deemed necessary especially in view of the increasing synergy among communication, information and informatics at the conceptual and at the applications level. The exact terms of reference are not known and so is the composition of the group—except that the chairperson of both the Inter-Governmental Council and the expert group would be the same individual, and that the recommendations of the expert group would be submitted to the DG Unesco directly and not through the mechanism of the Inter-Governmental Council.

Formation of the Expert Group is welcome so long as the Group could take due cognizance of the conditions prevailing in the developing countries and suggest necessary measures to meet their aspirations. Besides, the member countries should have the prerogative to decide on the final programme design and its implementation.

The next one year would be crucial view of the fact that the developing countries have been deriving significant inputs and conceptual and methodological support from the UNESCO for the development of national information infrastructure.

— A. Lahiri

NISSAT NEWSLETTER NO. 4, 1994

**NISSAT
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National Meet of CD-ROM/ Online Users, Madras

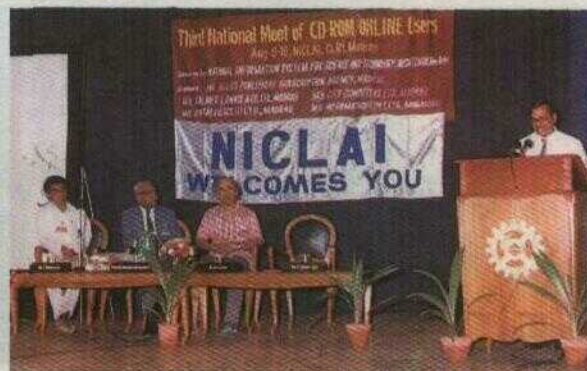
The Third National Meet of CD-ROM/Online Users was sponsored by National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), Department of Scientific and Industrial research (DSIR), New Delhi and organized by National Information Centre for Leather & Allied Industries (NICLAI) at the Central Leather Research Institute, Madras during August 9-10, 1994. The previous two meets were held at New Delhi during 1992 and 1993. The objective of the Meet was to assess the current national and international situation, the utility of CD-ROM services, their popularisation within the country, and to provide a forum for exchange of experiences on this new technique. The meeting focussed its attention on databases available, demand for search services, target users, problem areas and possible solutions. Over 200 participants from 91 institutions from all over the country representing a galaxy of R & D, academic, corporate, entrepreneuring institutions, etc attended the conference. Eleven industries engaged in information technology products participated.

Inauguration

Dr. T. Ramasami, Senior Deputy Director, Central Leather Research Institute, welcomed the participants and presented the scenario of information services provided by the Library and



Dr. S. Krishnan NICHEM receives the DIALOG Quiz Prize from Director, IIT



Mr. Subba Rao welcomes participants to the CD-ROM/Online Meet. Seated at the dais are Dr. Ramasami, CLRI, Prof. Anandakrishnan V.C. Anna University and Dr. A. Lahiri, NISSAT.

Information centres over the years. He emphasized the need for the change of information services scenario on account of developments taking place in computer and communication technologies, in view of the changing environment and information needs of the society. In his view storage media like CD-ROM could be the best solution in future.

Dr. A. Lahiri, Joint Advisor, NISSAT, while briefing the audience about the meet explained its objectives and the opportunities to both buyers and sellers of information on coming together and on discussion of each others requirements and problems. He mentioned that the CD-ROM is gradually taking over Online for the simple reason that no telecommunications are required. He stressed that the duplication in the acquisition of CD-ROM databasses should be avoided to save valuable foreign exchange.

Delivering the keynote address Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, Vice Chancellor, Anna University, complimented NICLAI, CLRI and NISSAT for organizing such an important Meet at Madras and emphasized the viability of CD-ROM technology as an instrument of revolution in information technology alongside developments taking place in the use of computer and communication technologies. He remarked that CD-ROMs were quite expensive and advocated resource sharing. He emphasized that information services should not be restricted only to urban areas but should be made available to rural areas too.



Registration Counter

Mr. S. Subba Rao, Assistant Director, Information Science, CLRI and Convenor of the Meet highlighted the achievements of the two previous Meets held at New Delhi in 1992 and 1993, viz.,

1. General increase in awareness on the Online/CD-ROM technology in the country.
2. Extension of customs duty exemption upto 15% ad valorem to R & D institutions and those not engaged in commercial activities vide Notifications No. 68/93-Cus., dated 28.02.1993.
3. Awareness of the users to secure fair prices for the CD-ROM equipment/databases from the vendors by way of direct negotiations and availing of possible discounts like multiple copies, educational, etc.
4. Improved knowledge about the modalities for procurement of CD-ROM database through Pass Book Scheme.
5. Initiation of activities towards rationalisation of subscription to CD-ROM Databases in metropolitan cities.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by the Convenor.

Session I : CD-ROM Scenario

Chairperson : Mr. M.N. Seetharaman
GIST, Bangalore

Eight papers were presented in this session.

Mr. I.R.N. Goudar, ICAST, NAL, delivered the lead topic on Trends in CD-ROM technology, World Scenario. He made a comprehensive presentation on the growth of CD-ROM technology with respect to CD-ROM databases, CD-ROM drives, CD-ROM publishers and the marketing trends with the aid of statistical data. He pointed out that the present trend is towards improving the reliability of hardware and software by adhering to standards and declining costs of CD products. He mentioned about the concept of information super highways by which information will be made available directly to the consumer through the domestic accessories such as TV, telephone and PC. For this the prerequisite was information in digital form. He pointed out that the CD-ROM would be the cheapest and best storage medium.

Mr. M.G. Waikar, Informatics (India), discussed Business and Industry CD-ROM databases. He stressed the need for providing the right type of information for both research and business community. The person who provides information should choose the right database and provide the latest authentic, precise information for business investments and mention the economic intelligence unit series, predicasts, index plus, etc. He reiterated that CD-ROMs can satisfy such information requirements only to a small extent but there was no option except using online databases for latest information.

Mrs. Poornima Narayana, NAL identified the various available levels and types of information products required by engineers involved in R & D, management, marketing, production, etc., and pointed out that COMPINDEX PLUS CD covers a number of disciplines. She listed 15 most popular CD-ROM databases with their coverage in engineering sciences.

Mr. S.M. Dhawan, NPL, presented the services provided in his organization using the CD-ROM INSPEC database since January 1994. He mentioned certain drawbacks in the absence of the mechanism to avoid sequential searching, delayed updation, non-availability of listing of journals, absence of thesaurus, etc. He mentioned that the indexing opportunity was very high in INSPEC.

Mr. N.R. Subbaram (CSIR Patents Unit) speaking on patents database emphasized the importance of patents, as a source of information and pointed out that supply of patents information

for R & D purposes is not an offence but commercialisation of the same is certainly an offence.

Mr. R. Ramachandran, PIS, briefed the patent information services provided by his organization by listing the availability of CD-products of various countries and their period of coverage. He elaborated on services like SDI, state of art search, providing English equivalents, patent family search and patent copy supply.

Mr. T.N. Prakash, ADA, highlighted the history of standardisation at all levels of human activity and explained the salient features of the US standards which are available as full-text on CD-ROM and which are highly used in his organization towards evolving International standards.

Dr. G. Ravindran, DOT, made a presentation on Business and Industry databases and presented a detailed account of the tourism industry worldwide, with special reference to its prospects in India. He mentioned the application of CD-ROM technology in establishing the Tourism Information Network (TOURNET), connecting thirty six computer terminals all over the country with detailed information on tourism. He gave an account of the terminal configuration for tourist information system through INDONET and the future plans of Department of Tourism.

Session II : CD-ROM Scendario (Contd.)

Chairperson : Dr. S. Kunthala Jayaram
CBT, Madras

There were six presentations in this session.

Mr. P. Diwakar, CCMB, made a presentation on biotechnology databases and pointed out that though there were a good number of CD-ROM databases in the area of biotechnology research but there was not a single database on biotechnology business. He emphasized the fact that for obtaining biotechnology information, searching of many databases unavoidable due to non-availability of a comprehensive database covering all aspects of biotechnology. He compared CD-ROM and online searches and discussed their merits and demerits.

Mr. Jinandra Doss, CDRI, speaking on biomedical science databases, mentioned the services of CD-ROM databases in his organization

and pointed out that the number of searches carried on CD-ROM were comparatively more than online access. He gave a brief account on CD database such as ADONIS, EXCERPTA MEDICA, MEDLINE, International Pharmaceutical Abstracts, Drug Data Report, etc.

During the discussions Mr. N.V. Sathyanarayana, Informatics (India) explained the advantages of ADONIS and pointed out that the average cost incurred worked out to 7 per reference.

Mr. K.A. Ranganath, NICFOS, traced the genesis of Food Sciences technology abstracts in hard copy and magnetic form. The CD-ROM version of FSTA contains 460,000 records with annual and quarterly updates. He provided the comparative costs of online and CD-ROM version of the FSTA database.

Mr. H.S.S. Murthy, NAL, gave a detailed presentation on the full text databases and provided comprehensive list of the world's leading full text batabases, their information content, type, etc., with the help of an example from DIALOG and DATASTAR Hosts. He also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the full text databases.

Dr. M.S. Sridhar, ISRO Satellite Centre, enumerated ten major areas of library application of CD-ROM databases and explained the national and general applications.

Mr. A.R.D. Prasad, DRTC, made a brief presentation on the work carried out on retrospective conversion from CD-ROM databases (OCLC & LC), with retrieval softwares of SPIRS, DIALOG, ONDISC and BOWKER to CDS-ISIS. He named the conversion software as PYGMALION.

Session III : CD-ROM Acquisition, Copyright Issues

Chairperson : Dr. S.S. Murthy
DESIDOC, New Delhi

Three papers were presented in this session

Mr. N.V. Satyanarayana, Informatics (India), delivered the lead topic on CD-ROM commercial issues concerned to distribution, usage and Indian scenario. He listed the agencies involved in

importing CD-ROM and online access such as Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, Reserve Bank of India, Customs Department and Directorate of Foreign trade, their current policies and procedures. In the case of CD-ROMs the problems faced are duties and taxes, customs duties assessment, delivery and payment. In the case of online the problems are accessing and payment. The customs duties in the case of CD-ROMs for University recognised institutions, R&D institutions in non-profit sectors (ISO exemption), Research institutions by non-profit sectors, organizations holding passbook are nil and all others 124%. In the case of online, the EXIM policies and procedures were explained. He discussed the access problems of online through GPSS, INET, non-availability of online link to ERNET and INTERNET from all locations the world over. In his conclusion he suggested that redefining books and journals, lobbying the Finance Ministry to make information duty free and tax free & removal of conditions of physical evidence, would help overcome the said problems.

Mr. I.R.N. Goudar, ICAST, NAL, gave a presentation on Survey of CD-ROM database services in India. Based on his findings he presented that 75 types of databases were available in India and his organization holds 15 CD databases covering bibliographic, full text, multimedia, etc. He suggested that redefining books in the context of electronic media, would help overcome the customs problems.

Mr. M.N. Seetharaman, GIST, shared his thirty years of professional experience in procurement of documents and gave some tips to overcome the customs problems on CD-ROM procurement.

Session IV : CD-ROM Hardware/Software and Networking

Chairperson : Dr. R. Srinivasan, NAL, Bangalore

Five papers were presented in this session.

6 Dr. R. Srinivasan in his opening remarks stressed the importance of information dissemination and observed that India was in no way lagging behind in this context. He mentioned that CD-ROM technology was gaining much importance in the developing countries. He stressed that networking is the most probable answer in multi user environment.

Mr. P.G. Rao, CLRI, delivered the lead topic on CD hardware/software selection criteria and issues concerned. He highlighted the CD-ROM drive specifications, interface cards, CD specifications, CD standards and CD-ROM drive installation in detail. He also analysed the present CD-ROM trends and NETWARE for CD-ROM network environment and the usage of CD-ROM discs in different areas. He concluded that CD-ROM has potential to become a universal distribution medium and can be used for everything from computer software to multimedia.

Mr. S. Ravi, NCSI, speaking on CD-ROM standards Hardware/Software issues, explained the importance of standards in CD-ROM technology such as red book, yellow book, orange book and white book (yet to come). He also presented a detailed description of ISO-1960.

Mr. Rajan, Informatics (India), gave a definition of network and highlighted the advantages of networking CD-ROMs, the components required by taking Novel Network as an example. He answered the queries regarding the networking solutions available in the market with cost details on CD-networking.

Mr. V. Balaji, MSSRF, CD-Networking: case study, explained the databases available in his organization and services offered and MEIS (Mangrove Ecosystem Information Services) database containing text and images.

Mrs. K.S. Geethamani, CMTI, presented the bibliographic information services provided from her centre using the inhouse bibliographic databases and the COMPENDEX PLUS on CD-ROM and discussed the comparative advantages and limitations of these two databases.

Session V : CD-Publishing and CD-ROM Applications

Chairperson : Mr. N.V. Satyanarayana
Informatics (India), Bangalore

Three papers were presented in this session.

In his opening remarks Mr. N.V. Satyanarayana said that CD-ROM was very much there to stay and emphasized the importance of CD-Publishing in terms of cost and usage.

Dr. P. Soma Raju, Andhra University, expressed the need for introduction of CD-ROM products in Universities and stressed upon the vendors and publishers to tap the universities for CD-ROM products.

Mr. P.G. Rao, CLRI, speaking on multimedia stressed the usefulness of multimedia as a publishing and information distribution medium offering unequal advantages in terms of compactness, storage capacity, durability and liability. He concluded that CD-ROM and multimedia were inseparable as were floppy disk and the computer.

Mr. C.K. Ramaiah, DESIDOC, defined the terms hypertext and hypermedia and explained hypercards and applications of hypertext.

Session VI : Online Scenario

Chairperson : Dr. Anju Chadha
SPIC, Madras

In this session seven papers were presented.

Mr. M.G. Waikar, Informatics (India), delivered the lead topic on Online Industry Trends and Forecast. He highlighted the factors contributing to the growth of online industry specially with reference to India. He made a comparative statement about the facilities offered for four years during 1990-1994 in respect of database types, file usage, etc. He also explained the ways of meeting of online users demands.

Mr. L. Satyanarayana of VSNL, gave a brief description of Telecom facilities in India and the need for advanced infrastructure for telecom for future needs. He also mentioned the induction of satellite communication facilities that solved the problems of VSNL to a certain extent.

Mr. B.G. Sunder Singh, NISSAT, spoke on Online Services through NACIDs and traced its history and mentioned that during 1986-87, five SICs were identified to promote online services. He presented a comparative statement of online searches conducted by these five centres and the revenue earned through search services during the last five years.

Dr. S. Krishnan, NCL, while dwelling on INTERNET presented the salient features of networking. The possible information services

which could be obtained through INTERNET were explained.

Mr. Surinder Kumar, NIC, gave a comparative account on BRS search system and ELHILL and pointed out that both the systems have a number of strong searching facilities for information retrieval from Medline databases.

Mr. N.V. Ramakrishna, NFATCC, presented online access to global biotechnology information systems by explaining the available databases and databanks amongst the life scientists/technocrats, the mode of access and the domestic networks availability in India.

Dr. V.S. Sundar Rao, CLRI, on user feedback presented the advantages of going online for information by citing a few topics such as PCP, ecofriendly technologies for his work and emphasized that he could not have met the time targets without the help of NACID at CLRI.

The chairperson remarked that an awareness of online search services should be made and suggested creation of indigenous database of acronyms of organizations in India to start with.

Session-VII : Company Presentations

Chairperson : Dr. A. Lahiri
NISSAT, New Delhi

Seven presentations were made.

The chairperson spoke on the purpose of the session and invited the participating companies to present their services and products.

Mr. S. Biswas from TIFAC, briefed the participants about the TIFAC line and the linkage between CMC, ESA/IRS and TIFAC. He also presented different types of databases on ESA/IRS, differential price structure for downloading the records.

Dr. Balasubramanyam, CDEC, USA, presented the background of the company which would be having manufacturing facility of CD-ROMs, growth of CD-ROMs and drives.

Mr. Anish Mahendru, STN, USA, presented the background of Chemical Abstracts Service, USA and explained the features of STN, an online

vendor offering the chemical abstracts online to users all over the world.

Mr. Don R. Wadakan, World Trade Centre, presented a detailed account of the WTC Network, which holds a wide variety of business information for the Indian companies including traders.

Mr. Suresh Hindocha, Nexus computers, presented the new product CD-Scuffe for CD-ROM access which uses the parallel port of the computer.

Mr. R. Chandrashekar, Faxon Informatics, gave a brief presentation of his company and mentioned their business partners such as UMI, ADONIS, BOWKER, DIALOG, MERIDIAN, Silver Plater, etc.

Mr. M.G. Walker, Informatics (India), highlighted the new features of DIALOG software and the new price structure for online searches. He also presented results of analysis carried on DIALOG about business information on the neighbouring countries of India.

Session VIII : Concluding Session

Chairperson : Dr. N.V.C. Swamy
IIT, Madras

The chairperson gave away the prizes for the three winners on CD-ROM/Online Quiz sponsored by the Informatics Group. Dr. Swamy recalled his research days of obtaining information manually when compared to the recent developments in information access. He said that networking of libraries is mandatory for effective information dissemination.

Dr. P. Soma Raju presented a birds eye-view of the proceedings of the Meet as a Rapporteur General.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from Mrs. Kamini Mishra, NISSAT, acting as a co-convenor of the Meet.

Recommendations

1. A union catalogue of information materials on CD-Rom may be prepared to facilitate users to access these. As a corollary, the resource institutions (libraries/Inf. centres) may be impressed upon to allow access to outside users on mutually agreed terms, so that the cost of acquisition could be justified/rationalised.
2. As in the case of print materials, the Consultative Committees set up by NISSAT in various cities may be urged to include CD-ROM products as well in their rationalization efforts.
3. In due recognition of the potential that new emerging optical and opto-electronic storage technologies hold, the Government of India may be impressed upon to redefine "book" as also to include non-print materials like those on optical disks, floppy disks and other magnetic media. Disparities in the treatment of information materials in print and non-print media, for the purposes of levying duty and handling by the customs, may be removed immediately.
4. The next meet may be organised either in the East (Calcutta) or in the West (Pune). This meet should also be open to international participation especially from SAARC and ASTINEO countries. If it were held in Calcutta a tutorial on the subject may be prefixed to the Meet in order to increase awareness on these technologies among information users, students and teachers of library science. More time should also be made available for demonstration of hardware software and database products.

The Three Meets

It would be in order to recount our experiences across the last three events.

1. There has been a steady rise in participation. The third meeting in CLRI, Madras had 178 registered paying participants.
2. There has also been a steady increase in the number of vendors. In the third meet, as many as 10 vendors had made company presentations and demonstrated their hardware software and databases.
3. The pattern of participation has also changed. The Madras meeting had large number of participants from the private sector.

Institutional affiliation of participants (%)

Research	43
Industries including information industries	22
Education	15
Spl. library & information networks	8
Computer centres	6
Government	6
	<hr/>
	100
	<hr/>

4. The background of participants has also changed. In the Madras meeting, the population of participants with library background and those without, was equally divided.
5. While in the first meet in 1992, a CD-ROM had to be physically shown to initiate discussions, in the Madras meet, the participants were found deliberating at ease on advanced technologies like multimedia, multi-access system etc. Two vendors had also talked of their plans for production of CD-ROM in India itself.
6. While the first meet was free, from the second meet onwards, a registration fees of Rs. 500 was levied. The second meet could support itself from the registration fees of participants and special fees paid by the vendors.

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**Some of the above databases are being made available
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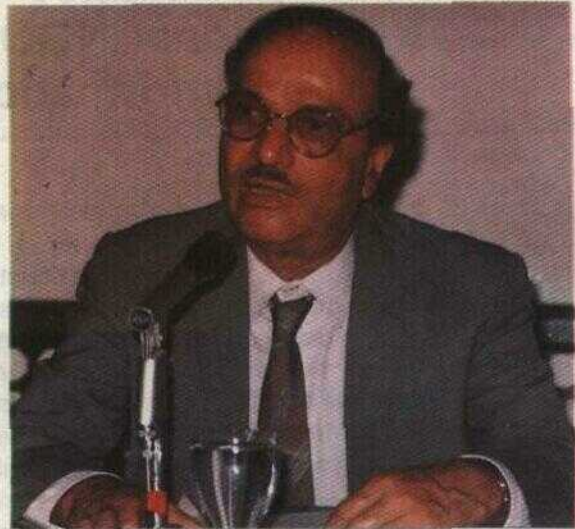
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Information Today & Tomorrow: Information Industry-User Promotion Interaction — Curtain Raiser

Seminars and Conferences on information are being organized every now and then by various agencies — Public and Private. But generally they look at things in isolation. For example there is little effort on the part of information generators to reach out to the potential user community. While several forums exist to deal with various aspects of hardware and telecommunication, there is no single forum to discuss matters as in information and its various ramifications — science and technology information, industrial information, financial information, etc. It was in this respect that the recent NISSAT seminar held at Surajkund (7-8 Dec. 1994) stood apart from the general run of seminars on the subject.

No wonder, the Conference attracted 60 participants from among information users and 65 from information providers. Of the 60 information users 30 came from private sector, 1 from foreign agency and 29 from the govt. departments. The 65 information providers were divided from private sector (31), govt. departments (31) and public sector (3).

The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. S.K. Joshi, Secretary, DSIR and DG, CSIR in the presence of a select gathering at Surajkund which provided a suitable backdrop of scenic beauty and invigorating conditions for the meeting.



Prof. S.K. Joshi addressing the Audience

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Joshi observed that digital technology had brought about sweeping changes in the information field. There was talk of information highways. India should not be left out of these developments in terms of software. He exhorted the professionals to shift towards technology-based programmes like CD-ROM, development of databases, etc. Acceptance of new technologies even in scientific organizations was rather slow. Prof. Joshi assured all possible help from CSIR to implement the recommendations of the conference. Let the steering wheel, Prof. Joshi said be in the hands of the private sector. He was happy that NISSAT had adopted this new approach. He hoped for cross fertilization of ideas between different sections of users.

A detailed report on the deliberations of the seminar will be published in the next issue of *NISSAT Newsletter*.

FID Congress

India will host the FID Congress in 1998,
it is reliably learnt. Details to follow.

The Tokyo Resolution On Strategic Alliance of International NGO's in Information

Over 30 international non-government organizations representing the information sector in the broadest sense of the word, namely, production acquisition, dissemination management, preservation and use of information (herein after referred to as management and use of information) solemnly agreed to create a strategic alliance based on the following rationale and objectives. Known as The Tokyo Resolution; the declaration was presented to His Imperial Highness Prince Akishino of Japan on 6 October 1994. The resolution intended to serve better the world community is reproduced here for the benefit of all concerned:

1. All countries — large and small, rich and poor — share a deep concern about many global problems, ranging from the exhaustion of the planet's environmental resources to new global threats to health; the spread of poverty and famine; political and social tensions; demographic explosions; an unstable world economy and the deterioration of the quality of life. We believe that the proper use of information for decision-making at all levels of society will help solve humanity's problems as the world enters an age of greater awareness of the importance of information. To this end, it is critical to ensure continuity in access by documenting and preserving high quality records of the actions of society, through time.
2. All persons must have open and unrestricted access to information, consistent with the protection of individual rights, appropriate economic incentives, and the concerns of nations and peoples as determined by their unique circumstances.
3. As stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression and opinion; this right includes freedom to hold

opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers".

4. Societal improvements require a deeper and widespread understanding of how to find and use authentic information properly. Universal literacy, lifelong learning, education and training are essential to these improvements.
5. We who are involved in the management and use of information face several forces of change. These forces are economic, political and cultural and include dramatic technological developments and vastly expanded user expectations for information services. The forces also present many challenges concerning the protection of intellectual property, the provision of access, protection of privacy, security, integrity and preservation of information, and the increased need for common legal and technical standards.
6. A particularly serious problem is the increasing information gap between various countries and societies within them, which is exacerbated by the increasing cost of information. Developing countries have an essential need both for information produced outside their frontiers and for information they themselves produce which must be properly managed, disseminated and used.
7. Each of our non-governmental organizations has its own distinct identity and objectives which should be preserved. Allied, we represent a major force which can lead the way forward for the information professions. We realize that the social problems are too great for any single organization to help solve alone and that

we should avoid any unnecessary overlap of effort. Intense collaboration, consultation and strategic planning are the answers.

We believe that a strategic alliance will contribute to advancing the goals of our organizations, contribute to the solution of the world's problems, better serve the world community and intensify our collaboration with intergovernmental organizations.

Our common goal is to serve society by:

- (a) Providing an international forum to address issues of common interest.
 - (b) Identifying common issues in the management and use of information; clarifying diverging positions and agreeing on new cooperative solutions, especially concerning equitable access, balanced intellectual property protection, the protection of privacy, information systems security and common legal and technical standards.
 - (c) Forecasting and assessing changes affecting the provision of information to meet the expected challenges.
 - (d) Ensuring that the information professions take a pro-active stance in studies aimed at elucidating future aspects of human endeavour.
 - (e) Ensuring that the development and application of information technologies effectively meet the needs of users of *information*.
 - (f) Encouraging the use of new teaching and learning technologies and other telematics techniques in education and lifelong learning starting at the pre-school age.
 - (g) Ensuring that the information professions, through education and training, maintain and further develop their knowledge and expertise in order to keep up with changes in the environment.
 - (h) Encourage the development of communication training and education programmes that increase awareness of the importance of interactive communication between providers and users of information.
 - (i) Advocating practices that guarantee the integrity and preservation of information
- irrespective of format and medium, and ensuring that the accuracy and quality of the information are maintained when it is passed along through its cycles of transformation and transfer.
 - (j) Ensuring that the cost and value of information are recognized in the development of information policies, programmes, systems, and services. However, we need to try to influence policies to ensure that economic barriers do not prevent access to information.
 - (k) Encouraging the discussion of ethical issues for the information society and the development of principles (e.g. codes of conduct for appropriate sectors) related to the responsibilities of the information professions.
 - (l) Encouraging the need for the development of *storing* policies on information by suggesting directions for future policy and strategic planning.
 - (m) Intensifying the collaboration between public and private sectors, in particular by infusing the values of each into the other.
 - (n) Influencing the creation of new viable product and service clusters both within the information sectors and with external partners.
 - (o) Encouraging the worldwide identification of information capabilities and the mobilization of these for the solution of major global problems.
 - (p) Devising international programmes to strengthen the awareness of the value of information in all areas of human endeavour such as education, science, industry, culture and recreation.
 - (q) Creating awareness and promoting the role of international non-governmental organizations in information.
 - (r) Developing a coordinated, international approach to the research needs of the information field.

Signed on the occasion of the Centennial of the International Federation for Information and Documentation

BY:

Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA) Association pour l'information et les Bibliothèques de Santé en Afrique

Council of European Professional Informatics Societies (CEPIS)

European Association for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL) European Association of Information Services (EUSIDIC)

European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA)

Iberoamerican National Libraries Association (ABINLA) Inter American Press Association (IAPA) Association de Bibliothèques Nationales de Iberoamerica Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa

International Association for Continuing Engineering Education (IACEE)

International Association for Mass Communication Research (IAMCR) International Association of Law Libraries (IALL)

International Association of Sound Archives (IASA)

International Association of Universities (IAU) International Centre against Censorship, Article 19 Association International des Universités

International Committee for Social Science Information and Documentation (ICSSD)

International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (ICPHS) Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines

International Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI) Conseil International pour l'Information Scientifique et Technique

International Council of Scientific Unions — Committee on Data for Science and Technology — CODATA International Council on Archives (ICA) Conseil International des Archives

International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID) Federation Internationale d'Information et de Documentation

International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) International Federation of Film Archives (FLAP) Federation International des Archives du Film

International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Federation Internationale des Journalistes

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) International Group of Scientific, Technical & Publishers (STM) Federation Internationale des Associations de Bibliothécaires et des Bibliothéques

International Network for Terminology (TermNet)

International Press Institute (IPI) International Reading Association (IRA) Institute International de la Presse

International Social Science Council (ISSC)

World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) Federation Mondiale des Organisations d'Ingenieurs

Centre for Industry Information

Established at New Delhi in collaboration with Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation (DSIDC) and Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), the Centre provides value-added information on:

- Technology Trends
- Business Opportunities
- Export Markets
- Technology Sourcing
- Joint Ventures
- Feasibility & Detailed Projects Studies

Besides the above, the centre also provides access to TIFACLINE, ESA - IRS Databases.

Tifacline Databases

Composite Technologies

Compiled by National Aeronautical Laboratory, Bangalore. This database covers raw materials, sophisticated processes and products. It contains over 500 records of information collected from international journals, publications, patents and technologies formulated in Indian laboratories and industry.

Food Technologies

Compiled by Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore.

Contains technology-related information on different sectors of the food industry-dairy, poultry, ready-to-serve drinks, beverages, sea food, fruit and vegetable processing. Some of the products covered have high exports potential.

Energy

Compiled by Tata Energy Research Institute.

Covers technology-related information on energy/power reactor, energy conservation devices, concepts and techniques, renewable energy technologies (solar, thermal and photo-voltaics, energy from wind and biomass etc.). The new technologies have tremendous utilization potential in the country considering India's vast resources in solar radiation, wind and agriculture residues.

Non-Ferrous Materials

Compiled by Materials Research Society of India, Hyderabad.

Contains over 400 records of information both established and emerging technologies. It covers new fields like plasma coating, powder metallurgy, super alloys and special coatings for various end-uses. Conventional technologies like extraction of metals such as aluminium, magnesium, tungsten, titanium are also included.

Environmental Technologies

Compiled by National Chemical Laboratory, Pune

Covers various options available for waste utilization and disposal-both in India and abroad. Technologies specific to different industries for reduction of pollution levels in air and water are available. Treatment of effluents to prevent discharge of hazardous chemicals and other industrial toxic wastes are also detailed.

Health & Safety and Environmental Protection

New inventions, discoveries and legislation against industrial accidents, together with growing concern for environmental protection have result in a growing need for health, safety and environmental information. ESA-IRS gives a complete range of information in these areas that most organisations must continuously monitor in the future.

- Composite Technologies

- Food Technologies
- Energy
- Non-ferrous Materials
- Environmental Technologies
- Expert Base
- Standards Directory

ESA-IRS Databases

What is ESA-IRS?

The European Space Agency Information Retrieval Service, ESA-IRS, provides comprehensive and up-to-date scientific and technical aerospace information online. ESA-IRS was the first online host in Europe. Users today can take advantage of powerful searching capabilities developed with the technology and know-how of the European Space Agency. They can make use of a complete range of online information services from national centres and ESA-IRS offices in 13 European countries.

In India TIFACLINE holds the franchise and provides access to ESA-IRS database and the Centre for Industry Information is its main host hub.

Who uses ESA-IRS — and why?

ESA-IRS customers include:

- leading companies
- research centres
- government organizations
- universities

They keep themselves up-to-date in their field of operations by accessing the ESA-IRS databases regularly and by making use of the ESA-IRS services and support

With new menu driven Easy Quest interface any professional can easily search on ESA-IRS without any prior knowledge of online.

Easy and Instant Access to Accurate, up-to-date and vital information in:

- Science
- Technology
- Business
- Agriculture & Food
- Health & Safety
- Transport
- Materials
- Environmental Protection
- Chemistry
- Aerospace

The extensive database would meet the specific needs of a wide range of users.

- Technologists
- Engineers
- Service & Project Managers
- Marketing Staff
- Contracts & Finance Administrators
- Researchers
- Students
- Librarians

Centre for Industry Information
 Bombay Life Building
 N-36, Connaught Circus
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UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994

Freedom, prosperity and the development of society and of individuals are fundamental human values. They will only be attained through the ability of well-informed citizens to exercise their democratic rights and to play an active role in society. Constructive participation and the development of democracy depend on satisfactory education as well as on free and unlimited access to knowledge, thought, culture and information.

The public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups.

This manifesto proclaims UNESCO's belief in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women.

UNESCO therefore encourages national and local governments to support and actively engage in the development of public libraries.

The Public Library

The public library is the local centre of information, making all kinds of knowledge and information readily available to its users.

The services of the public library are provided on the basis of equality of access for all, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, nationality, language or social status. Specific services and materials must be provided for those users who cannot, for whatever reason, use the regular services and materials, for example linguistic minorities, people with disabilities or people in hospital or prison.

All age groups must find material relevant to their needs. Collections and services have to include all types of appropriate media and modern technologies as well as traditional materials. High quality and relevance to local needs and conditions are fundamental. Material must reflect current trends and the evolution of society, as well

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as the memory of human endeavour and imagination.

Collections and services should not be subject to any form of ideological, political or religious censorship, nor commercial pressures.

Missions of the Public Library

The following key missions of the public library, related to information, literacy, education and culture should be considered:

1. creating and strengthening reading habits in children from an early age;
2. supporting both individual and self conducted education as well as formal education at all levels;
3. providing opportunities for personal creative development;
4. stimulating imagination and creativity of children and young people;
5. promoting awareness of cultural heritage, appreciation of the arts, scientific achievements and innovations;
6. providing access to cultural expressions of all performing arts;
7. fostering inter-cultural dialogue and favouring cultural diversity;
8. supporting oral tradition;
9. ensuring access for citizens to all sorts of community information;
10. providing adequate information services to local enterprises, associations and interest groups;
11. facilitating the development of information and computer literacy skills;
12. supporting and participating in literacy activities and programmes for all age groups, and initiating such activities if necessary.

Government of India, Department of Electronics offers network services to all academic and research institutions in the country through the

Education and Research Network (ERNET)

Department of Electronics (DoE) is proud to have the capacity to link the entire academic and research community in India through ERNET - the Education and Research Network. Project ERNET has been implemented by the Government of India with the assistance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the initial participation of eight premier institutions - five IITs, IISc Bangalore, NCST Bombay and DoE, Delhi. The major aim of the project was to build capability in the country in the area of computer networking and set-up a country wide computer network for the academic and research community to facilitate informal and frequent interactions, sharing of computing resources, and more co-operation in research activities.

As a result of sustained efforts, ERNET provides the most extensive co-operative computer network for the academic and research community. Over 300 institutions in the country representing a cross-section of universities, government societies, R & D organisations, research laboratories are already using it extensively serving over 20000 users throughout the country. The following services are available on the network :

- **Electronic mail**
- **Remote log-in**
- **Data-base access**
- **File transfer**
- **Mailing lists, news groups and bulletin boards**
- **Information retrieval tools (Gopher, WAIS, WWW)**

and in addition to the above, access to computing resources and users across 120 countries through Global Internet.

In line with similar efforts in advanced countries, ERNET has simultaneously addressed the key R & D issues of networking technology in order to provide benefits of the state-of-the-art technology and cost-effective services to the user community. Some of the future areas of work include test-bed for high speed networking and support of applications like, multi-site video conferencing, and other integrated applications, like multimedia mail and multimedia document retrieval.

ERNET programme has its current focus on expanding its reach to the entire academic and research community in the country. Progressively, the infrastructure, range of services and accessible resources are being upgraded in close co-operation with academic and research community. ERNET community will be happy to extend all possible help and advise you on setting up necessary facilities at your premises.

For further information, please contact :

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Funding, legislation and networks

- The public library shall in principle be free of charge.
- The public library is the responsibility of local and national authorities. It must be supported by specific legislation and financed by national and local governments. It has to be an essential component of any long-term strategy for culture, information provision, literacy and education.
- To ensure nationwide library coordination and cooperation, legislation and strategic plans must also define and promote a national library network based on agreed standards of service.
- The public library network must be designed in relation to national, regional, research and special libraries as well as libraries in schools, colleges and universities.
- Cooperation with relevant partners — for example, user groups and other professionals at local, regional, national as well as international level—has to be ensured.
- Services have to be physically accessible to all members of the community. This requires well situated library buildings, good reading and study facilities, as well as relevant technologies and sufficient opening hours convenient to the users. It equally implies outreach services for those unable to visit the library.
- The library services must be adapted to the different needs of communities in rural and urban areas.
- The librarian is an active intermediary between users and resources. Professional and continuing education of the librarian is indispensable to ensure adequate services.
- Outreach and user education programmes have to be provided to help users benefit from all the resources.

Operation and Management

- A clear policy must be formulated, defining objectives, priorities and services in relation to the local community needs. The public library has to be organized effectively and professional standards of operation must be maintained.

Implementing the Manifesto

Decision makers at national and local levels and the library community at large, around the world, are hereby urged to implement the principles expressed in this manifesto.

The manifesto is prepared in cooperation with IFLA.

**NISSAT NEWSLETTER
WISHES
ITS READERS & ADVERTISERS
A HAPPY & PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR**

IT AS THE DOCTOR'S TOOL

Computers, some people think, will soon replace the doctors. "This is not true, as it would only act as a tool to the doctor and not his replacement," claimed Sneh Anand, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, during the seminar on 'IT Applications in Health Care' last month in Delhi, organised by Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology. Anand laid emphasis on how IT helps in enormous data processing and storing of information and in its quick retrieval.

S.K. Guha, professor, Department of Bio-medical Engineering, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, emphasised on IT's role in surgical field and in deriving the lost organs like the arm or the limb. It also helps in thinking, vision and manipulation, and is also important "in analysing and predicting the trend of tremors".

Concentrating on the expert systems, H.N. Mahabala, professor, IIT, Madras, said that technology helps in better health care in rural areas. According to him, 97 percent of under-five juvenile deaths occur in developing countries due to lack of knowledge on the part of the parents. "Expert systems can help avoid such mishaps," said Mahabala, and added "Such systems diagnose the diseases like fever, diarrhoea, convulsions, cough and cold on time and prescribe medicines and case of seriousness advises for the doctor. This solves the problem of untimeliness and saves many deaths." Virtual Reality, that represents another step in quest for more effective and natural interfaces for computer users, can be effectively used in health care, claimed Sanjay Gupta, consultant, NIIT Ltd. User's gestures and movements are sensed, interpreted and appropriately acted upon by the computer. In turn, it produces the output on special devices which sustain the illusion of immersion in the scene.

Organisations like Siemens India Ltd., Phillips India Ltd., Wipro-GE Ltd., L & T Medical, Crompton Greaves Ltd., Network Ltd. have already taken lead in providing medical or health care sector with many latest IT applications in India.

— *Computers Today Dec, 1994*

News and Events

Carpel Tunnel Syndrome

The improper placement of computer monitors causes the debilitating hand and arm injury that affects thousands of computer workers each year, commonly diagnosed as carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS), according to some experts who specialise in computer workstation ergonomics.

CTS is a category of repetitive strain injury (RSI) that is defined as a crushing or pinching of the median nerve that passes through the wrist-located bone and ligament tube, called the carpal tunnel.

Classic CTS symptoms are pain, numbness, and tingling in the hand. In the past, computer workplace arm, wrist, and hand injuries have been blamed mostly on improper placement of the hands were never designed to lie flat in front of a computer user with fingers pounding out the same small motions over and over.

The answer traditionally has been wearing wrist bandages or supports and, more and more often, surgery is used to open up the space around the median nerve. But CTS is not limited to computer workstation users. It has been reported by plane and violin players, hair dressers, knitters, sewers, telephone operators, cigar rollers, and grocery store clerks.

Besides use of their hands in repetitive motions, these workers all have looking down in common, which according to Julia Lacy, is the true cause of the problem. Lacy is the author of a book, "How to Survive Your Computer Workstation". She says her conclusions come from surveys of several thousand fulltime computer users over four years.

Michael Gaut, managing editor of GTD News, a newsletter focused on cumulative disorders in the work place, says there is both medical and anecdotal evidence that a combination of repetitive motion and the improper monitor placement can cause CTS.

An entirely new generation of keyboards are being developed to tackle the CTS problem.

— *Computers Today*, June 1994

Hughes Wins First VSAT Tender From DOT

As Department of Telecommunications (DOT) has accepted some of the demands raised by private operators

wishing to start Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT) networks, the tender for supply of 200 VSATS and a hub for its own network, HVNET (High-speed VSAT Network) has gone to Hughes Network Systems Inc.

DOT has finally agreed to provide VSAT operators the connectivity with the data network I-net, one of the major points of contention.

But the operators want a direct connectivity with the faster data networks like RABMN (Remote Area Business Messaging Network), NICNET (of the National Informatics Centre) and GPSS (Gateway Packet Switching System) of VSNI. Another major demand of the VSAT operators was the connectivity to the public switched telephone network (PSTN) of the DOT which has not been considered at all. DOT officials have indicated that the PSTN connectivity will be subject to the clear guidelines on the Telecom Policy. While operators wanted a total removal of any cap on the rental for VSAT terminals, the ceiling has been increased from the earlier figure of Rs 1.75 lakh per VSAT to Rs 3.5 lakh.

Representatives from the CSAT operators have indicated that the present conditions, though a change from the earlier, are still unattractive to them. Indicators are that they will sign the license agreement only when DOT resolves all the conditions.

The tender for HVNET has been awarded to HNS almost two years after it was floated. Since DOT floated a global tender for the acquisition of these VSATS, the issue has always been dogged with controversy on account of objections raised by some of the private tender participants. The equipment to be supplied to the DOT forms part of the \$4 million financing package approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which is financing the whole project for the Department of Telecommunications.

— *Computers Today*, August 1994

National Symposium on GIS Technology

Geographical Information System (GIS) is powerful information technology currently available for planning and decision making processes for land and water resources management. In India there has been a widespread awareness about GIS capabilities and applications, but research regarding the applications of GIS in Indian universities and institutes is in an infant stage.

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The Department of Geography of the University of Madras and Dept. of Geography of Waterloo university, Canada have developed a linkage programme sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The International Symposium organised by these two in the Department of Geography with the aid of CIDA aims to sharpen our focus on applications of GIS in resources management and issues associated with handling the data for computer mapping and resource analysis.

To facilitate participation and interaction among a very large cross section of the user community, the symposium will deliberate on the following sub themes:

Survey and Information Technology, Hardware and Software Components of GIS, Data Base and Resource Management, GIS for Resource Development, GIS for Sustainable Development, GIS and Environmental Management, GIS and Regional Planning, GIS and Computer Cartography, Remote Sensing as a Data Input for GIS, Status of GIS in Developed and Developing Countries, Automated Mapping and Facilities Management,

Venue—Department of Geography, University of Madras, Chepauk, Madras 600 005, India.

Date—February 22, 23 and 24, 1995.

IMPACT

CSIR has developed a software package called Integrated Management and Project Accounting (IMPACT) for computerized financial accounting of S&T projects, which has been introduced in all the CSIR labs from this year. Introduction of IMPACT is an important milestone in the modernization of office management in CSIR.

— CSIR News, Vol. 44, No. 20

Quality Management in Library Services

Encouraged with the success of the first of its kind training programme, in the country, on "Total Quality Management in Library Services", Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow conducted it once again during Sept. 26-28, 1994, for senior level Library and Information Managers. Nineteen Participants representing the libraries of national/international level organizations, including the World Bank; American Centre; IISc.; JNU; NIFT; IDBI; etc participated in the programme.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. M.S. Sodha, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lucknow at the Indian Institute of Management Lucknow. In his inaugural address,



**Total Quality Management in Library Services:
Participants in IIML Programme**

Prof. Sodha exhorted the library and information managers to be responsive to the ever-changing and complex information needs of their users. He also emphasized the need to absorb technological aids and facilities such as computers, computer-networks, E-mail, fax, etc. which may seem expensive to begin with but will prove cost-effective in the long run.

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

- (i) gauge the requirements of their clients, i.e. the library users more accurately and precisely;
- (ii) cater to the exact needs of such users; and
- (iii) remain cost effective in every area of operation by doing things right the first time, everytime, all the time.

The training package developed by Prof. D. Chakraborty and Mr. Roshan Raina, Programme Directors was designed around the following themes:

- (i) Developing total quality management (TQM) as a strategic focus to effect continuous improvement in various activities and services of a modern library and information centre (LIC) encompassing acquisition, organisation and dissemination of information;
- (ii) Understanding the TQM process;
- (iii) Barriers to continuous improvement in the context of library and information services (LIS); and
- (iv) Making continuous improvement a way of life for everyone involved in LIS in any organization.

The technical sessions organised on the following topics:

(i) Conceptual Framework of TQM; (ii) TQM in Library Context; (iii) Assessment of User Needs; (iv) Designing the Services Delivery Process; (v) Empowerment of People; and (vi) ISO 9000. Sessions on (a) experience sharing, (b) interaction with IIML Library staff and (c) video films (on TQM and ISO-9000) were the other components of the programme.

The programme concluded with a valedictory session on 13 Sept. 1994, which was chaired by Dr. J.L. Batra, Director of IIML, who also distributed the certificates among the participants. Participants provided the feedback on the programme with the help of a structured questionnaire for the purpose as well as through a report presented in the valedictory session. Going by the feedback, the programme seemed to have achieved its objectives very well. Roshan Raiha, Librarian Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow 226 013.

Sixth National CDS/ISIS Users Group Meet

In order to assess the utility of UNESCO CDS/ISIS package and to facilitate exchange of notes, National Information System for Science & Technology (NISSAT) jointly with Bioinformatics Centre, School of Biotechnology, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai is organising the 6th National CDS/ISIS Users Group Meet during January 10-13, 1995 in the Bioinformatics Centre, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai. The Meet is also expected to provide a forum for discussing the problems faced by the users on the implementation of the package.

Objectives—To assess in status of use of CDS/ISIS package in India; To provide solutions to technical problems encountered by the users; To facilitate exchange of experiences and diversified applications of CDS/ISIS package; To get recommendations for further improvement/development of the package.

Programme Content

Paper presentation-cum-demonstration of CDS/ISIS applications; Pascal interface: programs developed and tutorials; Discussions on the problems in using the package; Networking, online access; Data protection techniques; Preparation of recommendations for further improvement of the package.

Caliber-95

The second national Convention CALIBER 95 to be held at the university of Hyderabad will focus on issues pertaining to information access through networks. The first convention (CALIBER 94) held in Ahmedabad during February 19-20, 1994 related to various infrastructural facilities for library

automation and information retrieval in institutions of higher learning.

CALIBER-95 will span three days February, 10-12. The theme of the Conventional has been structured into five sub-themes:

1. Information Users—Needs, Expectations and Seeking Behaviour
2. Information Sources and Systems
 - Developments in fruit-on-Paper
 - Optical media
 - Multimedia sources
3. Information Facilities through Networks
 - Library automation
 - Information retrieval
 - Document delivery
 - Telecommunication developments
 - Networks in operation
4. *Current Trends and Information Prospects in IT.*
 - Projection of developments in storage media
 - Interfacing devices including human interface
 - Virtual library and other aspects
5. Strategies for Adopting New IT on Effectively Attracting Information Users.

Call for Papers — Persons interested in presenting papers at the convention should send full text papers on any of the sub-themes mentioned above to the Organizing Secretary at Hyderabad latest by 15 December, 1994.

The delegate registration fee is Rs 250. Payment is to be made by D/D in favour of Secretary caliber-95 Payable at Hyderabad by 31 Dec. 1994.

Protection with Screen Guard

Computer screens and television screens emit a considerable quantity of static electricity. It is generated by the cathode-ray tube that creates the image and which operates at high-tension (20,000 volts for a standard computer and 30,000 volts for a TV screen).

This electrostatic field produces an important migration of the particles present in the environment (dust, nicotine). The negatively charged particles are attracted to the screen, which becomes dusty and the positively charged particles migrate towards the user who receives some 10,000 particles per square millimetre of skin every hour. 23

A whole range of screen filters is available in the market; from anti-glare screens to filters integrated into the screen.

Screen Guard offers complete screen protection. The principle of Screen Guard is to create a 'Faraday Cage' by applying a liquid conductor on the screen and the case. This helps in eliminating the electrostatic field by leading it to earth. For computers, an aluminium band is placed on the keyboard which allows the user to discharge static electricity from the body. Screen Guard also eliminates the glare from the surface of the VDU screen.

— *Computers Today*, August 1994

Internet Usage Spirals

The Internet Society announced significant increases in host computers reachable over the world's largest network in the latest quarter ended July 1994.

The current measurement—sometimes referred to as the 'Internet Walk'—shows 3.2 million reachable machines. This is an increase of 81 percent over the past year, and represents an even steeper than normal increase over the past six months. The Society said 1 million new hosts were added during the first six months of 1994 alone. Much of the increased growth is attributable to growth outside the USA, in more than 80 countries. The total number of hosts in the USA is now 2.04 million; India has 316 and China, 325.

The figures were released as part of the Internet Domain Survey done by Network Wizards. The survey attempts to discover every host on the Internet by doing a complete search of the Domain Name System. The figures, gathered during late-July 1994, reveal a total of 3,212,000 hosts and 48,000 domains. In July 1993 these figures were 1,776,000 and 26,000 respectively.

The Internet Society is the international organisation for the Internet, its technologies and applications.

— *Express Computer*, 12 September, 1994

One Stop Centre for Industry Info

A centre for information dissemination has been set up by CMC Ltd., Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) and Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation (DSIDC). Called the Centre for Industry Information, it will provide information through online access to databases from agencies like the European Space

24 Agency—Information Retrieval Services.

The information stored will mainly be reference material, factual data as well as full text on more than 50 million records. It will form a source of information for fields like

business, politics, banking and even market intelligence reports. Value-added information on business includes technology trends, export markets technology sourcing, joint ventures feasibility and detailed projects studies.

The centre also provides access to all the TIFAC lines and ESA-IRS databases. TIFAC databases comprise of information on composite technologies, food technology and energy. The ESA-IRS covers health and safety.

Subscribers to databases on Tifacine would have to pay Rs 1,000 and those to international databases would be charged VSNL'S fee plus 15 per cent service charges besides Rs 10,000 as initial deposit.

— *Computers Today*, June 1994

New CD-ROM Disc

IBM researchers have announced a new optical disc that can store much more data than the available. CD-ROM data disc. Presently available discs can store about 0.6 GB. IBM scientists have designed a unit containing several semi-transparent layers each one holding the same amount of an existing single disc. But the whole stack with its enhanced capacity can be read by a single laser optical system and having same access time reports *Journal of Scientific & Industrial Research* Sept. 1994.

The present CD-ROM disc—a plastic one revolves beneath a laser, lens system and a photodetector. Tiny pits stamped onto the surface of the disc at the time of manufacturing, reflect the light differently than the unmarked areas. The photodetector registers this pattern.

The new system is made up of a number of layers, each one semitransparent, so that the device's laser can shine through them to focus on any layer in the stack. The same motor used in the present CD-ROM drives to compensate for warping is used to move the lens up and down and is enough to focus and read the desired layer in the stack.

IBM first tested a CD-ROM drive that reads a two layer disc followed by 4-and 6-layer discs. It has tried 2-and 4-layer "write once" discs also. For achieving higher layers, the real problem lies in developing materials that would reflect enough light from the pits to be read, yet still be transparent enough for the laser to shine through to additional layers. The multilayered discs designed now do not have an aluminium coating that is present in the existing discs.

IBM researchers would like to keep the upward compatibility in that the new multilayered CD-ROM disc drive should be able to read the present single layer discs.

The new disc drives are expected to be available within a year or two. The impact of the new discs may be felt more pronounced on multimedia application where the existing capacities are not enough to store a feature film in a high quality digital video and audio systems.

Display Option on Fax Machine

Currently available fax machines print the documents automatically whether the user need a hard copy or not. Thus direct mail faxes and mischievous 'junk faxes' pose a serious problem. In order to solve this problem, researchers at the Customer Equipment Department of National Telephone & Telegraphic Co. (NTT), Japan, have developed a "display facsimile" that can more received documents in memory and prime them after users view them on a LCD display. This equipment has a touch-sensitive panel that makes it easy to operate.

NTT has developed the equipment using an extended thin line preservation method for binary image reduction/ conversion to avoid the clipping of the image. The operator can easily change the reduction ratios to select the range of the image on the LCD, the user can print in reduced size also. It can rotate the fax image in 90, 180 and 270 degree to correct for documents sent upside down or side-ways. Horizontal and vertical scrolling is also provided.

The researchers have developed an image processing LSI, the Document Image Controller (DIC) to perform this process at high speed. If this function is carried out by software, it takes about 10 seconds whereas DIC takes less than a second.

It is possible to store 25 of standard A4-size pages (at a resolution of 3.851/mm) or about 2 pages of photographs. It has also 512KB of DRAM for working memory.

The user can easily set up various functions by following the guidance on the display. The user can print four A4-size pages on one A4-size page after reducing the original size to half, and thus can save paper. He can view the received documents on the LCD display and can print only those marked by him. Also 100 telephone numbers can be entered into the machine, and they can be searched by name, the call number. Another option provided is that the user can transport a received document stored in memory to other fax machines. With conventional fax machines, it is necessary to scan the printed sheets again, but in the new machine, it is possible to transmit the document from memory which avoids the clipping of fading.

— *Journal of Scientific & Industrial Research*, September 1994

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CISMOD '94

An International Conference on Information Systems and Management of Data-1994 would be held on 27-28 October, 1994 at the Trident, Madras. One day pre-conference tutorials would be held on 36 October, 1994. The Conference is being organised by INSDOC, New Delhi, MALIBNET (Madras Library Network) and Delhi Institute of Technology. The Conference is being co-sponsored by the Hindu, Madras.

The main objectives of the conference are: To bring into focus emerging trends in the area of information systems and data management; to provide a forum for presenting original and innovative work in this field; and to bring together the professionals in this field to share experiences, expertise and chart future direction.

The papers presented during the conference will cover the following topics:

Data security and protection. Databases in supercomputers; Deductive databases; Design tools; Distributed and federated databases; Historical and temporal databases; Hypertext; Multimedia databases; Object oriented databases; Office information systems; Special databases; Statistical databases; Uncertainty handling; Knowledge bases; CASE; Reuse; Process modelling; Meta-CASE; Method engineering; User Interface design and Requirements engineering.

Registration Fees:	Rs.	US\$
Conference	1600	200
Per Tutorial	800	100
50% concession for students		

For further details, please contact:

The Secretary, Organising Committee-CISMOD-94, INSDOC Regional Centre, CSIR Madras Complex, Taramani, Madras-600 113.

MLAI-94

The next annual convention of the Medical Library Association of India (MLAI-94) will be held at Bangalore in the third week of December 1994. The following two themes have been chosen for discussion: 1. Performance Standards for Medical Libraries and Information Centres in India 2. Medical Libraries and Information Centres in India by 2001 A.D.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. R.P. Kumar, Secretary, MLAI, K-43, Kailash Colony,
New Delhi-110 048.

ICSSR Data Archives

The Data Archives of ICSSR has been actively engaged in a number of programmes namely acquisition, organisation and dissemination of data among interested scholars, compilation of the National Register of Social Scientists and extending guidance and consultancy services in data processing to researchers.

The Data Archives, is building a repository of machine-readable numerical data sets generated through the ICSSR funded projects with a view to facilitating secondary analysis of data by interested scholars. The potential data sets for the repository are identified on the basis of detailed information collected through a proforma. The data is acquired after scrutinizing the related documentation like, research tools used for data collection, sampling design and matching codebooks. During this quarter 12 Project Directors who had completed their studies, were approached for this purpose. Simultaneously negotiations are going on with 40 Project Directors for acquisition of data sets.

The compilation and development of Data Base on Indian Industries, jointly funded by ICSSR, Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) and Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has been completed. In all, forty industries, have been covered. Information on various aspects of these industries covering the period 1970-1985 is available in this data base. Interested scholars may write to the Executive Director, Data Archives, ICSSR.

The Data Archives is engaged in compilation and updating of the National Register of Social Scientists in India since 1987. The heads of all the social science departments of Indian universities and the research institutes have been contacted to request scholars associated with these institutes to supply the required information for the National Registrar. During the period under review, the Data Archives continued to contact scholars for the supply of desired information for the National Register and to process and computerize the received information.

Scholars engaged in research and or teaching in the disciplines of Anthropology, Commerce, Communication, Demography, Economics, Education, Geography, History, International Relations, Law, Linguistics, Management, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, Social Work and Philosophy are proposed to be covered in the

Register. While every effort is being made to approach scholars individually or through their affiliating institution, those who have not been contacted so far may write for a copy of the proforma for supply of the required information to the Executive Director, Data Archives, ICSSR, 35 Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi-110 001.

ICSSR Research Grants Information Systems

The Data Archives of ICSSR is developing a computerized information system for monitoring of various researches funded by the ICSSR. Inputs for the development of Research Grants Information System (RGIS) are being extracted from the respective records maintained on each research grant on a continuing basis and the data base is getting updated. The software for this information system has been developed. The System allows the generation of various reports and selective access of information needed for monitoring from time to time by the ICSSR.

Greater Emphasis on Software R&D

With software becoming a major component of technology development in recent times, S.Z. Qasim, member, science and technology, Planning Commission has urged for national research and development (R&D) programmes and mechanisms established for technology transfer to the industry to lay sufficient emphasis on this aspect. He was delivering his inaugural address at the 'Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on R&D Community-Enterprise Cooperation in Technological Research and Commercialisation/Applications of Results'.

The four-day workshop was organised by the Asia-Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), a wing of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (Escap) of the United Nations. The aim of the workshop was to find means to foster greater cooperation between R&D institutions and the industrial sector. An important element of the workshop was a discussion of case studies and country experiences. Among other things, the workshop addressed the question of how developing countries can build an economy of sustainable development through technological advancement.

In his welcome address, Jurgen Bischoff, director of the APCTT, said developing countries are fast losing the comparative advantages of cheap labour and abundant natural resources. The developing countries, therefore, need to increase their capabilities in generation, absorption and utilisation of technologies to narrow the gap with developed countries.

CSI to Draft Infotech Policy

The Computer Society of India (CSI) has constituted a committee for drafting a national information technology policy under former Department of Electronics secretary and chairman of CMC Ltd., P. P. Gupta, who is presently director of Centre for Science Policy at JNU. According to CSI president M.L. Goyal, "Constitution of this committee was an attempt to provide the guidelines for the Government and the IT industry on the future of IT which was so vital for improving the competitiveness of the economy and its growth in the liberalised environment. The other members of the committee include veteran computer professionals like R.S. Pawar, Harish Mehta and Sridhar Mitta.

UNESCO Directory

Under contract from UNESCO, NASSODOC has agreed to

collect data from India for the following four UNESCO directories.

1. Social Science Research and Training Institutions.
2. Peace Research and Training Institutions.
3. Human Rights Research and Training Institutions.
4. Research and Training Institutions in International law.

Dr A. Lahiri

At the Xth session of the Inter-Governmental Council of the General Information Programme UNESCO held in Paris during 28-30 Nov. 1994, India's Dr Abhijit Lahiri (Joint Advisor NISSAT) was elected Vice-Chairman and a Member of the Bureau.

UNIDOLINKS

UNIDOLINKS is the new publication which replaces *UNIDO Newsletter*.

The move responds to a readership survey for the *UNIDO Newsletter* last year, *UNIDOLinks* therefore concentrates on five main areas of readers' interest: expertise and other resources sought by governments, manufacturers and industrial organisations in developing countries, resources specifically available to them from sources around the world, recent publications and information products from UNIDO, forthcoming UNIDO events and other events of interest in the context of industrial development.

UNIDOLinks aims to be a practical conduit for industrial cooperation between public and private sector entities in developing and developed countries. Reports of UNIDO's programmes and activities on behalf of industrial development in developing countries, which used to appear in the *UNIDO Newsletter*, will in future be carried by a sister publication, currently under development.

The October issue of *UNIDOLinks* is the last is being sent to all previous *UNIDO Newsletter* recipients.

A new questionnaire is to be submitted to UNIDO to enable the organisation to draw up a new mailing list for UNIDOLINKS while considering among other things its financial constraints.

SENIOR INFORMATION SCIENTIST

required by

Thapar Corporate Research & Development Centre (TCRDC), Patiala.

TCRDC

Registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860 and supported by the Thapar Industrial House, TCRDC is a Research Centre recognised by the Department of Science and Technology. Established at a cost of Rs. 20 Crores, ten years ago, the centre undertakes basic and applied research in the fields of Biotechnology, Chemical Engineering, Energy Systems, Mechanics & Computers, and Materials Science. It is located in a picturesque 250-acres Thapar Technology Campus on the outskirts of Patiala city.

The Job

To provide a total information Service to the research staff of TCRDC and the senior staff of Thapar Group Companies. The incumbent will lead a team of young and bright information scientists/assistants and head the Centre's Department of Library & Information Services, which provides : 1) Library facilities 2) Information Services and 3) Publication and public relations services. The focus is on providing on-the-desk current awareness and selective dissemination of information (SDI) services, retrospective searches, and provide the necessary documentary back-up from internal and external sources. Active participation and sharing in Centre's general concerns and promotional activities is also required.

The Incumbent

For this senior position, the candidate should preferably have:

- 1) **A post-graduate degree in science or a graduate degree in engineering**
- 2) **A graduate/post-graduate qualification in library and/or Information Science**
- 3) **At least 10 years experience in a senior position in an Industrial house or a Research & Development Institution**
- 4) **Good communication skills and ability to interact with senior research, technical and management personnel.**

A hands-on experience of using international data bases and computerization of library & information operations is desirable.

Pay Package

The successful candidate will be offered an attractive starting salary in an appropriate grade, commensurate with the qualifications & experience. The perks include as per TCRDC's rules:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| * Free furnished accommodation on the campus | * CPF |
| * Medical benefits and hospitalization | * Superannuation |
| * Vehicle purchase scheme | * Group insurance |
| * Conveyance allowance | * Gratuity |
| * Leave travel assistance | |

Interested candidates aspiring for senior position and possessing leadership qualities may send their biodata with names of three referees to the **Director, Thapar Corporate R&D Centre, Post box 68, Patiala-147001** within one month.



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