

Unit – 4: NISCAIR

BY

Anil B. Talawar

- Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC), a constituent laboratory of CSIR, was established in 1952, as a national centre for supplying information in all fields of science and technology to any user in India or abroad.

It was established with the support of UNESCO and had the following objectives:

- To receive and retain all the scientific periodicals which may be of use of the country.
- To answer specific queries of users from the information available in the country and elsewhere.
- To inform scientists, technologist and engineers of articles which may be of value to them by issuing a monthly bulletin of abstracts?
- To supply photocopies of scientific articles required by scientists.

- To supply translations of scientific material available in various foreign languages to individual scientists.
- To act as a repository for, both published and unpublished, reports of the scientific work of the nation.
- To be a channel through which the scientific work of the nation is made known and available to the rest of the world.

- Over the past six decades, the activities of the centre have been reoriented and updated to meet the information requirements of the user community.
 - The availability of modern technologies especially the computer technology and telecommunication technology have also enabled the centre to make available required information to the users in a timely and efficient manner.
- INSDOC has, since September 2002, been merged with National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM), another CSIR Laboratory and is presently named as National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR).

- The main objective of the NISCAIR, formed by merger of INSDOC and NISCOM, is dissemination of scientific and technical information through various information products and services made available by the institution.

Activities of NISCAIR

- Publication of 17 primary and 2 secondary scientific / research journals
- Publication of CSIR news and CSIR samachar
- Raw Material Herbarium and Museum
- Popular Science Magazines
- Popular Science Books
- Information Services
- Developing and Maintaining Specialized Databases
- Electronic publishing
- Human Resource Development
- Information Services
- Sales and Marketing
- Consultancy Services

- Besides the primary journals, NISCAIR also publishes two abstracting journals, they are:
- Medical and Aromatic Plants Abstracts (bi-monthly)
- Indian Science Abstracts (fortnightly)

CSIR News and CSIR Samachar

- NISCAIR publishes CSIR News (in English) fortnightly and CSIR Samachar (in Hindi) monthly, both of which serve as an effective link between various CSIR Laboratories.

Wealth of India (WOI)

- WOI is an encyclopedia of Indian natural raw materials. Bharat ki Sampada, the Hindi version of Wealth of India is also available.

Raw Material Herbarium and Museum

- Raw Material Herbarium and Museum provides consultancy services on identification of plants and crude drugs of plant origin.
- Photo library service is also provided to users where photographs / illustrations are reproduced from a collection of over 3000 photographs / illustrations.

- **Popular Science Publications**
- NISCAIR publishes popular science magazines in three languages covering the latest scientific developments for all kind of users especially for users requiring popular kind of scientific information.
- These are Science Reporter (English) and Vigyan Pragati (Hindi) published monthly and Science Ki Duniya (Urdu), a quarterly publication.

Information Services

- NISCAIR offers a number of information services, some of these have been continuing since the inception of the erstwhile INSDOC.
- Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Information Services (MAPIS) based on the Wealth of India and MAPA databases.
- Content Abstract and Photocopy Service, is a highly personalized service. This service provides contents information from journals on a regular basis.

- Literature Search Service is offered by providing access to over 6000 international databases.
- NISCAIR is the National Centre for ISSN International Centre for assigning ISSN number to serials published in India.
- NISCAIR provides S & T translation services from major foreign languages such as Japanese, German, French, Spanish, Chinese and Russian into English.
- Bibliometrics Services: NISCAIR renders Bibliometrics services on specialized subjects for studying the growth, development and spread of any area of research.

- **Electronic Publishing**
- NISCAIR publishes digitized versions of some of its major publications that include Indian Science Abstracts, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Abstracts, the Wealth of India, Raw Materials Series.

- **Human Resource Development**
- Development of human resources in library, documentation and information science has been a major activity of erstwhile INSDOC since 1964.
- Besides Associateship in Information Science, the two year full time academic course in information science, NISCAIR offers several short term training courses in computer application to library and information activities, attachment training programmes and even onsite training on request.

National Science Library (NSL)

- National Science Library was established in 1964. It aims to acquire all important Science and Technology publications published in the country and strengthening its resource base for foreign periodicals by acquiring the journals on CD-ROM or other electronic form.
- NSL has a rich collection of over 1,90,000 books including reference books, reports and standards.

- It also subscribe to almost all worthwhile Indian S & T periodical publications and receives over 5,100 Indian and foreign periodicals. Of these, nearly 3,500 periodicals are in electronic form including 1,133 full text journals.
- Membership of NSL is open to individuals, institutions and it offers various services that include Reader's Services, Technical Query Service, Copying Service and Inter-Library Loan Service.

Consultancy Services

NISCAIR offers consultancy services in several areas:

- Modernization, reorganization and automation of library and information organizations.
- Design and development of specialized databases for various organizations.
- Editing, designing, production and printing of publications.