

HEADS OF DRDO LIBRARIES MEET

The fourth meeting of the Heads of Libraries/TICs of the DRDO was held at DESIDOC, Metcalfe House, Delhi on 29 and 30 Oct, 1984. Shri Vivek R Sinha, Chief Controller Research & Development, inaugurated the meeting. The technical sessions of the meeting were presided over by Shri SS Murthy, Director DESIDOC. Thirty-six participants representing 28 Labs/Estts. of DRDO attended the meeting.

Inaugural Session

Inaugurating the meet, Shri Vivek R Sinha CCR&D emphasised the role of information in R&D project activities and decision making. He said that all R&D activities start from libraries or information centres and depend heavily on information support for their success. The libraries and TICs, therefore, should be well equipped to function effectively.

Shri Sinha mentioned that in the present information age, information is treated as a resource. Therefore, information processing, management and its transfer to designated persons has assumed greater importance. DRDO should not lag behind in this regard. Shri Sinha was happy to note that significant progress made in the computerisation of information at DESIDOC and IAT and also the training programmes conducted by DESIDOC would help in improving the efficiency of the libraries/TICs.

Shri SS Murthy in his welcome address thanked Shri Vivek R Sinha for sparing his valuable time to be with the delegates and to inaugurate the meeting. Shri Murthy traced the background of the meeting and stressed the need for holding such meetings periodically. He stated that these meetings helped the Heads of Libraries/TICs of DRDO Labs/Estts in sorting out some problems, suggesting procedures and in finding means of improving the library/information services. The earlier meetings were helpful in identifying problems relating to classifi-



Meeting of the heads of DRDO Libraries in progress

cation, cataloguing, procurement of publications, and in streamlining some of the administrative procedures. Shri Murthy mentioned some of the solutions achieved in the areas such as purchase of books from LP grant and writing off losses. This was possible because concerted efforts were made in following up the recommendations made in the earlier meetings and in obtaining approval of the R&D HQrs. He outlined the work done by DESIDOC in computerisation of information, development of software, and holding of training courses in various branches of information science. He also touched upon the computerisation activities at IAT and some other Labs/Estts. He informed that a project for on-line searching of data bases has been sanctioned and DESIDOC would shortly be in a position to search foreign data-bases and provide world-wide information to users. He sought the co-operation of DRDO Libraries/TICs for implementation of the information network of DRDO (called the DRDO-IRS).

Technical Sessions

The first technical session was devoted to the progress made on the recommendations of the previous meeting. Shri SS Murthy read out the recommendations and explained the position on the progress.

The second technical session dealt with the staffing norms for Libraries/TICs in DRDO Labs/Estts. The discussion was based on a paper on this subject, prepared by Shri GJ Narayana and others of IAT as per the recommendations of the previous meeting in 1981. Shri VK Rangra, Scientist D gave a presentation on the subject, covering the comments received from the Libraries/TICs on the paper.

In the discussion, the staff required for a standard Library Unit and a standard Reprographic Unit was finalised. The formulae to calculate manpower for indexing, abstracting, computer input and translation; formula to convert work into manpower and minimum manpower for a new library were also accepted.

The third technical session discussed the suggestions from the participants for improving the library and information services and for better coordination among the Libraries/TICs of DRDO.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Information on the following topics was collected from the literature available in Defence Science Library and supplied to the indentors on request:

- * Science policy in India
- * Tank armament
- * Electronics—surveying—use
- * Aircraft training
- * Cost effectiveness in aircraft/missiles
- * Radar absorbing materials
- * Fiber-optics
- * Optical communications
- * Microprocessors
- * Parachutes
- * NBC protection
- * Mine countermeasures
- * Fractography

A new current awareness service, 'Defence R&D Alerts', has been started since October 1984. It is brought out in different series, each covering a specific subject area of Defence interest. About 110 items of information have been disseminated during Nov-Dec 1984.

In addition, about 350 items of information were also collected from daily newspapers on relevant topics and brought to the notice of top management of DRDO.

SEMINAR/WORKSHOP ATTENDED

Shri SS Murthy, Director, DESIDOC attended the XI IASLIC National Seminar from 26 to 29 Nov 1984 at Hyderabad. Shri SN Singh, JSA also attended the seminar.

S/Shri A Chakraborty, Sci C and R Sudarsan, Sci B attended the 'National Workshop in French Translation under the auspices of Indian Scientific & Technical Translation Association from 3 to 7 Dec 1984. It was held at Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi.

Papers Published

The following papers were presented at Eleventh National Seminar of IASLIC held at Osmania University, Hyderabad from 26—29 Nov 1984 and published in IASLIC Special Publication No 24.

o Mehta, SN

Translation needs of Indian scientists for Serbo-croatian scientific and technical documents.

o Chakraborty, A and Saxena, SC

DESIDOC Translation Bank and its services.

o Singh, SN and Dua, RK

Ethical responsibilities of special librarians/information scientists with special reference to R&D libraries/information centres in India.

LECTURE DELIVERED

Shri Anil Kumar Sharma, SSA delivered a lecture on Word Processors and their Application in Library' to the officers and staff of DESIDOC on 17 Nov 1984.

LIBRARY SERVICES

One hundred books and 498 reports including Defence standards were acquired, accessioned and brought to the notice of the users by Library. The subjects covered were: Chemical Industries, Computer Science, Education, Electrical Engineering, Electronics, Lasers, Library & Information Science, Material Science, Military Science and Polymer Science.

Over 950 books, periodical and reports were issued on loan. Besides interlibrary loan, reference and other library services, xeroxing facility was also provided to the users. About 11,000 xerox copies were supplied to DRDO and other Labs/Estt.