

MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

This column presents the activities, services and achievements of DESIDOC. Beginning from January 1990, this is the eighth article in the series. Each issue highlights the achievements in a particular area. The last seven issues have covered an overview of DESIDOC, its publication, information processing and dissemination, translation, library, reprographic, and polygraphic activities.

The R&D and other S&T departments in general require information specialists who are abreast of current information technologies for providing adequate information support. The need for such information support is all the more important for DRDO where the technological expertise expected is very high. DESIDOC conducts training and user-education programmes on various important aspects of information science and technology. These programmes are designed to provide adequate knowledge and skill to the officers and staff working in the libraries/technical information centres of DRDO labs/esstts.

The training programmes are practical-oriented and more stress is given on assignments. These events are of short duration (one to two weeks) and are restricted to the scientific and technical personnel of DRDO and other organizations/agencies of the Ministry of Defence, including Defence public sector undertakings. The type of personnel invited for participation in such training programmes are: (a) those who do not possess any professional qualifications/training in the field of information science; (b) those who have the professional qualifications but need



exposure to current developments; (c) those engaged in new areas such as computerization, video-technology, phototypesetter-based printing, and others where jobs demanded such training.

Training Programmes Identified

The training programmes conducted by DESIDOC can be broadly categorized under the following heads:

Technical Communication

The Centre's courses on technical communication aim to equip the scientists with the art of effective presentation of

technical ideas and dissemination of scientific information in a clear and concise manner.

Application of Computer to Library and Information Work



Dr SS Murthy speaking at the inaugural session of the training programme.

The courses on application of computer to library and information work expose participants to the important applications of computers in information and library work. The courses cover some fundamentals on software and hardware, user profiles, preparation of input sheets, data entry, database searching, DRDO-IRS, CDS/ISIS, etc.

Reprography and Scientific Photography

The courses on reprography and scientific photography give emphasis on the current techniques and methodologies of reprography and photography. The course is practical-oriented, and a lot of emphasis is laid on 'learning by practice.'

Training Programmes Organized

DESIDOC has organized more than 30 courses till date; some of the courses have been repeated as and when required. The topics covered under these programmes include: indexing (5); Universal Decimal Classification (3); effective technical writing (3); information processing and management (1); reprography and scientific photography (4); visual presentation

through slides (1); input preparation for computerized information system (3); application of computer to library and information work (4); use of microprocessors/microcomputers for information processing (2); mini-micro CDS/ISIS software package (2); and information technology (1). The courses were held at Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Cochin, and Pune.

Workshop on Information Technology

The last in the series of the programmes listed above is the one-month workshop on information technology conducted by DESIDOC in July 1990. The workshop was aimed at creating awareness and imparting training in the adoption of various aspects of information technology to improve the overall quality of information services in DRDO. Seventeen participants, including three from the Indian Air Force attended the workshop. The workshop was divided into four modules:

- * *Introduction to use of Computer:* computer hardware, software, operating system, DOS and WordStar;
- * *Input Preparation:* indexing languages and techniques, use of thesaurus, AACR-II, and CCF;
- * *Information Processing:* application of computers to library and information activities, software packages including dBASE 3, CDS/ISIS ver 2.3, DELMS (a software developed by DESIDOC), database creation, and online searching of database; and
- * *Information Transfer:* information networks, electronic mail, expert systems, CD-ROM technology, desktop publishing, and FAX.

Participation in Training Programmes Conducted by Outside Agencies

DESIDOC staff is also deputed for long-term courses in information science such as one-year Associateship Course in Information Science of the Indian National

Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC), New Delhi and of the Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC), Bangalore, and also for short-term courses at the institutions where facilities are easily available and the requirement is of urgent nature.

Professional Lectures

There exists a regular programme of in-house lectures by DESIDOC staff on current topics related to scientific information. This activity not only exposes the DESIDOC staff to the state-of-the-art technologies, but also helps in inculcating the habit of reading and communicating such information. Special lectures by eminent personalities are also organized in the field of library and information science on topics of interest to DESIDOC for the benefit of its staff.

Seminars and Conferences

DESIDOC has been actively participating in the national seminars/conferences organized by professional bodies, such as Indian Association of Scientific Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC), Indian Library Association (ILA), Association of Govt Librarians and Information Specialists (AGLIS), INSDOC, Society for Information Science (SIS), and DRTC. Besides providing exposure on current status in the areas of interest to DESIDOC through participation in such events, the Centre has also been involving its staff in the organization of such events at both national and international levels. DESIDOC has so far organized the following conferences/seminars:

- *Seminar on Scientific Information, New Delhi (4-6 Dec 1969)*. The topics discussed in the Seminar include: SDI, information theory, technical writing and editing, popular science writing, translation of scientific literature, and reprographic services.

- *National Conference on Scientific Information for Defence, New Delhi (25-26*

Feb 1986). About 60 papers were presented in six technical sessions, namely, (i) information requirements of Defence services; (ii) information requirements of Defence scientists; (iii) information generation, acquisition, processing and dissemination; (iv) information technologies; (v) information communication barriers; and (vi) information network for Defence. The Conference recommended that there was need for creating a national science information system for Defence.

- *Seminar on Defence Science Information Network, Delhi (17-18 Feb 1987)*. Thirty-six papers were presented in four technical sessions, namely, (i) network configuration and structure and aspects of policy management; (ii) system design and analysis, computer configuration, software development; (iii) resource sharing, distributed data processing, links with national and international networks; and (iv) manpower development. The Seminar recommended the implementation of Defence science information network (DESINET).

- *International Conference on Bibliographic Databases and Networks, New Delhi (22-25 Feb 1989)*. Shri K C Pant, the then Defence Minister, inaugurated the Conference in which about 330 delegates including about 30 foreign experts participated. Only invited papers from the Indian and foreign specialists having expertise in planning, design, implementation and/or operation of databases and networks were presented in four technical sessions, namely, planning and development of databases, operation of databases, planning and development of networks, and operation of networks. Strengthening of information services; greater efforts and emphasis on marketing of information services; development of information networks; continuous improvements in back-up services, and efforts to facilitate greater and free flow of information from the advanced countries were some of the recommendations of the Conference.

Technical Advice & Consultancy

DESIDOC expertise is being used through consultancy work by other government departments and other organizations. A couple of consultancy projects have been undertaken by DESIDOC. Many of its staff members are on the expert committees of

national organizations, such as Bureau of Indian Standards, Department of Science & Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, and so on. DESIDOC is represented in most of the information projects of national level in the country in an advisory capacity.

“A library is more important than a university because a library can function without a university whereas a university cannot do without a library.”

-Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma

“We can never be sure that the opinion we are endeavouring to stifle is a false opinion; and even if we were sure, stifling it would be an evil.”

-John Stuart Mill

“A little sincerity is a dangerous thing, and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal.”

-Oscar Wilde
