DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Tehnology: Success Story with Content Coverage During 2000-2004

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Abstract

Publishers reflect a high-level commitment to their readers by providing high quality scientific, technical, social, and educational content to billions of readers all over the world and in a way bring them together. They provide effortless access to that content, continuously improving their service levels, and enable worldwide distribution for contributors. The *DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology* (DBIT) is a bi-monthly Indian bulletin that endeavours to bring recent developments in information technology, as applicable to library and information centres, to the notice of librarians, documentation and information professionals, students and others interested in the field. It is being published by Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre (DESIDOC) since 1980. A small study has been carried out regarding its content during last five years i.e., 2000-2004. Observations and findings are presented in this paper. It is found that it is very useful for long-life literacy and professional education. It acts as a forum for innovative ideas and as a place for exchange of best practices. The process of publishing, use of journals and their publishing are also discussed in brief.

1. INTRODUCTION

In previous paper Ms Usha P. Tigga, Ms Shalini R. Lihitkar, and Ms D. Rajyalakshmi have done the content analysis of DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology (DBIT) for 1998-2002, and it was felt that in continuation of that study, as members of the editorial team, we should also analyse the contents of DBIT further for remaining period i.e., 2000-2004 and share our experiences as a mark of celebration of the 25th year of publishing of DBIT.

The DBIT was started in 1980 by DESIDOC as a four page newsletter under the title DESIDOC Bulletin which mainly to publish activities of DESIDOC. In 1985, the bulletin started publishing articles on IT applications on a regular basis with its commitment towards fellow professionals and students in library and information community to provide a definitive source of information for the application of technology in information environments. In 1992, it was renamed as DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology to reflect the effect of IT tools on the profession of library and information science.

2. WHY PUBLISH LIS JOURNALS

Keeping abreast of the latest developments in information resources can be an endless task that is why a library and information science journal aims to be the definitive source of information for the application of technology in information environments. In addition to providing an independent and unbiased assessment of today's automated library and information centre, these journals offer practical advice,

useful information and specific application recommendations. All of this supports high quality papers by skilled industry experts and users on all aspects of library and information science.

As the library and information service community seeks to cope with new patterns of information provisions, new technology and new financial circumstances, the latest research, innovative theory and organisational best practice are all combined in the library and information science (LIS) journals. These information resources offer international perspectives on the critical issues faced by libraries by publishing articles which report contemporary thought whilst also exploring practical implications for those involved in teaching and practice. They provide knowledge and practical perspectives on different aspects of libraries and information services by drawing contributions from distinguished international figures. An informative, refereed LIS journal is invaluable tool to manage a library or information service and teaching to students.

The LIS journals ensure that readers keep informed, and act as a communication link between researchers, educators and library professionals. Libraries from all over the world put their experiences, views and reports through these journals. This allows information professionals to gain a wide perspective on developments in their profession and distil useful facts for their own use. LIS publication can create an archive allowing researchers to test hypotheses and confirm results. If LIS journals are not published then the only medium of communication will be conferences, seminars, etc. But it is not possible to conduct conferences/seminars/workshop very frequently and also at places suitable for all librarians. Librarians may not have enough time to attend the conferences. May be the whole concept of librarianship will vanish.

2.1 DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology

The Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre (DESIDOC) is committed to provide information professionals with knowledge products that match their exacting needs. The DBIT brings together information professionals, providing a forum for discussions with others on critical issues of the day along with their thoughts on LIS products. It strives to be the publisher of choice for academics, researchers and professionals in the fields of library and information science.

It encourages the library and information professionals, information scientists, information specialists, computer personnel or researchers with a vision for developments in information technology for libraries/documentation centres, including software, storage media, devices, and optical media having an impact on library and information systems and services to submit papers for DBIT. Some of the special features of the journal are:

♦ All papers are peer-reviewed by the Editorial Board of DBIT

♦ All papers are evaluated by information experts/peers in their respective fields

♦ The journal is published using modern publishing techniques

♦ The journal is covered in major indexing and abstracting services like LISA, Informed Librarian, and INSPEC database.

♦ Full-text of the journal is covered in Wilson databases namely-Omnifile full text select and Omnifile full text mega.

It keeps track of new developments, by identifying current IT, forthcoming events, news, books, websites, and so on to enable readers to anticipate the future, embrace it with confidence and utilize new IT resources as soon as they become available. It also helps make the best use of current technology.

The journal combines theory with practice and is meant for those who need to be kept up to date with everything happening in a dynamic and increasingly influential field of IT.

The bibliographical details along with the abstracts of papers included the DBIT issues since 1998 are available on internet (www.drdo.org). As a policy, the full-text of

one issue is made available on Internet for readers to have an insight of the journal (in pdf format).

3. ROLE OF PUBLISHERS

Publishers have a high-level commitment to their readers by providing high quality scientific, technical, social, and educational content to billions of readers all over the world and in a way bring them together. They provide access to that content, continuously improving their service levels, and enable world-wide distribution for contributors.

They interact with users and authors, to constantly improve their service and to deliver real value, making information available worldwide in both academic and corporate institutions. They provide scholarly and professional literature in the fields of science, technology, social science, and humanities. They are committed to offer high quality, valuable products thus enabling the widest possible dissemination of information through traditional media (print version) and non-traditional (electronic version) distribution channels.

Publishers provide helpful resources, advice, and guidance to contributors and editors till the final camera ready copy is prepared. They provide high standards for writing and research; ensuring published literature and database products are world-class and useful.

3.1 Role of DESIDOC as Publisher

The process of publishing includes development, authoring, refereeing, editing and validation, design and production, marketing, and distribution of information which can be technical, non technical, professional, scholarly or of any other type.

In a typical publishing house these functions may be distributed among several areas, such as editorial/production, legal/financial/operations and marketing. DESIDOC as publisher is involved in following activities:

Editorial/Production

♦ Selection and refereeing of manuscripts to provide quality contents

♦ Content development by organising and enhancing meaning, and providing information by grouping different types of materials into one package through different sections namely IT Scan, IT Events, Current Literature Survey, Book Reviews, and Recommended Websites.

♦ Editing of content, language/style and format ensures quality control in communicating ideas and supports the creative process.

♦ Applying standards and style guides to material, including citations and formatting, for an orderly structure for the communication of knowledge.

♦ Peer and internal reviewing, editing, proofreading and making author corrections and revisions for accuracy of information.

♦ Effective visual design to enhance readability

♦ Effective printing and binding processes for quality control

♦ Inclusion in indexing and abstracting sources help researchers learn what is available in their fields

♦ Editors' regular scanning and selection help identify emerging IT leading to more use and research in the new fields.

Financial Operations

♦ Efficient financial management provides the investment necessary to complete the work and reduction in the cost of information

♦ Provides funds and infrastructure necessary for marketing

Marketing

♦ Publisher's fame and specialisation helps readers select and use information.

♦ Marketing and selling activities provide wide distribution of information, reaching a broader audience that also helps authors to get recognition.

3.2 Value Added by DESIDOC

The value added to professional and scholarly information by DESIDOC lies in:

♦ Special issues of DBIT focus on special topics/emerging fields

♦ Quality control through editorial committee and refereeing

♦ Editorial assistance and format standardisation leads to easy access
♦ High production standards ensure high quality information.

4. CONTENT ANALYSIS OF DBIT

A small study has been carried out to analyse the content coverage of DBIT during 2000-2005 to understand the growth of the journal.

4.1 Papers

The DBIT covers original research and review papers relating to information technology as applied to library activities, services and products. Table 1 and figure 1
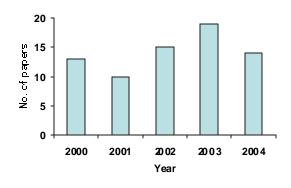

Fig 1. Year-wise distribution of papers

show the year-wise coverage of papers included in DBIT issues during 2000-2004.

Table 1. Year-wise distribution of papers

Year	Vol. No.	Total Issues	No. of Contribution
2000	20	5	13
2001	21	5	10
2002	22	5	15
2003	23	6	19
2004	24	6	14
Total			**71**

Table 2 (appendix 1) shows the topics covered through different contributions/ research/review papers. It can be seen that the papers included are selected both from the academic world of debate and theory, and the practitioner world of action, decision and practicality.

It can be deduced from table 3 (appendix 2) that topics from new and emerging fields were covered.

Table 4 and figure 2 show the distribution of general issues and thematic issues. During the period covered in this study four theme-based issues on current topics were brought out.

Table 4. Distribution of general issues and thematic issues

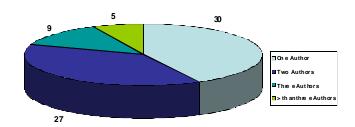| Year	Issue	Theme	Guest editor
2000	1 & 2	Communication Network	Sh Y S Rajan
2001	3	Web Page Designing	Dr Mohinder Singh
2002	3	Marketing of Information Products & Services	Sh O N Chaddha
2003	2	Future Publishing Technologies	Dr Aluri Rao

Fig 2. Authorship pattern of contributions

Table 5 shows geographical distribution of guest editors which emphasises that the guest editorship is of international level.

Table 5. Geographical distribution of guest editors

No.	Guest Editor	Place
1	Sh Y S Rajan	Delhi
2	Dr Mohinder Singh	Delhi
3	Sh O N Chaddha	Delhi
4	Dr Aluri Rao	USA

Table 6 shows the authorship pattern of contributions. It can be seen that maximum number of contributions were from single author followed by contributions from two authors with marginal percentage difference.

Table 6. Authorship pattern of contributions

No. of authors	No. of contributions	%
One author	30	42.2
Two authors	27	38.0
Three authors	9	12.6
> three authors	5	7.04

Table 7 and figure 3 cover the volume-wise authorship pattern of contributions which shows that the trend towards collaborative research is on increase during the period covered.

Table 7. Year-wise authorship pattern of contributions

Year	One author	Two authors	Three authors	> Three authors
2000	9	3	1	
2001	6	3	1	
2002	4	6	2	3
2003	8	8	3	
2004	3	7	2	2

4.2 Information Technology Events Section

The Information Technology Events section of DBIT covers information regarding the forthcoming conferences to be held nationally and internationally. Table 8 and figure 4 cover the volume-wise coverage in IT Events section of DBIT. The coverage has consistently grown from 34 in 2000 to 39 in 2004. An emphasis has been given on coverage of national events.

4.3 Information Technology Scan Section

The Information Technology Scan section of DBIT covers information regarding latest information technology which can be used in libraries and information centres to provide services to the patrons. By analysing table 6, it was found that the coverage in this section has grown from 41 in 2000 to 66 in 2004. Efforts have been made to also include
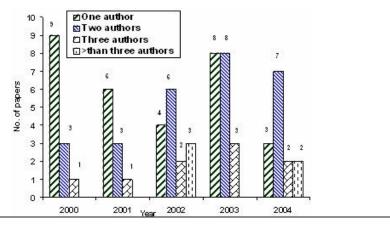

Fig 3. Year-wise authorship pattern of contributions

Table 8. Volume-wise coverage in sections of DBIT

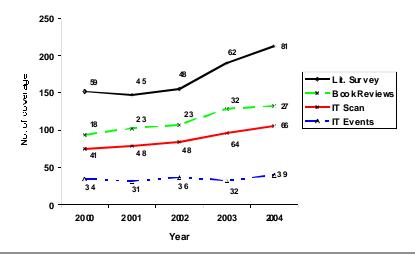| Year	Vol. No.	No. of IT Events	No. of Scan	No. of Book Reviews	No. of Literature Survey
2000	20	34	41	18	59
2001	21	26	43	19	28
2002	22	36	48	23	48
2003	23	32	64	32	61
2004	24	39	66	27	81

Fig 4. Year-wise distribution of coverages in different sections

national and international news which can be useful for readers.

4.4 Current Literature Survey

This Current Literature Survey (CLS) section covers the bibliographical details along with abstracts about recent published papers in leading library and information science journals which can be a useful and selected reading for DBIT readers.

The DBIT has included information regarding 59 papers in 2000 and 81 in 2004. An emphasis has been given on cover more and more journals. Table 7 (appendix 1) shows the subject-wise coverage in CLS section.

4.5 Book Reviews

This section covers a brief summary of latest library and information science and computer science books which can be useful for LIS professionals for updation of their knowledge and expertise. The number of book reviews have increased from 18 in 2000 to 27 in 2004.

4.6 Recommended Website

This new section covers information about sources and services which major LIS publishers, libraries and online vendors are providing to enable the LIS professionals what sources and services are available to satisfy the information needs of their users.

CONCLUSIONS

Keeping abreast of the ever-changing factors that effect a library can be difficult and time consuming. Through its papers, the DBIT presents new ideas and theories, which have been tested through practical application and deliver real insight of any topic. They provide readers information, each article sets the context for a particular topic, informs current

thinking, and adds to the body of knowledge; introduce new ideas, usually with recommendations as to how the ideas may be successfully applied to stimulate further thinking; generate insight by linking new ideas with experience, knowledge and objectives, to promote insight into area of interest.

It keeps pace with the plethora of current and developing techniques and applications about the logistics of information management so that readers can gain access to a wealth of relevant and practical information. In addition, regular guest editors identified innovations and emerging trends through special theme issues of the journal.

The DBIT is important in terms that it gives lot of information regarding new products and technologies useful for librarians as tools to serve their patrons better. Information like forthcoming conferences in LIS, is considered as an interesting feature. Apart the experience gained from work of contributors, there is a lot to learn about what is happening in other libraries/documentation centres and it helps in starting new services also or help in resources sharing with other libraries.

We hope that in future also journals will keep on reporting contemporary thoughts whilst exploring practical implications for those involved in practising, teaching and learning library and information science, systems, sources and services.

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6. www.emeraldinsight.com