

BLIS semester II
(paper – 5)
Reference Sources & Services
Topic – **NISCAIR**
e-content

MADHU
Guest Faculty,
Dept. of library & Information Science
Patna University.

Email Id – madhu.gfatm@gmail.com

NISCAIR **(National Institute of Science Communication and** **Information Resources)**

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 to 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- To act as a repository for, both published and unpublished, reports of the scientific work of the nation.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 five 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. The NISCAIR Citizen Charter incorporates citizen's entitlement to public services, wide publicity of standards of performance, quality of services, access to information, simplified procedures of complaints, time-bound redressal of grievances and provision for independent scrutiny of performance.

Activities of NISCAIR

To meet the above mentioned objectives, the following services/activities are organised by the Institute:

- 1) Publication of 17 primary and 2 secondary scientific/research journals
- 2) Publication of CSIR News and CSIR Samachar
- 3) Raw Material Herbarium and Museum
- 4) Popular Science Magazines
- 5) Popular Science Books
- 6) Information Services
- 7) Developing and Maintaining Specialised Databases
- 8) Electronic Publishing
- 9) Human Resource Development
- 10) Information Resources
- 11) Sales and Marketing
- 12) Consultancy Services

Some important activities of NISCAIR.

Journals Published by NISCAIR

NISCAIR is bringing out 17 primary journals in various subject fields related to science and technology. These are:

- 1) Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research (monthly)
- 2) Indian Journal of Chemistry A (monthly)
- 3) Indian Journal of Chemistry B (monthly)
- 4) Indian Journal of Experimental Biology (monthly)
- 5) Indian Journal of Pure & Applied Physics (monthly)
- 6) Indian Journal of Biochemistry & Biophysics (bi-monthly)
- 7) Indian Journal of Engineering & Material Sciences (bi-monthly)
- 8) Indian Journal of Chemical Technology (bi-monthly)

- 9) Indian Journal of Radio & Space Physics (bi-monthly)
- 10) Journal of Intellectual Property Rights (bi-monthly)
- 11) Indian Journal of Marine Sciences (quarterly)
- 12) Indian Journal of Fibre & Textile Research (quarterly)
- 13) National Product Radiance (bi-monthly)
- 14) Indian Journal of Biotechnology (quarterly)
- 15) Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge (quarterly)
- 16) Annals of Library and Information Studies (quarterly)
- 17) Bhartiya Vaigyanik evam Audyogik Anusandhan Patrika (Hindi) (half-yearly)

Besides the primary journals, NISCAIR also publishes two abstracting journals, they are:

- 1) Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Abstracts (bi-monthly)
- 2) 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. Information is also provided to users on various R & D programmes and activities of CSIR, R & D organisations, university departments and industry.

Wealth of India (WOI)

WOI is an encyclopaedia of Indian natural raw materials. A continuous activity of NISCAIR is to publish the supplements of WOI, publish books on the natural raw material resources of the country and provide enquiry services to information seekers on natural raw material resources. 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 National and International Information Organisations Pragati (Hindi) published monthly and Science Ki Duniya (Urdu), a quarterly publication.

NISCAIR publishes a large number of popular science books in various areas that include fundamental science, contemporary areas of science and science entertainment.

Information Services

- Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Information Services (MAPIS) based on the Wealth of India and MAPA databases.
- Content Abstract and Photocopy Service, is a highly personalised 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 specialised subjects for studying the growth, development and spread of any area of research.

Electronic Publishing

NISCAIR publishes digitised 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. Over the years, the changing dimensions in the areas of information science, technology and computer applications to library activities have been included in the various courses offered by NISCAIR. 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 on-site training on request.

NISCAIR also offers short term training programmes in science communication and herbarium techniques.

National Science Library (NSL)

NSL was established in 1964. It aims to acquire all important S&T 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. The library has one of the finest collections in the field of information science and technology, reference material/secondary sources, conference/seminar/symposia proceedings in S&T, foreign language dictionaries and medicinal and aromatic plants. It also subscribes to almost all worthwhile Indian S&T periodical publications and Information Sources, Systems and Programmes receives over 5,100 Indian and foreign periodicals. Of these nearly 3500 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:

- Modernisation, reorganisation and automation of library and information organisations including turnkey projects.
- Design and development of specialised databases for various organisations.
- Editing, designing, production and printing of publications.