

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

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DESIDOC

(Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre)

DESIDOC was functional in 1958 as Scientific Information Bureau (SIB), a division of the Defence Science Laboratory (DSL) presently the Defence Science Centre. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) library, established in 1948, became a division of SIB in 1959. In the year 1967 SIB was reorganised and renamed Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre (DESIDOC). It is still functioning under the administrative control of DSL. During in 1970, DESIDOC became an independent unit and one of the laboratories of DRDO. The Centre initially functioned in the main building of Metcalfe House, a national monument and in 1988 moved to a new building in the same complex. After it became an independent and self-accounting unit, DESIDOC has been functioning as a central information resource for DRDO. It provides S&T information, based on its library and other information resources, to

the DRDO headquarters and its various laboratories located all over India.

The objectives of DESIDOC are:

- To function as a central source for providing scientific information, documentation, library, reprographic, translation services to DRDO headquarters, laboratories, establishments and to coordinate their scientific information programmes,
- To develop an information system for Defence Science and Technology,
- To provide training and user education programmes in the field of scientific information,
- To provide consultancy and referral services, and
- To publish scientific and technical journal, books and monographs of DRDO.

The various activities of the Centre include the following:

a) Library Services

DESIDOC maintains the Defence Science Library which is the central library of DRDO. It gives access to Online Public Access Catalogue, CD-Rom Search Service, Document Supply Service and Resource Sharing Service.

b) Information Processing and Dissemination

The Library collects scientific and technical information of interest to DRDO and provides current awareness services and selective dissemination of information to users of DRDO.

c) Database Development

It develops and maintains bibliographic databases which includes OPAC, bibliographic database of books, reports, conference proceedings in DSL. The full-text databases, include newspaper clippings, Defence Science Journal.

d) DRDO Publications

DESIDOC functions as the publication wing of DRDO and brings out a number of journals, monographs, newsletters, etc.

e) Training

It provides training in information collection, processing and dissemination, library automation, database development, online searching, Internet use, and many areas concerned with IT.

f) Technical Services

It provides reprography (photography, audio, video presentation materials), translation, communication (e-mail, Internet) and printing services.

Functional Areas and Activities

In order to meet various objectives and provide the services, the activities of the centre are organised covering the following functional areas:

a) Internet and e-mail Access

DESIDOC provides e-mail and Internet access to the DRDO Laboratories in the country, through ERNET and NICNET. Communication links have also been established between the Internet gateway of VSNL and DESIDOC and also between VSNL

gateway and DRDO Headquarters to provide scientists/managers high speed easy access to Internet and its resources. DESIDOC has established an Internet Lab to cater to the needs of the Internet users.

b) Multimedia Laboratory

This facility has been provided to facilitate multimedia authoring, designing and presentation facilities to the top management and the Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister. Expertise in the areas of image processing, CD-writing, audio-video designing, desktop CD publishing and multimedia CD-ROM production has been established. In order to establish multimedia laboratories both within and outside DRDO a few multimedia products were published and consultancy was provided.

c) Reprographic Facilities

Reprographic facilities has been set up to help DRDO top management and scientists in their technical presentations. This facility has a computer-based multicolour slide making system, a digital colour copier, high quality colour printers and video recorders, which helps in providing high quality presentation materials.

d) Printing Facility

A full-fledged high quality printing facility has been established which includes designing, layout, typesetting, DTP, processing and printing units for in-house production of DRDO publications. Commercial printing agencies have been given the responsibility for high quality multicolour printing.

Publications

DESIDOC undertakes the following DRDO publications:

- a) Defence Science Journal
- b) Popular Science & Technology
- c) DRDO Newsletter
- d) DRDO Samachar
- e) R&D Digest
- f) Technology Focus
- g) DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology

Defence Science Library

The Defence Science Library is the largest Defence Library in the country with a unique collection of publications in various fields of science and technology. The library has, currently, over 3 lakh documents that include books, periodicals, technical National and International Information Organisations reports, patents and standard specifications. This was one of the first libraries in the country to be computerised.