

NISCAIR: Information Resources

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Introduction

National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) came into existence on 30 September 2002 with the merger of National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM) and Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC). Both NISCOM and INSDOC, the two premier institutes of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), were devoted to dissemination and documentation of S&T information.

NISCOM had been in existence for the last six decades (first as two Publication Units of CSIR, which were merged to form the Publications Division, which was later renamed as Publications & Information Directorate and in 1996, as NISCOM). Over the years, NISCOM diversified its activities, and through a host of its information products, comprising research and popular science journals, encyclopedic publications, monographs, books, and information services, it had been reaching out to researchers, students, entrepreneurs, industrialists, agriculturists, policy planners and also the common man.

INSDOC came into being in 1952 and was engaged in providing S&T information and documentation services through myriad activities such as abstracting and indexing, design and development of databases, translation, library automation, providing access to international information sources, human resource development, consultancy services in setting up modern library-cum-information centers. INSDOC was also host to the National Science Library and the SAARC Documentation Centre.

- **Information Resources**

One of the core activities of NISCAIR is to collect, organize and disseminate S&T information generated in India as well as in the world

which has relevance to Indian S&T community. Under this programme, the institute is building comprehensive collection of S&T publications in print as well as in electronic form and disseminating through traditional as well as modern means benefiting different segments of the society. Major resources under this activity are National Science Library, Electronic Resources, Indigenous Databases and Raw Materials Herbarium and Museum.

• **Electronic Resources**

Automated libraries are slowly shifting to Electronic Libraries that will eventually lead to the establishment of Digital Libraries. With decreasing shelf space and ever growing collections in the libraries, NISCAIR has been advocating the conversion of automated libraries into electronic libraries.

• **On-line databases**

- Web of Science (WOS)
- Journal Citation Reports (JCR)
- Essential Science Indicators
- Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA)
- Xrefer
- Annual Reviews
- J-Gate
- ACS Journal Archive
- Emerald Journal Archive
- Springer Journal Archive

• **In-house Databases**

Computerized databases help in organization of data and its efficient retrieval. NISCAIR has developed expertise in the design and development of databases. In addition to development of in-house databases, NISCAIR has designed and developed databases for other organizations. The contents of these databases vary from bibliographic to multimedia.

• **Products**

NISCAIR's products are following:

- Proceedings of First Indo-US Workshop on Green Chemistry
- Wealth of India
- NUCSSI on CD-ROM[Access NUCSSI Online]
- Indian Patents on CD-ROM

- ISA on CD-ROM
- The Treatise on Indian Medicinal Plants
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- The Treatise on Indian Medicinal Plants
- The Treatise on Indian Medicinal Plants
- Compendium of Indian Medicinal Plants
- The Useful Plants of India
- Status Report on Aromatic and Essential Oil-bearing Plants in NAM Countries
- Status Report on Cultivation of Medicinal Plants in NAM Countries
- Plants for Reclamation of Wastelands
- Miscellaneous Publications
- **National Science Library**

NSL provides following information

- CD ROM Databases
- ADONIS (1991-1996)
- Business Periodicals On disc (BPO)
- AHEAD: Asian Health, Environmental & Allied Databases (1995-1998)
- CA on CD (1996-2001, 2004+)
- CAB Abstracts (1972+)
- GPO (Research Edition): General Periodicals (1988-2002)
- Computer Select (1994- March 2000)
- Current Contents (2000-2004) (Now: Online 1998+)
- ABES, ECT, LS, PCES
- Emerald (1997-1998) (Now: Online 1995+)
- Health Reference Centre (HRC) (1992-1998)
- ExtraMED Biomedical Journals Library (1994-1996)
- FACCTS – Faulkner’s Advisory on Computer and Communication Technologies (June 1999-2001)
- Indian Standards on CD-ROM (Start-2004)
- MSD, LTD
- LISA Plus: Library & Information Science Abstracts (1969-2002; Now: Online 1969+)
- PASCAL (1995+)
- Ulrich’s Plus: Periodical Directory (1996+)
- Science Citation Index (SCI) (1980+)
- US Patents (1990-1994 (Full Text); 1995-2002 (Images))
- Indian Science Abstracts on CD-ROM
- National Union Catalogue of Scientific Serials in India (NUCSSI) on CD-ROM
- Indian Patents on CD-ROM

- **National Knowledge Resource Consortium**

NKRC have 10,000+ Online Journal list of 28 Publisher.

- **NISCAIR Online Periodicals Repository**

User can now access full text articles from research journals published by NISCAIR! Presently full text facility is provided for all of the seventeen research journals viz.

- Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research (JSIR)
- Indian Journal of Biochemistry & Biophysics (IJBB)
- Indian Journal of Biotechnology (IJBT)
- Indian Journal of Chemistry, Sec A (IJC-A)
- Indian Journal of Chemistry, Sec B (IJC-B)
- Indian Journal of Chemical Technology (IJCT)
- Indian Journal of Experimental Biology (IJEB)
- Indian Journal of Engineering & Materials Sciences (IJEMS)
- Indian Journal of Fibre & Textile Research (IJFTR)
- Indian Journal of Marine Sciences (IJMS)
- Indian Journal of Pure & Applied Physics (IJPAP)
- Indian Journal of Radio & Space Physics (IJRSP)
- Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge (IJTK)
- Journal of Intellectual Property Rights (JIPR)
- Natural Product Radiance (NPR)
- Annals of Library and Information Studies (ALIS)
- Bharatiya Vaigyanik evam Audyogik Anusandhan Patrika (BVAAP)

- **Raw Materials Herbarium & Museum**

NISCAIR has set up a Herbarium and Museum housing economically important raw materials of plant, animal and mineral origin from India at one place, to cater to the needs of scientists, researchers, industrialists students and the public at large. The Herbarium houses over 8000 specimen of economic and medicinal plants of India and the Museum comprises over 3000 samples of crude-drugs, animal and mineral specimens.

- **National Union Catalogue of Scientific Serials in India (NUCSSI)**

National Union Catalogue of Scientific Serials in India (NUCSSI) is the first indigenous database that serves as an ideal tool to access Journal holdings information. Journals are the main source of Science and Technology information. NUCSSI is a data repository of a large number of

unique journal titles and library holdings belonging to major universities, S&T institutions, R&D units of industries, higher institutes like IISc, IITs and professional institutes spread all over the country.

- **Conclusion**

With the formation of NISCAIR, all the above multi-faceted activities have been amalgamated, making NISCAIR, an institute capable of serving the society using modern IT infrastructure in a more effective manner and taking up new ventures in the field of science communication, dissemination and S&T information management systems and services. Broadly the core activity of NISCAIR will be to collect/store, publish and disseminate S&T information through a mix of traditional and modern means, which will benefit different segments of society.

Reference:

<http://www.niscair.res.in>