FOCUS ON UNISIST PROGRAMMES

UNESCO GENERAL INFORMATION PROGRAMME
RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

The General Conference of Unesco, at its
19th session, which took place last November in
Nairobi, adopted a resolution concerning amongst
others the future development of the UNISIST pro-
gramme.

According to the proposals made by the
Director-General, the Conference agreed to set up
a General Information Programme covering the
activities of the organization in the field of scienti-
fic and technical information and of documentation,
libraries and archives.

The Conference approved the Statutes of the
Intergovernmental Council for the General Informa-
tion Programme and instructed it, among others,
to ensure the continuity and the development of
actions undertaken in the context of the UNISIST
programme recommending the appropriate use of
its name in the future. This Council shall carry
out its functions with regard to the Intergovern-
mental UNISIST Programme, in conformity with the
provisions made in Article 4 of the Statutes of the
UNISIST Steering Committee, (approved by the
General Conference at its 17th session) that Com-
mittee being superseded by this Council.

The 19th General Conference recognized the
significant results achieved so far by the UNISIST
programme and the value of its general contribu-
tion to the development and inter-connexion of
information systems, and instructed the Director-
General to take the necessary measure to ensure
that the General Information Programme, parti-
cularly through the development of projects begun
under the UNISIST programme, provides a con-
ceptual framework for the information systems
devised by the agencies of the United Nations and
for Unesco's information activities as a whole.

BANGKOK SEMINAR ON USER TRAINING (14-14
OCTOBER 1976)

Strengthening information infrastructure is
presently a major preoccupation of the various
countries in Asia and Oceania. The education and
training of present and potential users of scientific
and technological information in the better utiliza-
tion of information services offered to them is seen
as part of this preoccupation. And rightfully so,
for the ultimate object of information systems and
services are the users.

Following the 4th General Assembly and Cong-
ress of FID/CAO held in Bangkok from 10 to 13
October, a two-day regional seminar took place.
The "UNISIST Seminar on training users of scienti-
fic and technical information: Analysis and evalua-
tion of UNISIST Guidelines" was attended by over
100 participants from 15 countries. It was orga-
nized by Unesco in collaboration with the Thai
National Documentation Centre (TNDC), Applied
Scientific Research Corporation of Thailand
(ASRCT), with the assistance of FID/CAO. Dr.
Wadanyu Na Thalang, Governor of ASRCT opened
the seminar, Mr. T.S. Rajagopalan of INSDOC,
India was selected as Chairman and Miss D.E.
Torrijos of NSDB, Philippines, was selected as
Rapporteur.

The seminar devoted itself mainly to user
training experiences in various countries in the
region, a review of the UNISIST Guide for user
training and its applicability to the regional condi-
tions, and a discussion of problems related to user
education and training and of strategies for a more
effective utilization of existing information services
and sources.

Papers presented for discussion included:
The User Training Issue (by J. Tocatlian, Unesco);
User Training - The missing link between users
and resources (by R.B. Palmer, Barnard College
Library, Colombia University); Means and Methods
of Training Users - the UNISIST Guide (by A. Evans,
Loughborough University, U.K.); User Training in
Australia (by P.J. Judge, CSIRO, Australia);
Using the UNISIST Guide for conducting workshops
(by L. Pringgoadisurjo, PDIN, Indonesia; Doo-
Hong Kim, KORSTIC, Republic of Korea; T.S. Raja-
gopalan, INSDOC, India); Implementation of some
UNISIST projects in Asia (by J. Valls, AIT); The

REGIONAL INFORMATION NETWORK PROJECT
FOR SOUTH EAST ASIA (BY D. TORRIJOS, PHILI-
PPINES).

Reactions from the participants were heard
and sollicited for a fruitful sharing of experience.
Existing and planned programmes for training users
were described by participants from several coun-
tries, such as Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines,
and the organizations present, such as the UN
Asian Development Institute, the AIBA/SEARCA,
and AIT.

ROME SEMINAR ON USER TRAINING (18-21 OCTO-
BER 1976)

Following the Bangkok meeting, which was
essentially regional in character, the "UNISIST
Seminar on the education and training of users of
scientific and technological information" was held
in Rome. It was of international character; all geo-
graphical regions being represented. The objective
was to provide an international exchange of experi-
ence on the problem faced in planning and imple-
menting training and education programmes for
users of scientific and technological information, to
obtain a broad overview of the issue, to catalyse
international co-operation, and to advise Unesco on
a long-term programme for user training.

The seminar was organized by Unesco in
collaboration with the Consiglio Nazionale delle
Ricerche, Laboratorio di Studii Sulla Ricerca e
Sulla Documentazione and the Istituto Italo-Latino
Americano (IILA). The participants chosen on the
basis of their professional experience were invited
in their personal capacity. There were 30 partici-
pants from 15 countries and a number of organiza-
tions, such as ESRIN, FAO, IAEA, IILA, and UNEP.
Dr. P. Lazar of CTLDC, Hungary, was selected
as Chairman and Prof. A. Neelameghan of DRTC,
India, was selected as Rapporteur.

Following each presentation, an extensive
and rich discussion produced a set of ideas which
are structured in the final report.

The papers presented for discussion included
the following: Measurement of information use and
user needs as a basis for training programmes
(T.D. Wilson, U.K.); User education in academic
institutions including secondary school and univer-
sity (A. Neelameghan, India); Training of users of
libraries and documentation services (K. Burian,
Turkey); User training in the context of a technical
information service (G.P. Sweeney, Ireland); Sen-
sitization of decision-makers, policy-makers and
manager (M. Menou, France); Means and methods
of training users (A. Evans, U.K.); User training
as a component of national information policy
(J. Gray, U.K.).

ISDS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GOVERNING
BOARD MEETING (11-14 OCTOBER 1976)

By his circular letter of 28 June 1976 the
Director-General of Unesco communicated to
Member States the text of the Agreement between
Unesco and the Government of the French Republic
on the establishment and operation of an Interna-
tional Centre for the registration of serial publica-
tions within the framework of the International
Serials Data System (ISDS). At the same time he
invited Member States to participate in the estab-
lishment of the permanent structures of the system
by attending the first General Assembly meeting
and by acceding to the Statutes of the International
Centre.

In accordance with the Statutes, the General
Assembly was convened by the Director of the Inter-
national Centre and organized at Unesco House
from 11 to 12 October 1976. Delegates represent-
ing 25 Member States and observers from five non-
governmental organizations attended the meeting.
Mr. P. Poindron, head of the French delegation,
was elected Chairman.

The main points of discussion were: (1) acces-
sion of Member States to the Statutes; (2) examina-
tion of the report of the Director of the Inter-
national Centre; and (3) election of the Governing
Board.

The first meeting of the ISDS Governing
Board was held immediately after that of the
General Assembly (13-14 October 1976). After an
extensive debate on the report of the Director of the
International Centre, the Board expressed its
appreciation of the results already achieved. It
was decided that the international register of serials
should be published in microform and that the ISDS
Bulletin should continue to be published in printed
form. It was also decided that a short-term budget
(1977-1978) should be submitted to the next meeting
of the Board as well as a long-term one (1977-
1982). After approval by the Board, these budgets
should be communicated to all Member States.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INFORMATION
SYSTEMS IN ONGOING RESEARCH IN SCIENCE -
PROCEEDINGS

The Proceedings of the International Sympo-
sium on Information Systems in Ongoing Research
in Science organized in October 1975 by Unesco
under its UNISIST programme in collaboration with
the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange
(U.S.A.) have now been published by the Hungarian
Central Technical Library and Documentation
Centre in a volume of about 500 pages.

The Proceedings include the 46 papers sub-
mitted to the Symposium, the discussions of these
papers as well as the panel discussion. All contri-
butions are presented in their original language
(i.e. English or French). Each paper is preceded
by summaries both in English and French.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLI-
SHERS' SERIES

The Guidelines for the Presentation of Pub-
lishers' Series, which have just been issued as a

UNISIST document are one of the results of the effort undertaken by the UNISIST Working Group on Primary Sources of Information. Created in 1973 with the aim of undertaking appropriate measures to harmonize the presentation of information in primary sources, this working group first identified existing guidelines or standards relevant to primary documents as well as the gaps where standardization could be initiated under UNISIST auspices.

On the basis of reviewing existing normative documents, the following categories of primary publications were recognized as requiring priority action: Transactions, proceedings and other reports of meetings; Ad hoc series such as publishers' series; Dissertations and theses.

The Working Group agreed that guidelines should be developed for these three priorities by competent institutions or persons. To ensure that the guidelines adequately reflect the needs of a broad range of users and producers of primary documents, the group proposed a monitoring scheme for the work of the contractors, with task groups consisting of three persons responsible for the supervision of the guidelines.

Statement about

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I, V. Ramachandran, hereby declare that the particulars given

above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd. V. Ramachandran

Dated 24.1.1977

Signature of Publisher