

FOCUS ON UNISIST PROGRAMMES

REORGANISATION OF UNESCO'S INFORMATION PROGRAMMES

The General Conference, at its 19th session, decided to reorganize the activities previously covered by the programme sections "Scientific and technological information and documentation" and "Documentation, libraries and archives".

The implementation of this decision has given rise to changes in the organizational structure inside Unesco. In February 1977, the Director-General created a Division for the General Information Programme, covering the majority of the activities formerly coming under the two above-mentioned sections.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR MANAGERS OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

In the framework of the assistance to Member States in the development of scientific and technical information personnel, an international Seminar on Administration for Managers of Scientific and Technical Library and Information Services was held from 13 to 26 June 1977 in Ankara, Turkey. The Seminar was organized by the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey Documentation Centre (TURDOK) and Unesco/UNISIST.

The conceptual basis of the Seminar was founded on the assumption that the basic knowledge, skills and methods of administration which have been developed in business, industry and public administration are equally important and applicable for those who practise administration in library and information services. One important aspect of the programme was the special attention given to the behavioral aspects of administration.

The Seminar was conducted by a team of instructors from the United States and Turkey under the direction of Prof. P. Wasserman and Prof. J. Rizzo (U. S. A.).

SYMPOSIUM ON THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS INFORMATION NETWORK (ISONET), 5-7 October 1977, Paris

For many years national standards organizations have been answering inquiries about national standards and practices. By necessity, they were also required to provide information on international standards and standards from other countries. In an attempt to improve their individual services, an exchange scheme for standards was organized and is still in operation. The need for information continued to grow and the importance of sharing experiences and developing compatible systems to facilitate the interchange of information was acknowledged by ISO and its member bodies as well as by Unesco. With the creation of the International Standards Information Network (ISONET), a very important step has been taken in the direction of an efficient and systematic organization of information transfer.

The Symposium, which was jointly organized by Unesco within its UNISIST programme and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), was intended to:

1. Expand international understanding of the need and uses of information on standards and its important aspect of technology transfer;
2. Stimulate further cooperation between standards information centres and encourage individuals and relevant organizations to establish links with ISONET either by continuing to and/or by profiting from its services.

NEW UNISIST DOCUMENT: A COURSE IN ADMINISTRATION FOR MANAGERS OF INFORMATION SERVICES - DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND TOPICAL OUTLINE

In response to the increasing demand from Member States, especially from developing areas, for the training of managers and as a follow-up to the suggestion of the UNISIST Ad hoc Committee on Education and Training to develop curriculum

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material and guidelines which would help developing countries design and conduct their own courses. Unesco requested Prof. Paul Wasserman, College of Library and Information Services, University of Maryland and Prof. J.R. Rizzo, Department of Management, Western Michigan University, to work out a topical outline for courses in administration for managers of information services and a set of guidelines for designing and implementing such courses. The two UNISIST courses for managers of information systems which they conducted in Mexico and the Philippines respectively served as a basis for preparing this outline which has been issued as a UNISIST document.

The type of course detailed in this document is built upon the assumption that those who hold or will come to hold senior administrative responsibility in information organizations of all types must be reoriented in their outlook from the specific and technical problems of information to the central issue of organizational management if their organizations are to be effectively led.

Copies of the English version are available free of charge from the Division for General Information Programme, Unesco, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, France.

BROAD SYSTEM OF ORDERING - PROGRESS REPORT

The 1975 Progress Report on the BSO, issued on 31 March 1976, revealed that the three-man working group of the International Federation for Documentation (FID/BSO Panel) had completed the following tasks:

designing of a special questionnaire and circulation, together with a first draft BSO schedule (without formal notation) in almost 500 copies to more than 300 addresses, including all ICSU-affiliated and other important organizations;

-- analysis of some 100 questionnaires, showing that about 30 found the first draft "an orderly conspectus of all branches of knowledge -- the remainder being dissatisfied or doubtful, and that although only 14 thought it suitably detailed in their own field, some 40 agreed to carry out voluntary tests;

-- preparation of a 2nd version of the BSO schedule -- taking account of the comments in the returned questionnaires as far as possible, provided with a still provisional but formal notation and submitted with the 1975 Progress Report.

During the summer of 1976 and winter of 1976-77, the FID/BSO was consequently engaged in two major operations -- the one in BSO schedule improvement and preparation of an alphabetical subject index, the other in preparation of test instructions and choice of sources for extracting test samples.

1. Important improvements in the 2nd draft BSO schedule (March 1976), which proved to be more extensive than at first expected, have involved the following tasks, all requiring considerable time and effort during the past year:

(a) checking and modifying terminology in specific subject fields;

(b) modifying structure and combinatory facilities for complex subject-fields, including amendment and expansion of the Introduction to the BSO;

(c) tidying up, shortening and generally adjusting the notation - in line with l(b);

(d) preparing the A/Z subject index, checking and adapting it to the changes required by l(a), (b) and (c).

2. Preparations for testing the BSO, which also required much thought and discussion by the FID/BSO Panel, have included:

(a) compiling a suitable Test Worksheet (with general explanation of the BSO and detailed instructions for use), designed to show the success/failure ratio given by the extent to which testers can accurately match subject-field terms for some 150 sample items (randomly chosen) with the concepts set out in the BSO schedule;

(b) deciding the make-up of the 150 test items, which will be supplied to each tester in six random samples, each of 25 items.

PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES - 4th Meeting

The Planning Committee for the International Congress on National Bibliographies had its 4th meeting at Unesco Headquarters in Paris on 15-16 February 1977.

There were two main items on the agenda of this meeting:

1. Examination of the preliminary draft of the working document for the International Congress which had been prepared by the IFLA International Office for UBC. During the discussion of the working document it was repeatedly emphasized that national bibliographic control was not merely a library tool for selecting and acquiring publications but had a far wider purpose in the social and economic development of a country.

2. The organization of the Congress itself. It was agreed that all Congress discussions should take place in plenary sessions, each of which would be devoted to a particular aspect of national bibliographic control.