

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ON OCEANOGRAPHY
2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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Dr. Humphrey: for your info. Disc V

February 17,

Note to: Drs. Elbert Ahlstrom and Milner Schaefer

NASCO Biological Methods Panel Meeting February 24

Data Exchange

As additional background to Joe King's memo to you of February 10, I quote Dr. Humphrey's letter to me of January 16.

"Dear Mr. Vetter:

"One of the recommendations of our Working-Group 12 on "Abstracts and Bibliographies of Use In Marine Sciences" was that S.C.O.R. should ask your Committee to help in facilitating collaboration between the Aquatic Sciences Information Retrieval Center and the American Meteorological Society.

"The Working-Group thought that it would be advantageous if each of these bodies exchanged material in physical oceanography in a machine-readable form and used compatible codes and indexes so that relevant references with cross references and abstracts from Meteorological and Geostrophysical Titles could be added automatically to the consolidated inventory at ASIRC. In this way the very important contribution of these bodies to marine science would be increased.

"I would be grateful for any action NASCO could take to help in this important work."

I discussed Humphrey's suggestion with Joe King who pointed out that Sailsa and Company are laboring under severe financial problems without enough money to get their biological part of their aquatic sciences information retrieval center under full steam, muchless incorporate an exchange of physical data. It seems to me that NASCO might look into this in some detail. NODC is involved. There may be other groups in the picture.

King suggested that NASCO put this problem on the agenda for their next meeting. I thought that you could do some preliminary work and thinking at your February 24th meeting.

cc: Joseph King, Dr. Kask, Sincerely yours,
Drs. Humphrey, Pritchard

Richard C. Vetter, Executive Secty.

GFM/SH

Ref. ZA22/12

January 15, 1964

Director,
Office of Oceanography,
U.N.E.S.C.O.,
Place de Fontenoy,
PARIS 7, France.

Dear Dr Fedorov,


The recent meeting of the S.C.O.R. Working-Group No. 12 on "Abstracts and Bibliographies of Use in Marine Sciences" considered the question of coverage and duplication by the various publications.

One of the specific recommendations was that U.N.E.S.C.O. be asked to provide assistance (perhaps the equivalent of one individual for three months) to examine the coverage by the abstracting journals given in the appendix to CRASF and in the lists of the D.H.I.

In passing this recommendation to you I hope that you can assist in this way, thus bringing U.N.E.S.C.O. into more active participation in the field of marine documentation and demonstrating effective collaboration with F.A.O.

If you have any questions or comments on this project please write to Dr Salla with a copy to me.

Yours sincerely,


(G.F. HUMPHREY)
President

Copy to Salla

GFH/SH

Ref. ZA22/12

January 15, 1964

The Secretary,
National Committee on Oceanic Research,
Bernhard-Nocht-Strasse 74,
HAMBURG 4, Germany.

Dear Dr Joseph,

The recent meeting of our Working-Group No. 12 on "Abstracts and Bibliographies of Use in Marine Sciences" considered the present position and made suggestions for improvement. The report will soon be circulated.

It was considered that two of the most important contributions to scientific work were the Current Bibliography for Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries prepared by F.A.O. and the cards prepared by the Deutsches Hydrographisches Institut. A manual check showed that there was some duplication of effort but the full extent of this could be judged only by using automatic processing equipment. This work could be done by the Aquatic Sciences Information Retrieval Center at Rhode Island but a barrier to action at the moment is that the cards of the D.H.I. are not in machine-readable form.

This important contribution of the D.H.I. could be made more useful and important if it could be combined with other contributions such as the Current Bibliography. Again it is a matter of bringing the information on the cards into machine-readable form.

I would be grateful if your committee would consider the importance of this work and see if steps could be taken to provide facilities at the D.H.I. for putting their material into machine-readable form and thus making an even greater contribution to marine work.

Yours sincerely,



(G.F. HUMPHREY)
President

Copy to Salla

GPH/SH

Ref. ZA22/12

January 16, 1964

Executive Secretary,
Committee on Oceanography,
National Academy of Sciences,
2101 Constitution Ave, N.W.
WASHINGTON, 25, D.C., U.S.A.

Dear Mr Vetter,

One of the recommendations of our Working-Group 12 on "Abstracts and Bibliographies of Use in Marine Sciences" was that S.C.O.R. should ask your Committee to help in facilitating collaboration between the Aquatic Sciences Information Retrieval Center and the American Meteorological Society.

The Working-Group thought that it would be advantageous if each of these bodies exchanged material in physical oceanography in a machine-readable form and used compatible codes and indexes so that relevant references with cross references and abstracts from Meteorological and Geostrophysical Titles could be added automatically to the consolidated inventory at ASIRC. In this way the very important contribution of these bodies to marine science would be increased.

I would be grateful for any action NASCO could take to help in this important work.

Yours sincerely,



(G.F. HUMPHREY)
President

Copy to Saila

GPH/IKH

Ref. ZA 22/12

January 16, 1964

The Secretary of IOC,
Office of Oceanography, UNESCO,
Place de Fontenay,
PARIS 7 FRANCE

Dear Dr Fedorov,

The recent meeting of our Working Group No. 12 on "Abstracts and Bibliographies of Use in Marine Sciences" thought that there were closely related problems in the retrieval of information from scientific literature, in the retrieval of information about current, unpublished work and in the exchange, storage and retrieval of data. The solution of problems in one field would help the solution of problems in the other fields.

The Working Group agreed that while data storage and retrieval, and literature storage and retrieval were not the same thing, data centers depend to some extent on the availability of indexed literature lists, and that the forms of reference to literature and its data items and the indexing codes should be at least compatible and preferably identical, and that rules for these should be developed jointly.

I would be grateful if you would bring the above opinions to the notice of participants at the forthcoming meeting of the IOC Working Group on Data Exchange.

Yours sincerely,


(G.F. HUMPHREY)
President

Copy to Ferraleva, WDC-B
Jacobs, WDC-A
Sails

GPH/SH

Ref. ZA22/12

January 16, 1964

Director,
Office of Oceanography,
U.N.E.S.C.O.,
Place de Fontenoy,
PARIS 7, France.

Dear Dr Fedorov,

One of the recommendations of the recent meeting of Working-Group 12 on "Abstracts and Bibliographies of Use in Marine Sciences" was that U.N.E.S.C.O. be asked to arrange that the relevant sections of "Referativny Zhurnal" be made available to the compilers of C.B.A.S.F. and to inquire from the U.S.S.R. Institute of Scientific Information what plans there were for using machine methods.

I would be grateful if you would take steps to implement this recommendation and thus assist this important work.

Yours sincerely,



(G.F. HUMPHREY)
President

Copy to Salla

Ref. ZA22/12

January 15, 1964

Director,
Office of Oceanography,
U.N.E.S.C.O.,
Place de Fontenoy,
PARIS 7, France.

also to: Dr M. Ruivo,
Fisheries Division,
F.A.O.,
Viale delle Termi di Caracalla,
ROME, Italy.

Dear Dr

S.C.O.R. Working-Group No. 12 on "Abstracts and Bibliographies of Use in Marine Sciences" held its first meeting in Plymouth last December. The report will soon be distributed and I would like to draw your attention to Recommendation 1 which reads as follows -

"That UNESCO and FAO be requested jointly to assess the value, costs and practical problems of arranging for a service which would regularly and promptly bring to the attention of marine scientists the contents of a selected group of relevant journals (and of symposium proceedings and review volumes) in the field. To this end it is recommended that a pilot operation be initiated, involving preparation and distribution to specialized libraries of a limited number of copies of a model of such a document, using a list of "core" journals based on preliminary lists, which will be provided, through the Chairman of the Working-Group, by the participants in the first meeting of the Working-Group. It is further recommended that the practicability of such a journal content service being issued as a supplement to existing periodicals, specifically the "Current Bibliography for Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries" or the "International Marine Science" newsletter be carefully considered"

I hope that you will consider this recommendation carefully and find that you can take appropriate action. If you have any questions or comments please send them to Dr Salla with a copy to me.

Yours sincerely,


(G.F. HUMPHREY)
President

Copy to Salla