

Preliminary Report of SCOR Working-Group on Abstracts and
Bibliographies of Use in Marine Sciences

The first meeting of the Working-Group was held at The Laboratory, Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, Plymouth, England, on December 9-11, 1963, inclusive.

Appendix #1 provides a list of names and addresses of members of the Working-Group, as well as participants in the first meeting.

The terms of reference of the Working-Group are:

1. To state the present position regarding marine abstracts and bibliographies
2. To state what improvements marine scientists would like.
3. To state what improvements can be brought into practice.

Although a provisional agenda for the meeting was suggested, it soon became apparent that a general exchange of background information was necessary before considering agenda items systematically. The following represent statements of some of the ideas put forth and some of the bases for recommendations which are included in Appendix # III.

It seemed clear from the outset that marine sciences are multi-disciplinary in nature, and that publications in the marine sciences are distributed through a wide range of journals, reports and other publications. That there is a growing literature in the marine sciences; and that the rate of growth is increasing was recognized. An opinion was also expressed that the current education of most marine scientists does not provide for a realistic appreciation of the magnitude of the literature problem.

Exact information regarding several questions pertaining to marine sciences abstracting was incomplete or lacking. One of these questions concerned the number of marine sciences abstracting and bibliographic services now available. Appendix # II of this report indicates a provisional list which was assembled by the Working-Group.

A suggestion was made to utilize the experience of scientific libraries and their staff with reference to the use of abstracting and bibliographic services by marine scientists. The valuable advice and suggestions of librarians from the National Institute of Oceanography, Wormley, and from the Marine Bibliographical Association of the United Kingdom were available to the Working-Group. This assistance was highly constructive and further comments and suggestions from scientific librarians will be obtained.

It was deemed essential that a master current bibliographic list of marine sciences literature be available to working scientists. The present status of such a list was discussed, and it was concluded that no complete list was now prepared. The improvements which marine scientists would like were considered. Specific steps to bring some of the proposed improvements into practice are found in Appendix # 2, Recommendation #2 of this Working-Group. It was the consensus of the group, that such a list must be comprehensive, available quickly and be inexpensive and relatively simple to use. If such a bibliographic list (with annotations) is well conceived it can serve as a basis for retrospective searches.

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In addition to the bibliographical list, a study of the utility of a current title list of "core" journals was suggested Appendix #2 Recommendation #1. The Work-Group participants have set themselves the task of assisting in the definition of such a list, numbering approximately 50 journals. Reference is made to a mimeographed report entitled: Aquatic Biology Serials A Worldwide List of Titles (Both Current and Ceased) with Selected Descriptive Information, BSCP II-63, August, 1963, available from the Biological Sciences Communications Project, The George Washington University, Suite 700, 2000 P Street, N.W. Washington 6, D.C. as a partial guide to selection. The Chairman of the Working-Group indicated that he will tabulate and summarize the information on "core" journals to be provided by the meeting participants and make it available to the UNESCO Office of Oceanography and to FAO.

The concept of a marine sciences communication network, which involves data exchange and retrieval, literature retrieval and the exchange of information concerning activities of individuals and institutions was considered sufficiently important to warrant consideration at this time. The results of discussion are presented in Appendix # III, Recommendation #3. It is clear that continuing efforts toward the establishment of an effective marine sciences communication system, in which marine science abstracts and bibliographies play an important role, are necessary. It is especially important that close liaison and collaborative efforts toward system compatibility be effected at the early stages of the development of data and information centers.

Considerable discussion was held regarding marine sciences abstracts, including definitions, abstract availability and utility. Appendix # III, Recommendation #4 states the present position regarding this matter. A modest study of abstracting problems from the point of view of coverage by abstract journals of existing literature is also indicated in this recommendation. The ISO and UNESCO recommendations for improvements in the publication of scientific periodicals were considered and specific recommendations to the editors of major marine sciences journals were made as another step toward bringing some improvements into practice.

The membership felt that the first meeting was constructive and informative. However, it was the desire of the Working-Group to conduct further studies of marine sciences abstracts and bibliographies and a recommendation (Appendix #II Recommendation #5) was made to ask SCOR to maintain the Working-Group and to provide funds for a second meeting.

An early revision of the provisional list of Marine Sciences abstracting and bibliographic services will be forthcoming. Further additions to the preliminary report will be made and sent to the membership of the Working-Group from time to time.

A second meeting of this Working-Group is tentatively planned for September of 1964. The exact time and place will be decided at the earliest opportunity in order to permit adequate planning.

Appendix #1

List of names and addresses of participants in SCOR Working Group on
"Abstracts and Bibliographies of Use in Marine Sciences"
December 9-11, 1963

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Appendix #. II

Provisional List of Marine Sciences and Related
Areas Abstracts and Bibliographies Services.

This material has been extracted primarily from:
Report # 102, National Federation of Science Abstracting and
Indexing Services "A Guide to the World's Abstracting and Indexing
Services in Science and Technology", 1963. 1-183 pp.

Oceanography

Abstracts of Selected Articles from Soviet Bloc and Mainland China Technical
Journals

Series VI: General Science and Miscellaneous, including Meteorology, Ocean-
ography, Biology, Astrobiology, Botany, Zoology, Medical Science, Aeromedicine,
Education, Fuels, Fuel Products, and Power, etc.

Office of Technical Services, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Washington 25, D.C.

Monthly: since Jan. 1961; 2,600 abstracts a year; \$18.00

B.B.G.O.A.; Boletin Bibliografico de Geofisica y Oceanografia Americanas
Sections: Parte Geofisica; Parte Oceanografica Comité Panamericano para el
Año Geofisico Internacional y Comité de Oceanografía del Instituto Panamericano
de Geografía e Historia, Ex-Arzobispado 29, Mexico 18, D.F. Mexico

Semiannual (each part once yearly); since 1958; 1,000 abstracts and references
a year from world literature; country classification; no index; \$5.00.

Bulletin of Marine Science of the Gulf and Caribbean
Section: Regional Bibliography

The Marine Laboratory, University of Miami, 1 Rickenbacker Causeway,
Virginia Key, Miami 49, Florida.

Quarterly; (Regional Bibliography annually); since 1951; 200 entries in Biblio-
graphy a year; subject classification; \$7.50 (Issue containing Bibliography \$2).

Bulletin Signalétique

Section 11: Sciences de la Terre. II Physique du Globe. Géologie. Paléontologie.

Centre de Documentation du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
(C.N.R.S.), 15 quai Anatole-France

Monthly; since 1940; 12,500 abstracts a year from world literature; subject
classification; monthly author, annual subject and author indexes; 40 NF domestic,
45 NF foreign.

Deutsche Hydrographische Zeitschrift

Section: Hydrographische Bibliographie

Deutsches Hydrographisches Institut, Bernhard Nocht Strasse 78, Hamburg 4, Germany

Six issues per year; since 1948; 1,100 references to German, French and English
language literature; subject classification; author index each issue and annual
author index; DM 28.

International Hydrographic Review

Section: International Hydrographic Bibliography

International Hydrographic Bureau, Quai des Etats-Unis, Monte-Carlo, Monaco.

Semiannual; since 1924; 120 references a year to books and documents of the world; subject classification; \$10.00

Journal du Conseil

Section: Current Bibliography

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, Charlottenlund, Denmark; for sale by Andr. Fred Høst & Sons, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Three times a year; since 1926-1959, 800 references a year to world literature; subject classification; 45 DKr. a vol.

Meteorological and Geostrophysical Abstracts

(also cards and monthly systematic (UDC) and permuted title indexes)

American Meteorological Society, 45 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass.

Monthly; since 1950; 11,000 abstracts a year from world literature; subject classification with Universal decimal classification numbers provided; monthly and annual author, subject, geographical, and journal indexes (decennial author, subject, geographical, journal, and Universal decimal classification index being prepared); \$90.00

Meteorologie en Klimatologie, Literatuuroverzicht

Technisch Documentatie- en Informatiecentrum voor de Krijgsmacht, Nieuwe Frederikkazerne von Alkemadelaan 774, The Hague, Netherlands.

Monthly; since 1955; 550 abstracts a year in Dutch, English or German from world journals and technical report literature; subject classification; available on exchange.

Quarterly Check-List of Geophysics

American Bibliographic Service, Darien, Conn.

Quarterly; since Jan. 1960; about 300 references a year to world literature; author arrangement; annual index of authors, editors and translators, \$5.50.

Soviet-Bloc Research in Geophysics, Astronomy and Space

Office of Technical Services, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D.C.

Biweekly; since January 1961; 550 abstracts a year; subject classification; \$16. Domestic; \$20. Foreign.

Marine Sciences

Biological Abstracts

3815 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Semimonthly; since 1927; 100,000 abstracts a year from over 5,000 world journals; subject classification; semimonthly, quarterly cumulative, and annual author and subject indexes; complete edition \$225 (Non-profit educational \$180).

Bulletin Signaletique

Section 9: Sciences de l'Ingénieur

Centre de Documentation du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (C.N.R.S.) 15 quai Anatole-France, Paris 7, France.

Monthly; since 1940; 6,000 abstracts a year from world literature; subject classification; monthly author, annual subject and author indexes; 60 NF domestic, 65 NF foreign.

Aquatic Sciences

Agricultural Index

The H.W. Wilson Co., 950 University Ave., New York 52, N.Y.

Monthly except Sept., with quarterly, annual and biennial cumulations; since 1916; 40,000 references a year from English language literature; alphabetic subject classification; service basis.

Bibliography of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Agriculture, c/o Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

Monthly; since 1942; 100,000 references a year to world literature; subject classification; monthly author; annual author and subject indexes; \$10.00 domestic; \$13.00 foreign.

Current Bibliography for Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries

Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Fisheries Biology Branch, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy.

Monthly; since 1958; 2,000 references a year to world literature; monthly and annual author, geographic, taxonomic, and subject indexes; \$27. payable to the Subscription Department, Taylor and Francis Ltd., Red Lion Court, Fleet St., London E.C. 4, England.

Fisheries

Archiv fur Fischereiwissenschaft
Section: Aus dem Schrifttum

Bundesforschungsanstalt fur Fischerei in Hamburg; published by Wesliche Berliner Verlagsgesellschaft, Heenemann KG, Berlin, Wilmersdorf, Germany.

Irregular; since 1950; about 100 abstracts and references a year to European and English language books; price varies.

Commercial Fisheries Abstracts
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington 25 D.C.

Monthly; since 1948; 500 abstracts and 400 references a year to journals and technical reports; subject classifications; controlled gratis.

Landwirtschaftliches Zentrablatt. Abt. III; Tierzucht-Tierernahrung-Fischerei (with "Schnelldokumentation")
Institut fur Dokumentation, Bereich Landwirtschaft, Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, Krausenstrasse 38, Berlin W 8, Germany; published by Akademie-Verlag, GmbH, Leipziger Strasse 3-4, Berlin W 1, Germany

Monthly; since 1955; 7,500 abstracts a year from journals; subject classification; annual author-subject index; DM 192 +DM 48 for "Schnelldokumentation".

Landwirtschaftliches Zentralblatt. Abt. IV: Veterinarmedizin
Institut for Dokumentation, Bereich Landwirtschaft, Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, Krausenstrasse 38, Berlin, Germany; published by Akademie-Verlag, GmbH, Leipziger Straasse 3-4, Berlin W 1, Germany.

Monthly; since 1956; 8,300 abstracts a year from world journals; subject classification; annual author-subject index; DM 192

Nihon Nogaku Shimpo Nempo (Annual Report of the Agricultural Progress in Japan)
Science Council of Japan, Ueno Park, Taito-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

Annual; since 1951; 6,000 bibliographic references a year to Japanese literature; subject classification; not for sale.

Nihon Suisan Gakkaishi. Bulletin of the Japanese Society of Scientific Fisheries.
Section: Abstracts.

The Japanese Society of Scientific Fisheries, c/o Tokyo University of Fisheries, Shiba Kaigandori 6, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

Monthly; since 1932; 144 abstracts a year from world literature; subject classification; 2,000 Yen domestic.

Rybnoe Khozayaistvo

Section: Novaya Literatura po rybnomy khozayaistvu

Vsesoyuznyi nauchnyi institut rybnogo khozayaistva i okeanografi. Glavnogo upravleniya rybnogo khoz yaistva pri Gosplane SSSR, Moscow, USSR.

Monthly; since 1920; 400 references a year from Soviet literature; 50 kopecks per issue.

Sport Fishery Abstracts

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

Quarterly; since 1955; 850 abstracts a year; quarterly, annual, and planned quinquennial subject and author indexes; gratis.

World Fisheries Abstracts (English, French and Spanish editions)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Fisheries Division, Technology Branch, Vaile della Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy.

Bimonthly; since 1950; 600 abstracts a year from world literature; subject classification; with Universal decimal classification and Fish and Wildlife Service classification numbers provided; U.S. \$4.00

Others not listed in above include:

Deep-Sea Research Oceanographic Bibliography

Cahiers Oceanographique

Psychological Abstracts (Covered by S.J. Holt For CBASF)

Referativnyi Zhurnal: Astronomiya i Goodeziya

Referativnyi Zhurnal: Biologiya

Referativnyi Zhurnal: Geofizika

Referativnyi Zhurnal: Geografiya

The Japan Information Center of Science and Technology (JICST), Current Bibliography on Science and Technology; includes Oceanography in the Section entitled Geology, Mining and Metalurgy.

Appendix # III

Recommendations of First Working-Group Meeting

Recommendations

(1) 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.

(2) Analysis

The Working-Group concluded that as a basis for obtaining more facts about the present position regarding abstracts in marine sciences so that desirable improvements can be specified, as well as for its intrinsic value as a bibliographic tool, it is necessary to have prepared a single current inventory of all documents being produced in this field. The Working-Group determined that, among them, five services, all of which apart from the delimitation of their subject coverage within the whole field, are unselective and cover the field comprehensively, or nearly so. These are:

- a) The "Current Bibliography for Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries",
- b) The cards of the Deutches Hydrographisches Institute
- c) "Meteorological and Geostrophysical Titles",
- d) Certain sections of the "Referativni Zhurnal",
- e) Certain sections of "Bulletin Signaletique".

Of these virtually all entries in c) and d) in the field of physical oceanography are entered in b). Item e) is searched and relevant references are partially incorporated at least in a) and b). Items a) and c) are currently in machine readable form. Items a), c), d), and e) are published, and b) can be made available in small numbers. A comprehensive inventory for the entire field could be made by combining a) and b) and eliminating their overlap in physical oceanography. This could be done on a trial basis manually, but for continuing operations it would be necessary to use automatic data processing equipment for efficient merging and elimination of duplication. It is, therefore, most desirable that the material for b) should be put into machine readable form, preferably including the back issues. Then the merging and checking could be done at one place, with suitable facilities and experience. It is suggested that the Aquatic Sciences Information Retrieval Center at Rhode Island is the appropriate place, especially as it already has all the material for a), has the necessary data processing equipment and has experienced staff.

(2) Recommendations

From the above analysis the Working-Group recommends to SCOR that it:

- A) Inform the German National Committee for SCOR of the Working-Group's opinion that the bibliographic work of the Deutesches Hydrographisches Institut is of great international importance, that this work will be enhanced if it can be combined with that of the other national and international activities to which we have referred and urge that facilities be provided at the Deutesches Hydrographisches Institut for putting their material into machine-readable form.
- B) Ask the UNESCO office of Oceanography to take steps to have the relevant sections of "Referativnyi Zhurnal" made available to the compilers of the Current Bibliography for Aquatic Services and Fisheries and to inquire as to the plans of the U.S.S.R. Institute of Scientific Information for using machine methods in the preparation of the Referativnyi Zhurnal.
- C) Ask the U.S. National Committee for SCOR to take steps to facilitate collaboration between the Aquatic Services Information Retrieval Center and the American Meteorological Society with a view to exchange between them of material for physical oceanography in machine-readable form and use of compatible codes and indexes so that relevant references, with cross references and abstracts from Meteorological and Geostrophysical Titles, can be added automatically to the consolidated inventory at ASIRC.
- D) Request the four units a), b), c), and d) to compare their coverage in marine sciences with that of "Bulletin Signaletique" and arrange for the Working-Group to be put in possession of information about the methods used to prepare the "Bulletin Signaletique".
- E) Draw the attention of relevant financing bodies to the special role of ASIRC to insure that it has the necessary funds to undertake the tasks for which it has shown itself fully competent.

(3) Analysis

The Working-Group is considering under its terms of reference, which refer to abstracts and bibliographies, problems of retrieval only of relevant scientific literature. It believes, however, that closely related problems are on the one hand, of retrieving information about the current, as yet unpublished work of scientists and activities of institutions, and on the other hand of exchange, storage and retrieval of data. A fully satisfactory system of scientific communication in a subject field would cover all three elements and link them, while recognizing that working scientists obtain much of their knowledge about what research is going on, and is published by other means than by using data centers, libraries and information centers. These other means include reprint exchange, personal contacts, attendance at symposia, etc. 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.

Recommendations

From the above analysis the Working-Group recommends to SCOR that it:

- A) Draw the attention of data centers and especially the World Data Centers A and B (Oceanography) to the above opinion.
- B) Request the UNESCO Office of Oceanography to inform the forthcoming meeting of the IOC Working-Group on Data Exchange of the above opinion.

(4) Analysis

The Working-Group was not in a position to say for what proportion of the references in a comprehensive list informative abstracts and/or author's synopses were available, what overlaps and duplication there might be; how much if any such duplication was necessary, or undesirable, or how much existed because different abstracting periodicals are oriented to different types of readership; how many references are not abstracted and why; and which of these marine scientists think should be abstracted. It was agreed that informative abstracts are useful for several reasons. They may provide in effect a partial translation service, they may confirm a scientist's wish to see the original paper, after he has been guided to the references by retrieval of a title and indicative abstract (annotation). They may serve as substitute for original documents when the latter are for some reason inaccessible.

That informative abstracts are useful does not imply that all pertinent references need necessarily be abstracted, or that all abstracts need be printed in abstracting periodicals, or that need has been demonstrated for a marine sciences abstracting service. The answers to these questions must await further study by the Working-Group. However, whatever the later results of the Working-Group's fact finding are, it is sure that certain small improvements in publication of scientific journals could materially improve communications. This question has been studied by several international groups concerned with scientific documentation, especially by ISO and UNESCO. The Working-Group tried to familiarize itself with these studies and decided to recommend that SCOR take certain steps to encourage the adoption of improved practices at least by the major periodicals in which marine sciences literature is published. These include the "core" journals referred to in Recommendation #1, as well as important monographic series.

(4) Recommendations

From the above analysis the Working-Group recommends to SCOR that:

- A) UNESCO be advised to provide assistance (the equivalent of one individual for about 3 months) for the purpose of providing information requested by the Working-Group concerning some of the above mentioned questions. Specifically, the study would involve examination of the coverage by abstracting journals listed in the appendix of the Current Bibliography for Aquatic Services and Fisheries, and from the Deutches Hydrographisches Institut lists.
- B) SCOR express the hope to UNESCO that the above would constitute a further step in more active participation by UNESCO in documentation work, as well as collaboration with FAO.
- C) SCOR encourage the editors of major marine sciences journals to:
- a) Include on the title pages of the periodical and on the first page of each article in it, the bibliographic reference in the form of the "World List of Periodicals for Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries", short form of the title of the periodicals; the date of publication, the series, volume and part numbers, and the first and last page numbers of the document; or of the article in question.
 - b) Print a synopsis (the ISO definition of which is a summary of the article written by the author, or with his agreement), which may be used as the source of an informative abstract, between the heading and the text on the first page of each scientific article.
 - c) Where such synopses are given in languages other than that of the text, it is desirable that the title also be given in those other languages. It is recommended that SCOR contact editors directly as well as through its national committees regarding the above matter. It is further recommended that UNESCO and FAO be requested to take similar action through their channels of communication with government agencies and through IOC.

(5) The members of the Working-Group believe that this first meeting has been very useful in several ways:

A) Each has been able to learn about the work of others in this field. A deficiency in exchange of information, even between those most concerned, was revealed. This has been corrected and several participants saw ways in which their own work could be improved thereby.

B) Some ideas for small improvements and extensions to existing systems were developed, and these can be put into effect in the near future by the people concerned.

C) Plans for further studies of the problem, both individually and collectively, were formulated.

D) The Working-Group realized the magnitude of the problem, and agreed that time is needed for the preparation of further background information, and considered a second meeting, perhaps later in 1964, as highly desirable.

Recommendation:

The Working-Group recommends therefore that:

SCOR maintain the "Working-Group on Abstracts and Bibliographies of Use in Marine Sciences" and provide funds for a second meeting.