AQUACULTURE INFORMATION AND THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

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ABSTRACT

An Aquaculture Information Center has been established at the National Agricultural Library (NAL). The purpose of the Center is to collect, analyse, and disseminate aquaculture-related literature to aquaculturists and other interested persons. Recent developments include: acquisition of the sizeable microfiche collection on aquaculture from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and the cooperative indexing agreement between NAL and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration regarding aquaculture information. Online computerized databases most relevant in the field of aquaculture and their printed counterparts are briefly described. Reference, Translation, and Document Delivery Services are discussed in terms of their scope, current policies and charges.

INTRODUCTION

The National Agricultural Library has recently established an Aquaculture Information Center. I would like to describe the purpose of this Center, its current development, the types of services it offers, and how interested persons can obtain these services.

The main purpose of the Aquaculture Information Center is to collect, analyse and disseminate aquaculture literature to private and public aquaculturists, interested organizations, and to the public in general. Our coverage includes: controlled cultivation and harvest of aquatic animals and plants in freshwater, brackish, and saltwater environments; the focus is primarily on production of fish for human consumption, but extends also to topics such as stock for commercial and sport fisheries.
ORGANIZATION OF THE AQUACULTURE INFORMATION CENTER

In order to ensure that important aquaculture publications are in our Library's collection, staff of the Center are working closely with the Acquisitions Branch in the selection and acquisition of books, periodicals, and other materials through gift, exchange and purchase.

The National Agricultural Library (NAL) has recently acquired the microfiche collection of aquaculture materials from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. This collection consists of approximately 11,000 documents on aquaculture-related topics covering the period 1970-1984. It corresponds to the bibliographic database entitled "Aquaculture" which has been online with the Dialog Information Retrieval Service as File 112, since 1980. Although citations have not been added to this online file since 1984, it continues to serve as a valuable index to literature in the field of aquaculture. A published version of this file covering the period 1970-1982 was issued in October 1983 entitled Literature for U.S. Aquaculture and is available from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS PB 84-127562) for purchase.

NAL and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have formally agreed to cooperate in the collection and dissemination of aquaculture information from around the world as part of an international project coordinated by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). As a result of this agreement, indexing of articles and papers related to aquaculture in NAL's collection will be done under the supervision of FAO's Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System (ASFIS). This bibliographic data is entered into an online database called "Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts," which is available as File 44 through Dialog. This cooperative indexing not only eliminates expensive duplication of work but also provides a single computerized database that covers the world's literature on aquaculture. The only exception to this agreement are those articles published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its cooperators which NAL will continue to enter into the AGRICOLA database. This database is available through BRS as "CAIN" and through Dialog as files 10 and 110.

The Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts database also publishes printed material under the same title and consists of two parts, Part 1 contains citations to the Biological Sciences and Living Resources, and Part 2 to Ocean Technology, Policy, and Non-Living Resources.

A comprehensive list of all serial titles in NAL's collection that relate to aquaculture has been compiled. This list is available upon request to any interested library or organization.
SERVICES

The Aquaculture Information Center offers a variety of services to patrons. Those services most directly affecting the patron are provided by Reference and Lending. Reference staff respond to all aquaculture inquiries received by walk-ins, phone, and letter. They are in the form of:

1. Manual searches

2. Online computerized searches of the most relevant aquaculture databases. This service is offered to those persons without online access at their workplaces, universities, or other nearby computer facilities.

3. General information, such as online searching techniques or referrals to specialists in a particular field of aquaculture.

4. Free bibliographic publications. At this time, the Center has produced several Quick Bibliography Series on aquaculture topics. One of them is entitled *Aquaculture* which lists citations to literature on this subject from 1984-1985 and corresponds to publications in our collection. Other useful reference tools are in the works as "Pathfinders" and short reference guides. Topics include catfish farming, trout farming, and shrimp culture, are bibliographic in form, and serve as a "starting point" for patrons interested in locating specific literature.

5. Information Alerts, which are free press releases from NAL. Some of the ones currently available describe developments such as: NAL's agreement with NOAA to cooperate in an international aquaculture program; our acquisition of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science aquaculture collection on microfiche; and NAL's expanded translations program.

The translations program is a special program offered at NAL under agreement with the Office of International Cooperation and Development. It has currently expanded to include translations of foreign-language publications on aquaculture. Some of the languages covered are: Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Rumanian, Russian, and Spanish.

This translation service is available on request to U.S. Department of Agriculture personnel and other agricultural researchers and extension workers worldwide. Public and private aquaculturists, commercial organizations, and marine libraries can also receive translations by going through proper channels; i.e., directing their requests through land-grant colleges or the extension service.

The Lending Branch offers document delivery service to persons requesting literature in the United States and overseas. Individuals
should try local resources first and, if unsuccessful, should then submit requests to NAL. Individuals overseas are asked to submit requests through libraries. In turn, libraries submit requests on the American Library or the International Library interlibrary request form, by TWX (710-828-0306) or via the OCLC interlibrary loans subsystem. Our OCLC symbol is AGL, and we request that the symbol be entered twice. The complete name of the person authorizing the request is to appear on each form. NAL asks that you indicate the citation source and verify it if possible. Also, if the citation is from a database, please give the database name, call number (if available), and any other relevant information. This enables Lending to process documents for delivery more efficiently.

Our loan service operates as follows:

* Monographs published in the United States or abroad may be lent to U.S. libraries.

* Monographs published in the U.S. may also be lent to libraries in other countries.

* Serials (except for USDA serials), rare, reference, and reserve books, microforms, and proceedings of conferences are not available for loan. However, photoduplication service for these materials will be supplied automatically if the requesting organization indicates on the loan request form that this is acceptable and that charges will be paid.

* Photoduplication service is done on a cost-recovery basis with the National Technical Information Service serving as the collection agent. Proceeds offset the costs needed to provide our lending and photoduplication services. Information sheets which give details of our services and charges are available upon request.

CONCLUSION

As the NAL aquaculture representative, I am presently serving as a member of the Panel on Education and Technical Assistance for the Federal Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture. The Panel's main objective is to review all aquaculture activities throughout the nation (including existing information resources, education and training programs, and extension/advisory service efforts), and to recommend any measures that can improve their function. Any suggestions offered for improving aquaculture activities or for improving information transfer among aquaculture organizations are welcomed.

The Aquaculture Information Center will continue to expand its resources in order to meet the increasing needs of the aquaculture community. Exploration of new technologies such as laser videodisc
technology and "expert systems" are in the initial stages of development at NAL. It is hoped that cooperation of the Center with private, state, and federal organizations will help improve the way aquaculture literature is stored and disseminated in the future, and that aquaculturists worldwide will benefit from these efforts.