Marine Science Information

Throughout the World:

Sharing the Resources

Editors
Carolyn P. Winn
Robert W. Burkhart and Joyce C. Burkhart

International Association of Marine Science Libraries
and Information Centers
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PREFACE

Marine Science Information Throughout the World:
Locating and Sharing Resources

When I selected the theme for the 14th annual conference of the International Association of Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers October 1988 meeting, I knew it was very ambitious and that the program could not be completely fulfilled. The results of the conference, as represented in the published proceedings, have gone beyond my expectations. With the exception of the meeting at Williamsburg, Virginia in 1985, this conference has been the most international to date. More than ninety representatives of over 18 nations participated. This continuing increase in worldwide representation has been due partly to assistance from various organizations outside of IAMSLIC, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO in Paris; the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa; and the private organization, United States Liaison Committee for Oceanographic Research, of Philadelphia, which supported the attendance of representatives from the People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Trinidad, Mexico, and the Ivory Coast. We also received financial assistance from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Direction for Scientific and Technical Cooperation and Development, Paris; and the Regional Council of Provence-Alpes-Cote D’Azur, in Marseilles, for the French participants. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all these organizations.

Papers reviewing the status of marine information in several developing nations, with projects of regional and international importance, the difficulties encountered, and their needs were most useful and informative to the attending IAMSLIC members. In addition to the papers from representatives of developing countries, other topics of the conference included marine information resources in North America, Australia, South America, Africa, and several countries of Europe; special databases available to the marine science community; developing networks, including the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System (ASFIS), INFOTERRA of United Nations Environment Program, and the World Bank’s environment information system. Also summarized is the report of the meeting of the Ad-Hoc Consultation of Experts on Marine Information Management of the IOC, held in October 1987, which indicates that those experts are as concerned as we are by the question of information dissemination and delivery. Topics of mutual concern, including legal issues raised by the use of new technologies in the field of information, costs relative to serials collections, and the use of CD-ROM databases by the marine science community, were also presented.

All the contributors to the success of the conference and to the rapid completion of the present proceedings must be congratulated and thanked: Kay K. Hale, Librarian at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, and her team for local organization; all the speakers who delivered their papers in due time; and the editors of this volume - Carolyn Winn, Bob Burkhart and Joyce Burkhart.

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