

BANSDOC Services

Scientific Information And Documentation In Bangladesh-II

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BANSDOC and BCBSNA:

BANSDOC has a close relationship with BCBSNA and reinforce in publishing and propagating the BCBSNA activities in the country. BANSDOC has proposed to BCBSNA to strengthen their activities in the country by offering lectures in classes, participating in Seminars/Workshops/meeting etc. during their homelaave.

International Relations

BANSDOC has been maintaining good international relationship through rendering effective cooperation and functioning as the national focal point of many national, regional and international organisations like INS-DOC (India) and SAARC Documentation Centre (India), PASTIC (Pakistan), ISTIC (China), NACSIS (Japan), National Library of Australia, Federation of International Documentation and European Patent Office, The Netherlands,

European Commission (EC), Belgium UNESCO, France and UNESCO/PROAP/IPGI/ASTINFO, Thailand. It has been participating in the various network activities of UNESCO/PGI/PROAP/ASTINFO, Bangkok, Thailand like ASTINFO, SINAP, APCTT etc., which resulted in the carrying-out of a number of development pilot projects by BANSDOC with the financial support from UNESCO. BANSDOC is functioning as the Coordinating Unit of FID and BANSDOC Director is functioning as the FID Liaison Officer in Bangladesh.

Networking of Automated Libraries and E-mail Services

Under a GOB project entitled "Automation and Networking of Science and Technology Libraries in Bangladesh," a Network known as BANSLINK has been established successfully in last June 1998, as per Schedule. With a view to providing Scientific and Technological Information

to the various category of users efficiently and in the shortest possible time (i.e. real time) and also to keep pace with other developed and developing countries of the world the project was undertaken by BANSDOC. The modes of the projects are 15, 6 being outside Dhaka and 9 in Dhaka.

The Impediments

So from the above-discussions, the main impediments to the real time information services needed for promoting R&D activities may be identified as follows:

- * We have no Science and Technology Information Policy leading to the formulation of information strategy and planning for appropriate programming.

- * The libraries and information centres create and store data in traditional formats. The retrieval system is also not scientific.

- * Though there are in some cases inter-library lending initiatives, it cannot at all ensure maximum utilization of resources due to the traditional methods

they apply and hence information become outdated.

- * The infrastructural facilities existing in the country for S&T information is not at all at par with the modern world to support effectively educational, research, industrial and socio-economic development effort.

- * The information professionals are not exposed to modern information technology and hence are not ready to apply it in the case of information retrieval and transmission to the users.

- * Due to lack of regular exposure to the incremental development of IT by imparting training home and abroad, the IT personnel cannot serve well.

- * Library and information centres are the store-house of knowledge and knowledge is power. This awareness should be created at all levels.

So to attain the capability of world standard in S&T information service, we in Bangladesh, must address our problems immediately.

(The writer is Director of BANSDOC).