

# Scientific Information And Documentation In Bangladesh

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**F**Bacon in Sixteen Century tried to establish the dictum "knowledge is power" in his "New Atlantis." Samuel Johnson (1775) remarks "Knowledge is of two kinds; we know a subject by ourselves or we know where we can find information upon it." The present day interpretation of the term leans heavily towards the latter aspect: The key to knowledge is information.

We are now moving into a time where access to information being the basis of our knowledge will take a variety of forms. Modern communication methods and computer applications have opened up a range of new information technologies and the power they possess is clearly immense.

Information technology has three main elements: Storage, processing and communication. The impact of information is due both to combination or convergence of these elements.

#### Storage:

Storing information by carving notches on wood or bone, knots on cord, clay tablets etc. was known to people 30,000 years ago. Probably king Cadmus (Greek) devised writing on papyrus with ink and a new civilization started by storing information in book form which continues but is facing a challenge with the advent of newer technology i.e. information technology.

#### Communication:

In olden times many ingenious ways like sending messengers, shouting using pigeons & fires, fires, lighting smoke, beating drums etc. were employed to send messages to distant places. Then mechanical (Semaphore France 1793) method was tried. For reliable and quicker transmission of messages institutions like post offices grew around the world and are still in existence. The advent of telephone, wireless (radio), television etc. are milestones in the development of communication process.

Information once created must

be applied to scientific activities is defined after International Federation for Documentation statue as "collection and storage, classification and selection, dissemination and utilization of information of all kinds." This is an integrated process of utilization of semantics, psychological and mechanical aids and techniques. This offers reproduction including microcopy for giving documentary information maximum accessibility and usability. Documentation entails the methods of presenting information including translation, abstracts, indexes and other bibliographical aids. Learned societies, information bureaus and libraries organize and distribute such literature. The demand for productivity and explosion of information have led to the creation of documentation centres around the world.

It is well known fact that socio-economic development of any country depends on the proper utilization of its natural resources through systematic research. Most developing countries need to increase food production, reduce birth rates, control flood and epidemic diseases, increase employment opportunities and enhance productivity. To do these, developing countries should utilize the existing knowledge already available anywhere in the world and must not undertake the luxury of a research the result of which is already known somewhere. The primary purpose of a documentation and information centre is collection of universal information and dissemination of this information among the appropriate users.

#### Recent trends:

It has been observed that over the last decade this rapidly evolving IT has been applied in various sectors of economy. The IT itself has emerged to be a very important sector. New products and services have emerged with increasing speed which offers both opportunities and challenges to societies. Multimedia has

makers and administrators.

#### R&D Organisations:

The present Government has been trying its best for intensification of R&D in the research organisations. There are 64 independent R&D organisations and 104 University Departments which are working in Science, Technology and Research (STR) in different fields of science and technology in the country. There are 1382 Ph.D. and 824 M. Phil/M.S. Scientists, 3891 Scientific works and 3825 Technicians for all these Institutions. Amazingly, there is only one Ph.D. Scientist for a population of 86830, one Scientific worker for 145631 population. So it can be easily realized that the working Scientists and Scientific workers are very scarce in Bangladesh.

#### Library and Information Bases

Almost all library and S&T information centres in the country are attached to their main organisations. There are 1213 College Libraries, of them, 385 are Intermediate college, 605 degree college and 223 Government college libraries. There are 22 Engineering & Polytechnic Institution, 3 National library and Information centres, 67 Government and more than 864 Private Libraries function in the country. But the number of School libraries are not known. Medical and Dental Colleges including the Medical University have 22, Universities have 25, University Institutes have 11 and University Colleges have 16 libraries.

#### Clientele and Users are

- \* Students of all levels.
- \* Illiterate people (Specifically audiovisual materials).
- \* Literate people including the intellectuals.
- \* Policy makers, planners, decision makers, administrators, etc.
- \* Research scientists, teachers, etc.

Bansdoc

Bibliography Compilation Service. 5. Document Reproduction Service. 6. Library Service. 7. Desktop Printing and Publication (DPP) and e-mail services and Inter-Library Lending Service.

#### Co-operative Activities with International Organizations

BANSDOC has cooperative programmes of activities with INSDOC (India), National Libraries of Australia and British Library Documentation Supply Centre (BLDSC). We are usually paying Re. 75.00 for a photocopy of documents upto 10 pages and US \$10.00 for an article upto 10 pages to BLDSC.

#### With Other Organizations

BANSDOC has also been receiving continued assistance from many other organizations of the world, namely,

(a) Pakistan Scientific and Technical Information Centre (PASTIC).

(b) Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China (ISTIC).

(c) National Centre for Science Information System (NSCIS), Japan.

(d) Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS).

(e) Federation of International Documentation (FID), The Netherlands.

(f) European Commission (EC), Belgium.

(g) European Patent Office (EPO), The Netherlands, etc.

#### Other Activities

#### BANSDOC-UNESCO Project:

BANSDOC has been implementing a UNESCO Pilot Project on "Integration of Information, Communication and Other Resources for the Development of Rural, Isolated and Depressed Areas" in Kachua P.S of Chandpur. The aims of this project is to demonstrate that if the people are given access to information they need and are trained to use such information the development of the in-

ORT COURSE

• Higher qualification within the above age limit is welcome.

Any qualification HSC (SC) or equivalent, minimum 2nd div, then you are the right pe

