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ICMR Hqrs. Library

Tel: 26588980/279 (Ext.)

26589585 (D)

E-mail: icmrhq_11@yahoo.co.in

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National Resource Centres: a brief overview - Part I

What is Resource Centre:

Resource Centre is a place where books and non-book materials of all kinds, which are relevant sources of information, are kept. Library is a information resources center for institutions of higher education and research organizations etc

This brief review gives an overview on the establishment of national resource centres in specific scientific disciplines. There are many national resource centers established in India in different disciplines. These resource centres attempt to provide maximum information support to the users on the required specific information requirements in specific disciplines.

Keeping in view of the objectives of the National Resource Centre (NRC) to be established, it should able to provide some specialized services. For that a specialized library is required which should procure, process and maintain the documents collection related to that institutes topical interest for example, a National Resources Centre on HIV etc. should contain every bit of information about the disease published in India and abroad. The documents could include Books, Monographs, Patents, Standards, Reports, and Theses. The Library should subscribe for major abstracting and indexing periodicals of that institute's main thrust research area. The Centre should organize Seminars/Workshops/Exhibitions for exchange of ideas for the benefit of scientists and researchers. Collaborating with International Organizations and Institutions would benefit the scientists for exchange of information and data. The NRC should also able to provide a range of information-related services to users including current awareness services, article alert services, reprographic services, translation services etc.

What should be the main objective of NRCs?

- To act as a clearing-house of information on the field /discipline which form the core objective(s) for which the institute has been established.
- To collect, organize, store, retrieve and disseminate information generated the world over, more specifically in India related to the field on which the resource center is established. The services are offered to the institutes of concerned/related discipline in response to and in anticipation of their practical requirements.
- To focus and target the needs of scientists, research workers and other users of the host institute and various sister institutions requiring the information pertaining to their discipline.

Activities of NRCs :

The main objectives of establishment of resource center is to build up a comprehensive storage of information based on the institute/organization core research area beneficial to scientists and researchers working in that area. Once such storage is established, appropriate retrieval systems using suitable computer needs to be developed. This vast storage of information and the retrieval system would together be used to offer the following services on an all-India basis:

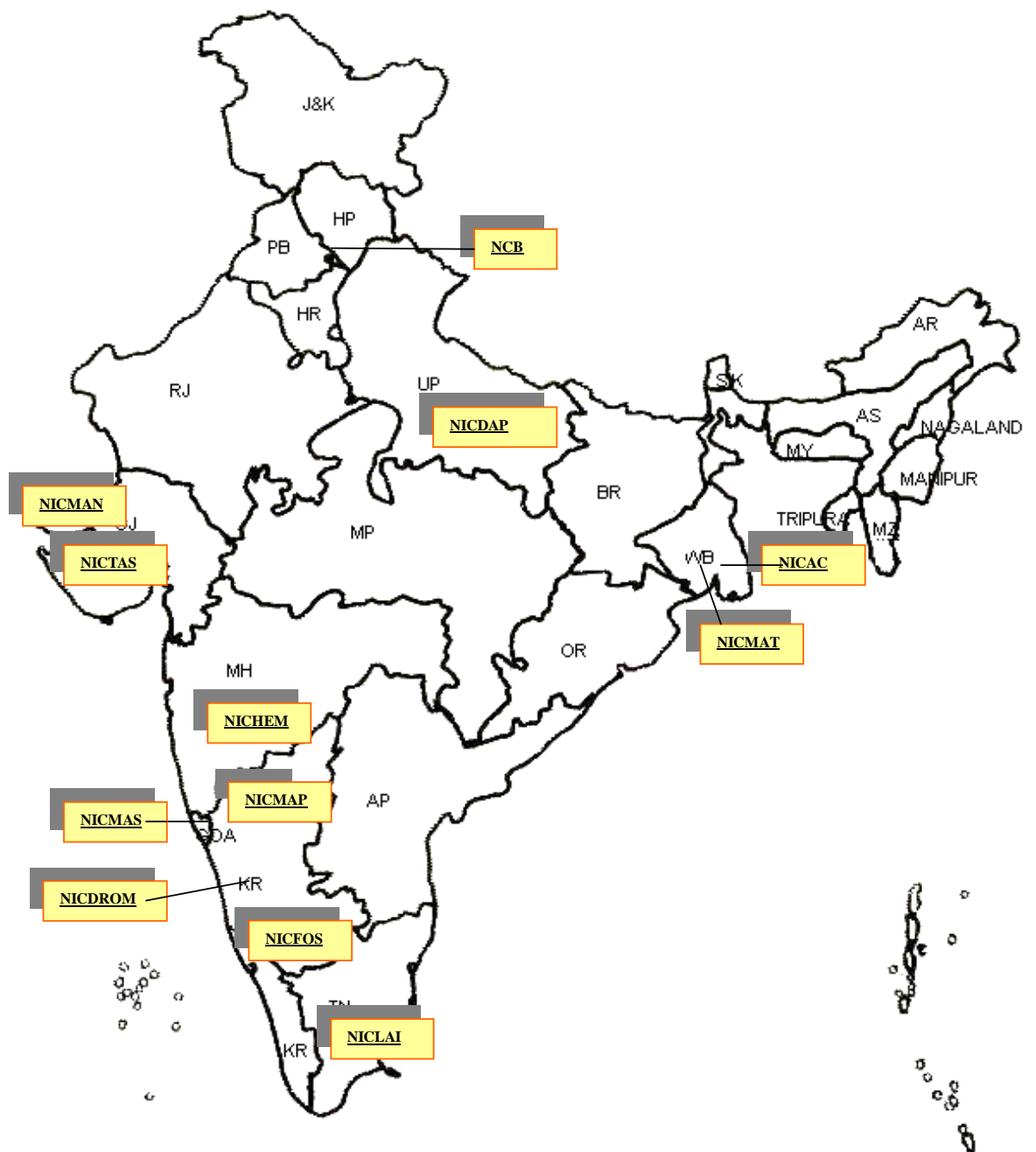
- Subscription to or participation in consortia related to a discipline of resource centers i.e. Malaria, HIV and TB etc.
- Publication of Abstracting and Indexing and other informative bulletins
- Translation Services
- Reprographic Services
- Publication of directories
- Information retrieval on request and in anticipation
- Preparation and maintenance of Union Catalogue of journals/reports
- Preparation of surveys, state-of-art reports etc.
- Subscription to full text database or any other database available related to the core research area of that institute i.e. Malaria, HIV etc.

Resource Centres on various topic/subject interest were established in India by **NISSAT** (***National Information System for Science and Technology, Dept. of Scientific. & Industrial Research, G.O.I***)

Some major National Resource Centres :

- National Information Centre on Leather (NICLAI), Chennai , Tamil Nadu (TN).

- National Information Centre on Food Science (NICFOS), Mysore, Karnataka (KA).
- National Information Centre on Drug & Pharmaceuticals (NICDAP), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- National Information Centre on Machine Tools & Production Engineering (NICMAP), Bangalore, Karnataka (KA).
- National Information Centre on Textiles (NICTAS), Ahmedabad, Gujrat (GJ)
- National Information Centre on Chemical and Allied Industries (NICHEM), Pune, Maharashtra (MH).
- National Information Centre on Management Science (NICMAN), Ahmedabad, Gujrat (GJ).
- National Information Centre on Marine and Aquatic Science (NICMAS), Goa
- National Information Centre on Advanced Ceramics (NICAC), Calcutta, West Bengal (WB).
- National Information Centre on Bibliometrics (NCB), Delhi.
- National Information Centre on Crystallography (NICRYS)
- National Information Centre on CD-ROMs (NICDROM), Bangalore, Karnataka.
- National Information Centre on Tea Manufacturing and Marketing (NICMAT), Calcutta, West Bengal (WB).



[Map displaying major national resource centres in India]

(to be concluded)

Recent Additions

1. Disasters and mental health / Juan Jose Lopez-Ibor, John Wiley, West Sussex, 2005
2. Method for meta-analysis in medical research / Alex J Sutton et al., John Wiley, West Sussex, 2004
3. Intellectual property and competitive strategies in the 21st century / S. Alikhan and R. Mashelkar, Kluwer Academic, The Hague, 2004
4. Technology Transfer: strategic management in developing countries / Goel Cohn, Sage, New Delhi, 2004
5. AIDS in Asia: the challenge ahead / Jai P.Narayan, Sage, New Delhi, 2004
6. Medical eligibility criteria for contraceptive use / WHO, Geneva, 2004
7. Selected practice recommendations for contraceptive use / WHO, Geneva, 2004
8. Human syndromes: a complete guide / P.D. Gupta, Oxford & IBH, New Delhi, 2005
9. Anti-tuberculosis drug resistance in the World / WHO, Geneva, 2004
10. Cancer and herbs / S.P. Kaushal, VCRC, 2003
11. India and global eradication of polio / Ranbaxy, New Delhi
12. Ethics in animal experimentation / Ranbaxy, New Delhi
13. Infecundity, infertility and childlessness in developing countries / WHO, Geneva, 2004
14. WHO resource book on mental health, human rights and legislation / WHO, Geneva, 2005
15. Mental health policy, plans and programs / WHO, Geneva, 2005
16. Child and adolescent mental health policies and plans / WHO, Geneva, 2005
17. Improving access and use of psychotropic medicine / WHO, Geneva, 2005
18. Health effects of transport- related air pollution / WHO, Geneva, 2005
19. Vitamin and mineral requirements in human nutrition / WHO, Geneva, 2004
20. Alcohol use and sexual risk behavior: a cross cultural study in eight countries / WHO, Geneva, 2005
21. Law and the doctor / Sunila Sharma, Paras, Hyderabad, 2005

22. Avoiding heart attacks and strokes: don't be a victim protect yourself / WHO, Geneva, 2005
23. Topics in the history of pharmacology / P.N. Patil et al., B.S.Shah, Ahmedabad, 2005
24. Managing complications in pregnancy and child birth: a guide for midwives and doctors / WHO, Geneva, 2003
25. Managing new born problems: a guide for doctors, nurses and midwives / WHO, Geneva, 2003
26. Children's health and environment: developing action plans / WHO Regional office for Europe, Denmark, 2005

Reference Books

1. The World of Learning / Europa, London, 2004
2. The WHO Manual of diagnostic imaging: radiographic techniques and projections / WHO, Geneva, 2003
3. Guidelines for conducting a review of a national dengue prevention and control Programme / WHO, Geneva, 2005
4. Manual for laboratory diagnosis of anthrax / WHO, SEARO, 2003
5. WHO global atlas of traditional, complementary and alternative medicine: text volume / G. Bodeker et al., WHO Center for Health Development, Kobe, 2005
6. WHO global atlas of traditional, complementary and alternative medicine: map volume / C. K.Org et al., WHO Center for Health Development, Kobe, 2005
7. The WHO reproductive health library: a training manual / WHO, SEARO, New Delhi, 2004

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NEWS

- **Advisory Committee meeting on Modernization of ICMR Libraries:** The next meeting of Advisory Committee for modernization of the facilities and infrastructure of the Council's Library & Information Network is proposed to be held in November, mainly to review the usage of JCCC@ICMR and ProQuest full text database in ICMR institutions.
- **Release of Budget for Books/Journals:** An expert Committee meeting to allocate budget for the current financial year 2005-06 for books and journal for ICMR institutes, was held on 10/10/2005. As per the recommendations of the Committee the budget will be released in two installments. The first will be released in this month; the second installment will be released subject to availability of funds.
- **Apprentice Scheme:** The Advisory Committee on modernization of ICMR Libraries recommended adoption of apprentice scheme of Govt. of India for ICMR Libraries. ICMR Hqrs has implemented the recommendation by recruiting three apprentices for its Hqr library. ICMR institute MRC, Delhi has recruited one apprentice and IRMS Delhi has been in the process of recruiting apprentices for its library. The other ICMR institutes can also recruit apprentices following the same procedure as was followed in ICMR Hqrs. ICMR Institutes who would like to recruit apprentices and require details regarding this, can write to ICMR Hqrs. New Delhi.