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## **UNIT 2 CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICES (INCLUDING SDI AND ALERTING SERVICES )**

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### **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

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After reading this Unit, you will be able to:

- explain the meaning of and need for current awareness services;
- describe the types of current awareness services, which are prevalent in the world;
- compile a current contents type of service;
- prepare entries for the publication namely ‘announcement of research in progress’;
- prepare user and document profile for SDI service; and
- bring out a publication giving data on forthcoming conferences.

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### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

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For any active researcher, it is necessary to keep herself/himself abreast of the latest developments in the field. Everyday the literature is pouring in all over the world in different forms and diverse languages. It is impossible for a researcher to keep track of the entire literature just by going through a few journals being received in the library. Suppose, somebody’s area of interest is ‘information use study’. Now, s/he has three options – (i) to search the World Wide Web (hereinafter

referred to as Web), (ii) to go through the documents that are likely to contain articles on the topic, and (iii) to search abstracting and indexing services available in the relevant field. Searching the Web, definitely a researcher will get some articles on the topic. Unfortunately that will not be comprehensive since many articles will not appear in the Web.

It is known that the articles on the topic will be available in the journals on library and information science. As you know that the journals on library and information science (LIS) are not few. From India itself, more than twenty LIS journals appear in English and other languages. If you take the world as a whole, the number will go into hundreds. Getting all these journals in one library is impossible. Even if you get them in one library you will not be able to read them all as they will be in different languages.

You may go through abstracting and indexing services. Some of them will be available online and their searching will entail cost. Moreover, information that you will get through these services will be backdated by a few weeks to few months. The problem is the same for research scholars in all fields. Now, the question is – what is the way out? Scientists faced this problem long ago. The problem became acute from 1960s onwards when literature started growing exponentially. To counter the problem, a new type of service emerged called **current awareness service**.

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## 2.2 CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICES

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These services appear in various forms to inform researchers as to the appearance of the latest literature in the field with minimum loss of time. In many cases the service reaches the researcher within a fortnight after the publication of the primary source.

### 2.2.1 Definition and Scope

When current awareness service (CAS) was conceived, at that time the Internet, Web, e-mail, etc. were non-existent. Print form was the order of the day. Hence, inclusion of current literature in indexing and abstracting services and their distribution in the world usually by sea mail used to take time in terms of months. Take for example, a monthly indexing service operating from USA used to take one month for the processing of the literature, another month for printing, binding and dispatch, and one more month for sea mail to reach the document in India, China or Japan. Users in these places could see the literature in the fourth month that means after a minimum delay of three months. At that time a service was necessary to inform users about the latest literature quicker compared to the time taken by the prevalent abstracting or indexing services. Suppose, a weekly service that could inform users within a month about the latest literature, the service was welcome. The situation generated the demand for such a service and the services sprang up in different forms, size and shape.

CAS at that time was defined as an information service through which users were informed promptly enough about recently published literature before they were noticed in regular abstracting and indexing services. Now, the situation has changed. Everyday a substantial amount of current literature is being placed in the Web and users from any part of the world are seeing the same on the Web practically without any loss of time. A question automatically may arise in your

mind – Has CAS become useless today? The answer is negative, because a huge bulk of current literature is not available on the Web, specifically the literature generating from developing and non-anglophone countries. The current awareness services that started in pre-Internet era are still continuing.

In this Unit, we are going to discuss about CAS of pre-Internet era with indications as to how the same has been affected with the advent of the Internet. The following types of CAS are prevalent in the world:

- 1) Title announcement service
- 2) Announcement of research in progress
- 3) Selective dissemination of information service
- 4) Advance information about forthcoming conferences
- 5) Newspaper clipping service

As ‘newspaper clipping service’ will be covered in Unit 3 of this Block, we shall discuss here the first four items.

### 2.2.2 Characteristics

CAS has quite a few characteristics. Some of the characteristics are mentioned below:

- 1) **It is basically an announcement service brought out usually in printed form.** Many libraries bring out the service in the name of accession list, documentation list, current awareness list, current awareness service, etc. Now, they may be brought in digital form and disseminated through the Internet, intranet, extranet and e-mail.
- 2) **Speed is the essence of CAS. As such, the periodicity of the service usually varies from weekly to monthly.** Because of the short periodicity the literature in the service appears speedier than usual abstracting and indexing services.
- 3) **It aims to serve or generate in researchers current approach to information.** The term ‘current approach’ appearing in the sentence needs to be explained. Studies have identified four distinct types of approaches researchers follow in their quest for information. They are: i) Exhaustive approach; ii) Everyday approach; iii) Current approach; and iv) Catching-up or Brushing-up approach. Using current approach researchers try to keep themselves abreast of the developments in their respective fields. The approach is mainly a scanning operation undertaken by the researcher herself/himself.
- 4) **It does not answer any specific query but provides a broad view of recent developments.** Suppose a researcher is interested in recent papers on user studies s/he scans through a current awareness service on a broader field and notes down the bibliographical details of the articles on user studies. In the next step s/he will gather these papers from libraries, information centres, etc. and use them for her/his research work.
- 5) **The service is usually on a broader area.** Take for example, *Current Contents*, the world famous current awareness services. They are on such

broad areas as: Agriculture, Biology and Environmental Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Clinical Medicine, Engineering, Computing and Technology, Life Sciences, Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. Using any of these services, the researchers get the papers from the core journals of their field and also from journals related or alien to their field.

- 6) **The service is a formal channel and supplements the information received through informal channels.** In many cases researchers receive preprints etc. from the fellow researchers. Even through conversation, e-mails, letters, etc. they get the glimpse of the latest developments in their field of activity. These are all informal channels. Whatever is being received through informal channels is not enough. That is the reason they need to go through CAS.
- 7) **The service is meant for scanning.** Researchers usually scan the pages of a CAS, and note down the papers of their interest if they spot any.
- 8) **The service is for temporary use only.** Whatever appears in CAS, reappears in indexing and abstracting services afterwards. In essence, it informs the researcher in advance. In some respect, it resembles a newspaper. Every morning it updates you with the current news. Similarly every issue of a CAS updates you with the current development.

### Self Check Exercise

**Note:** i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

- 1) Highlight the salient characteristics of 'current awareness service'.

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## 2.3 TITLE ANNOUNCEMENT SERVICE

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The main purpose of the service is to disseminate the titles of the articles along with their bibliographical details. The service is provided in various forms such as reproducing the title pages as they are, without making any changes. This service is also known as *Current Contents* type service and was introduced by Eugene Garfield of Institute for Scientific Information, USA. The generation of this type of service involves least cost, labour and time. In this type of service the users have to scan the entire contents to ferret out the items of their interest. To make the service more user-friendly, titles may be arranged alphabetically under broad subjects, under class numbers or under the names of divisions, sections, etc. We shall see how CAS can be produced in all these forms one by one. First, we will concentrate on *Current Contents* type service.

### 2.3.1 Current Contents Type Current Awareness Service

Suppose, you have been asked by the head of LIS department to provide such a service. You must know that providing such a service is neither very labour intensive nor very costly. To start the service you need to follow the given steps.

**Step 1** – First of all you must decide the *title* of the service as well as its *periodicity*. Suppose the LIS department on an average receives four to five issues of different journals in a month. In such a situation a monthly service will serve the purpose. The title of your service may be *Current Awareness Bulletin on LIS*. The cover page of the Bulletin will show volume number, issue number, and the name of the month and year. This apart, the name of the compiler, and the address of the Department may be given. You can also obtain ISSN number for this Bulletin from National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR).

**Step 2** – At the beginning of the month, gather the issues that have been received during the last month. Suppose, the following issues have been received during March 2010. *Annals of Library and Information Studies* – March 2010; *Collnet Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management* – December 2009; *DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology* – March 2010; *Indian Journal of Library and Information Science* – January-April 2010; and *Information Studies* – January 2010.

**Step 3** – Based on the contents of the above mentioned issues you need to bring out the Bulletin.

**Step 4** – At this step you must decide the number of copies you will reproduce for each issue of the Bulletin. For deciding the number you need to take into account the number of faculty members (whole time and part time); PhD and M Phil scholars of LIS department; a few copies may be required for BLIS and MLIS students; and the head of LIS department may like to send some copies to other universities. Taking all these into account you may come to the conclusion that the number of copies required is 50 approximately.

**Step 5** – If you have decided to bring out *Current Contents* type publication, then you need to make 50 copies of the contents page of each of the five issues of the periodicals mentioned above. Arrange the contents pages of each periodical in alphabetical order for each copy of the Bulletin. Staple all these pages along with the cover page and your CAS Bulletin is ready. It will take the shape as given in the following pages (33-37).

**Step 6** – Current awareness services produced by organisations for local consumption are usually distributed free. It may be priced if the demand is very wide or global.

**Step 7** – Once in a year you must conduct a use study of the service. As the service is free everybody will like to have it but may not use it. Through use study you will know how the service is being utilised and accordingly you will be able to delete old users and enlist new users.

We have given below the scan copy of the contents of the journals mentioned at the step 2. These pages are preceded by the cover page of the service. This sample has been given here to give you an idea about the service.

**Compiled by**  
**(Name of the compiler)**

**Department of Library and Information Science**  
**(Name of the University)**

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## **Annals of Library and Information Studies**

<http://www.niscair.res.in>

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The type of service is brought out without any author or subject index. If there is a strong demand for such indexes they may be provided. That would obviously entail more labour, time and cost.

**Advantages**

The advantages of this type of service is that it can be brought out very quickly, with less cost and labour, and practically without any editing. It serves the purpose of the users quite well. Suppose a researcher is interested in the articles on **use studies**, s/he may go through the pages and notice that the following articles are there on use studies. It will not take more than a few minutes to locate these articles. Below is given the list of articles gleaned from the contents pages of the journals included in the service. The list has been prepared using the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7<sup>th</sup> ed.

- 1) R. H. Walmiki, K. C. Ramakrishnegowda, and K. R. Prithviraj. "Awareness and Use of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium by the Faculty Members of Karnataka State Universities". *Annals of Library and Information Studies* 57.1 (2010): 33-43. Print.



### 2.3.2 Current Awareness Service Arranged by Subject

To avoid the shortcomings mentioned earlier the CAS can be brought out by arranging entries according to the subject or class number. The job can be done manually or with the aid of a computer.

**Manual Method** – For bringing out this type of service you need to follow the steps as enumerated under 2.3.1 except Step 5. At this step you need to prepare an entry for each of the articles. For writing or typing the entries you may use catalogue cards. The entry should follow a style decided by your organisation. For such services entries in certain respect are different from the catalogue entries you prepare for books etc. following AACR-2R or any other code. For example, in a catalogue entry you do not mention all the authors of the publication if their number exceeds two (in the case of CCC) and three (in the case of AACR-2R). For CAS and other secondary services the rule is to include all the authors. The rendering of the name of the authors however can be done according to CCC or AACR-2R. At the top of each entry you must write/type the broad subject heading or the class number. You may prepare an entry like this.

Entry with the Subject Heading

**Bibliometrics**

Sudhier, K. G. “Application of Bradford’s Law of Scattering to the Physics Literature: A Study of Doctoral Theses Citations at the Indian Institute of Science”. *DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology* 30.2 (2010): 3-14.Print.

You may note that in the heading the term used is Bibliometrics and not Bradford’s law. This is because in CAS we generally use broad subject headings to speed up the work.

When all the entries for a particular issue of CAS has been prepared, they are to be arranged first according to the subjects, and then alphabetically author-wise within each subject. If it is decided to provide an author index, the entries are to be given serial numbers. For such a CAS, subject index is redundant. However, *See* and *See also* references may be provided such as

Bradford’s Law *See* Bibliometrics

Lotka’s Law *See* Bibliometrics

Once the arrangement is complete along with ‘See’ and ‘See also’ references, the whole matter is to be typed, duplicated and distributed to the users.

**Computer-assisted Method** – In this method a database is to be prepared using CDS/ISIS, WINISIS or any other software package. The database should take care of all the elements that are required for each entry. The data for each entry is to be inputted. When the data entry for the whole issue is complete, a print-out is to be taken out which will then be duplicated and distributed to the users. The issue of the CAS may be placed in the website of the organisation whereby it will be used by many. The issue may also be e-mailed to users.

### 2.3.3 Current Awareness Service Arranged by Class Number

Generally, in CAS, entries are not arranged according to class number. Possibly, the reason is that in many cases class numbers are not available. Take for example, the subject 'bibliometrics', the class number of the subject is not available even in the latest edition (22nd) of DDC. However, if it is decided to arrange the entries according to class number, then the method described under **Section 2.3.2** should be followed. The only difference will be in relation to the subject heading. In place of the subject heading the class number will be written along with the subject heading as shown in the entry given below.

Entry with the Class Number and Subject Heading

#### **2T Bibliometrics**

Sudhier, K. G. "Application of Bradford's Law of Scattering to the Physics Literature: A Study of Doctoral Theses Citations at the Indian Institute of Science". *DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology* 30.2 (2010): 3-14. Print.

N.B. The class number given in the entry is according to 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Colon Classification.

In this type of service both author index and subject index may be provided.

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## 2.4 ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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In this world at any given point of time, millions of research projects are found to be on-going. For a researcher, it is more or less compulsory to know the research work that has already been done in her/his field, and the ones that are going on. Deficiency in this respect can easily lead to the duplication of research work. Information about the research work that has already been done is available in secondary information services, primary journals and to a certain extent on the Web. Sources of information regarding on-going research projects are not many. That is why, universities, research organisations, and others from time to time bring out their respective directories of on-going research projects. Some of the examples are given below:

- 1) Inter-University Board of India & Ceylon. *Research in Progress*. 4 vols. New Delhi: the Board, 1968-1972. Print.
  - Vol. 1. – Physical Sciences. 1958-1966. 1968.
  - Vol. 2. – Biological Sciences. 1958-1966. 1968.
  - Vol. 3. – Social Sciences. 1958-1966. 1970.
  - Vol. 4. – Humanities. 1958-1966. 1972.
- 2) Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre. *Current Research Projects in CSIR Laboratories*. Delhi: INSDOC, 1976. Print.

An entry in this type of publication usually contains the name/s of the investigator/s, address/es of the investigator/s, title of the research project, date of starting of the research project, the date when the project is likely to be finished, and the

abstract. For research projects undertaken for obtaining degrees such as PhD, the names of the degree and the guide are also given.

It is not compulsory to provide the abstract. If the authorities concerned decide to provide the abstract, it should be included. It should include among others the research question, objectives, methodology adopted, work done so far, etc.

A hypothetical entry is given below:

Monika Devi. Use of e-resources in Selected College Libraries of National Capital Region: A Survey. IGNOU. 2010-2014. *Guide*: B.K.Sen.

Many college libraries of NCR have opted for e-resources because of their easy access, up-to-dateness, and a number of other facilities. To answer the question as to the extent of use of the resources the survey was undertaken. The survey being conducted using the questionnaire and interview methods intends to find out among others the college-wise data as to the users, gender ratio, breakdown of the users according to various streams, gender, type (students, teachers, etc.), problems being faced by the users in the use of e-resources, fees being charged for every use, and so on. The questionnaire has been tested and modified. The survey work is continuing. It is expected that in about three months time, the survey will be completed. Analysis of the data will commence around September 2010.

### Compilation of a Directory

Sometimes universities, research institutions, etc. bring out directories of on-going research projects. The directory will be compiled in the same way as a CAS is compiled. While compiling the directory of on-going research projects you need to take into account the projects that started in the current year and in the previous years. The number of ongoing research projects in a big university at any given time may total 500 or even more. Hence, a directory of this type should be accompanied with an investigator index, guide index, and a subject index.

### Self Check Exercise

**Note:** i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

3) Describe the contents of an entry of a directory of on-going research projects.

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## 2.5 SELECTIVE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

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Hans Peter Luhn advanced the idea of selective dissemination of information (SDI) in 1958 which in due course formed the basis for planning a number of SDI systems by various bodies. The mechanised SDI system based on Luhn's design was first implemented in 1959 at the Advanced Systems Development Division of IBM Corporation at Yorktown Heights, New York. The success of

the system emboldened others to follow suit and gradually the system spread all over the world.

In CAS described above a user has to go through the Bulletin to find out the literature relevant to her/his interest. That means s/he is to put some extra efforts and spend some time for the purpose. In SDI, an institution does the job and makes the user aware of the literature, may be free of charge or at a cost. We have seen above that an individual is to scan the entire *Current Awareness Bulletin on Library and Information Science*, vol. 1, no.1 to locate the literature on use studies. In the case of SDI, the individual will not have to do anything, the entire list of articles will be mailed to her/him. S/he will get the intended information practically without any effort or loss of time. Undeniably, the service is of great help to the researchers and others interested in the latest information. Now, let us see how the service is provided.

**Components of SDI** – The two basic components of SDI are the **user** and the **document**.

The whole purpose of SDI is to make the user aware about the document. For this, first of all a **user profile** and a **document profile** are created.

**User Profile** – A user profile includes the name, address, and the keyword/s that represent the interest of the user. Suppose, The Head, Education and Training Division, NISCAIR, New Delhi -110067 is interested on literature devoted to ‘Internet use’. The Head’s profile is given below. In the profile the keyword ‘Internet Use’ represents the interest of the user. If a user is interested in more than one subject, that should also be mentioned in the user profile. The rest of the data is the address including e-mail id. As per the need more information can be added into the profile. Once the user profile is ready it is incorporated into a user profile file. The user profile may be corrected and needs to be updated from time to time.

User profile of The Head E&T Division

**Internet Use**

The Head (Name of the Head)  
Education and Training Division  
NISCAIR  
14 Satsang Vihar Marg  
New Delhi – 110019  
E mail: (e-mail of the Head)

**Document Profile** – As the documents are coming, their profiles are also created side by side. In the document profile complete bibliographical details of the documents are provided along with the keywords that represent the subject/s of the document. In the document profile you may use any number of keywords as the document demands. Moreover, it is not necessary to prepare an entry as per AACR 2R or any other cataloguing code for document profile. Bibliographical details may be retained as they are in the original. This is because nowadays there are many open sources available in the Web wherefrom data can be downloaded freely to the document profile file. Converting the data in the AACR 2R or any other format will unnecessarily lead to wastage of labour and time. Elements that are missing such as inclusive pages, keywords, etc. should be

added. In the document profiles given below, you may note that the title and the author appear in the same order as they occur in the original title page. Adding an abstract in the document profile is optional. If the abstract is readily available that may be added if time permits. Otherwise, it may be supplied on demand.

Document profile 1

**Consortium Use; UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium; Use Study**

R. H Walmiki, K C Ramakrishnegowda, and K. R. Prithviraj. "Awareness and Use of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium by the Faculty Members of Karnataka State Universities". *Annals of Library and Information Studies* 57.1 (2010): 33-43.Print.

Document profile 2

**Electronic Resources; Use Study**

K. Natarajan, B. Suresh, P. Sivaraman, and R. Sevukan. "Use and User Perception of Electronic Resources of Annamalai University: A Case Study". *Annals of Library and Information Studies* 57.1 (2010): 59-64. Print.

Document profile 3

**Information Need; Use Study**

S. Thanuskodi. "Information Needs and Use Pattern of District Court Lawyers of Salem and Erode in Tamil Nadu". *DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology* 30.2 (2010): 59-69. Print.

Document profile 4

**Internet Resource; Internet Use; Use Study**

V. Ramesh Babu, and M. Natarajan. "A Case Study on the Use of Internet Resource by Research Scholars and Students of Annamalai University. *Indian Journal of Library and Information Science* 4.1 (2010): 5-10.Print.

Document profile 5

**Electronic Resources; Use Study**

Bulu Maharana, Bipin Bihari Sethi, and Pankaj Kumar Mallick. "Usage of Electronic Information Resources and Services at IIT, Kharagpur Library: A Survey". *Indian Journal of Library and Information Science* 4.1 (2010): 25-33.Print.



It is always advisable to use the same thesaurus or list of subject headings for user profile as well as document profile. It is to be noted that *Library of Congress List of Subject Headings* or *Sears List of Subject Headings* may not serve your purpose because the users' demand in most cases will be on literature on specific subjects and which may not be included in the aforesaid lists. Instead of keywords, class numbers may also be used both in the user profile and document profile. Here, the problem is that in many cases you will not find the class numbers for specific subjects in classification schedules. Leave aside Lotka's law or Bradford's law, even the class number for 'bibliometrics' is not available in the latest edition (22<sup>nd</sup>) of Dewey Decimal Classification.

**Matching** – In this process user profile file is matched with the document profile file. Usually the matching is done by using a computer. Whenever the computer finds a match, it indicates either giving the serial number of the document or any other code that has been used to uniquely identify the document. While matching The Head's user profile file, the computer will pick up the keyword 'Internet Use' and match this with every document profile file. If it will find a match in document profile 4. The computer will indicate the same.

**Notification** – The Head will now be notified by e-mail, or any other communication means about the document that has matched her/his profile.

**Feedback** – Along with the document, a feedback card will also be sent. The user is supposed to fill in the card and send it back to the agency providing the service. The feedback card may be as follows:

<b>Feedback Card</b>
<i>Please return the feedback card after ticking the correct statement.</i>
The information being provided to you is:
1. Fully relevant
2. Partially relevant
3. Irrelevant
4. Backdated
5. Already received

### **Feedback Analysis**

On the analysis of the feedback received, if it is found that the user is not satisfied with the service, then the reason for her/his dissatisfaction will be investigated. There may be several reasons for this. The information supplied may not be relevant, the information may be backdated, or the user has got the information from some other source before.

If the information supplied is not relevant, then it is possible that there is something wrong in the user profile, especially with the keyword/s depicting the user's interest. The user profile given above shows that the interest of The Head is **Internet Use**. Now, Internet is used for various purposes such as chatting, e-mail, searching answer for some queries, entertainment, etc. If the user's interest is limited only to the use of Internet resources and not any other thing, then the keyword **Internet Use** is to be changed to **Internet Resource Use**.

If the user complains that the information being supplied is backdated, then the reason should be found out. May be there is delay in the processing of information or in the dispatch of information. Whatever may be the case, the corrective measures will have to be undertaken.

Users get information from various sources such as authors, fellow colleagues, students, the Web, etc. The moment an article goes to the press, the information about the article may be disseminated to the prospective users. In this case the user will get the information much before it is supplied by the SDI agency.

There is not much difference between 'Web Use' and 'Internet Use'. The user has not given the keyword Web Use. As such, the user may be getting information on Web Use from some other sources. If the user is requested to supply some samples of information that s/he is not getting from the agency, the cause will be found out. The sample may indicate that the user was getting information on the use of Web resources from some other source. Now, this will require change in the user profile, and the list of subject headings or thesaurus. In the list of subject headings or thesaurus, Web Use and Web Resource Use will have to be added and against these subject headings Internet Resource Use as well as Internet Use will have to be shown as Related Terms (RT). Similarly, against the terms Internet Use and Internet Resource Use, Web Use and Web Resource Use will have to be shown as RTs. This type of modification is a continuous process and this is to be done to ensure better service.

**Flowchart** – The SDI service can be depicted very well with a flowchart as given on the page 46.

**SDI – A Computerised Service:** Originally SDI was conceived as a computerised service involving thousands of users and tens of thousands of documents. If the number of documents and users is small SDI can be provided manually and at local level.

**SDI at a Local Level** – Suppose in an organisation there are about a score of users and it receives about a dozen primary periodicals. In such a case the librarian prepares the users profile manually and keeps it on her/his table. While scanning the newly arrived issues of primary periodicals, the moment the librarian finds an article matching with the profile of a user, s/he immediately informs the user by telephone or some other means. Hereafter the user may come to the library for the article or ask for its photocopy.

### Self Check Exercise

**Note:** i) Write your answers in the space given below.

ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

4) Write down the contents of a feedback card.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

5) In the organisation you are serving, there are 25 research scholars and it is getting about 40 research periodicals. Describe how are you going to provide the SDI service to the researchers.

.....

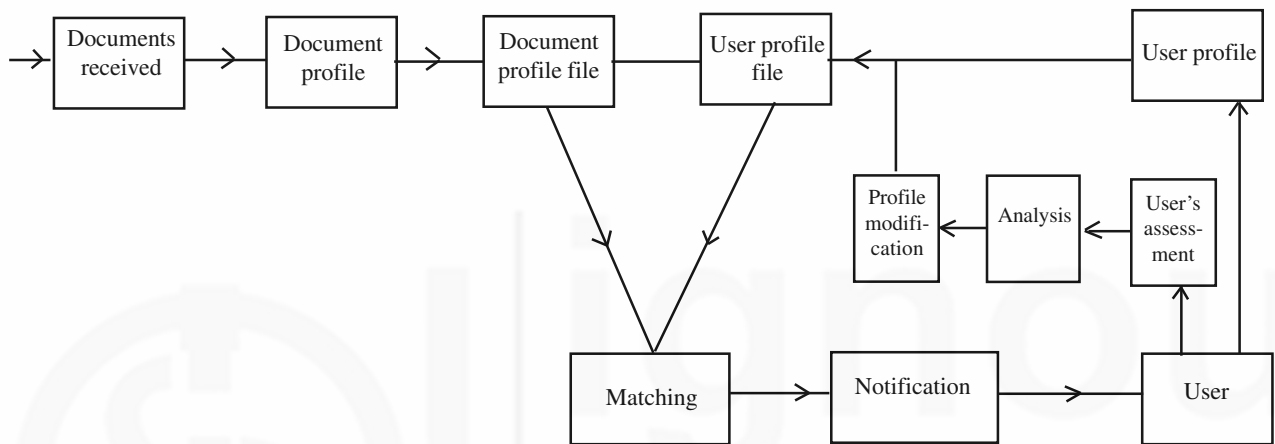
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**SDI Flowchart**



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## 2.6 ADVANCE INFORMATION ABOUT FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

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Every year numerous conferences are held all over the world. These conferences are organised by various organisations and are devoted to one or more subjects. They are usually local, national or international in scope.

In the field of library and information science, a number of national and international conferences are held every year. BLA, IASLIC, ILA, DELNET, INFLIBNET, etc. respectively organise their annual conferences. The conferences organised by BLA annually are generally local in scope, whereas IASLIC, ILA, DELNET, INFLIBNET organise conferences which are national in scope. TERI, once in two years, organises an international conference. IFLA and many other international organisations also organise annual conferences. About a dozen number of conferences are organised in India on LIS.

Professionals in all fields attend conferences to present papers, exchange ideas with professional colleagues, up-date their knowledge, etc. For presenting a paper in a conference, generally you need to send an abstract well in advance on or before the stipulated date. Based on the abstract, the organisers decide whether or not to accept the paper. If the answer is on the affirmative, then the full-length paper is to be submitted within the stipulated date.

All these factors demand that the information about forthcoming conferences should be provided well in advance to the professionals. That is why, many publishers bring out serial publications listing the forthcoming conferences. If there is a demand, then such publications may be subscribed by a library.

In many cases, local and national conferences organised by developing countries are not recorded in those serial publications. As a result libraries should bring out serial publications listing the forthcoming conferences.

**Compilation:** For the compilation of a list of forthcoming conferences, you need the following:

i) **Information about forthcoming conferences**

Organisers of the conferences send out leaflets, e-mails, circulars, letters, and various other materials relating to the conference they are going to hold in future. Many organisers also place the information on the Internet. A page of the information brochure of the conference titled LIS-edu-Vision 2010 and an e-mail on the forthcoming International Conference on Digital Libraries and Knowledge Organization (ICDK 2011) are given on the following pages as examples.

ii) **Collection of Information**

The moment information is received in any form about a forthcoming conference, it is to be placed in a file. The entire information is to be sorted and used for the publication.

iii) **Scope**

Local, national, and international – all conferences are to be included. Announcements relating to international conferences are made four years in advance. Hence, the coverage in terms of time should be up to four years. If you are compiling the publication for the month of June 2010, then you can cover conferences up to May 2014.

iv) **Entry**

The information required by a professional for a forthcoming conference is as follows. Hence, an entry relating to a conference should include the given items.

- a) Name of the conference
- b) Date of the conference
- c) Venue of the conference
- d) Date of submission of the abstract
- e) Date of acceptance of the abstract
- f) Date of submission of the full-length paper
- g) Date of payment of the registration fee
- h) Arrangement for accommodation
- i) Arrangement for transport

- j) Contact information: Name of the person, postal address, e-mail address, phone number – all are to be given. If there are different contact addresses for different activities such as registration and accommodation, they are also to be given.
- k) Other information if any related to weather at that time of the conference, type of clothing needed, local sightseeing, map of the city, important places to be visited, etc. can be added.

The brochure features a light blue background with a large, faint watermark of the University of Calcutta logo on the left. At the top center is the official seal of the University of Calcutta. Below the seal, the title 'LIS\_edu\_Vision\_2010' is written in a stylized, red, 3D font. The main text is centered and reads: '2-day National Seminar on Vision of Library & Information Science Education for Modern India March 19-20, 2010'. The location is listed as 'At Asutosh Siksha Prangan [College Street Campus] University of Calcutta 87/1, College Street Kolkata 700073'. The organizing body is the 'Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta'. Contact information includes 'Contact Phone No.: 03322410071/73 Ext. 308, 342' and 'Contact e-mail: [culisseminar2010@gmail.com](mailto:culisseminar2010@gmail.com)'. A white box at the bottom contains the 'Seminar Organizing Committee' details, including Patrons (Prof. Suranjan Das and Prof. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay), Advisers (Prof. Arjun Dasgupta, Sri Subir K Sen, Prof. Ratna Bandyopadhyay, Prof. Pijuskanti Panigrahi, Dr. Soumitra Sarkar), President (Prof. Biplob Chakrabarti), Joint Secretaries (Dr. Swapna Banerjee & Dr. Dibyendu Paul), and Joint Treasurers (Sri Arabinda Maitty & Sri Panikshit Mondal).

Front Page of the Brochure of the Conference

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to announce the call for papers & registration of the forthcoming **International Conference on Digital Libraries and Knowledge Organization (ICDK 2011)** to be jointly organized by Management Development Institute (MDI) and Indian Association for Special Libraries & Information Centres (IASLIC) during **14-16 February 2011**.

### Background & Objectives

The advancement of Digital Library technologies provide an effective medium for Library & Information professionals to reach out to the users as never before. Same time, the rapid proliferation of the digital resources poses an unprecedented challenge to information professionals in generating efficient information services.

Libraries and information centres have long been involved in systematically organizing knowledge using techniques such as indexing and classification. These traditional knowledge organization tools lay the foundation for modern knowledge organization languages in the digital era. Knowledge organization systems can improve the organization of digital libraries and facilitate better access to their content. In a technology driven world, libraries play a crucial role in the fostering of knowledge for development.

The goal of the conference is to bring together librarians, information engineers, educators as well as experts and professionals in other related fields, from both India and abroad, to exchange ideas and share research findings about digital libraries and knowledge organization. The conference will generate valuable ideas for advancing services for knowledge creation through research.

The conference will focus on the theoretical and methodological issues involved in the qualitative, longitudinal study of the developers, users, policy makers, etc., involved in the development of digital libraries. It will provide a forum where these theoretical and methodological interests and insights may be advanced, exchanged, and debated, and where experiences with differing technologies, contexts, and methodologies may be compared and contrasted.

### The specific objectives of the conference are:

To provide a forum for scholars from different fields and backgrounds to share their views and perspectives on how to advance research in the area of digital libraries and knowledge organization tools and techniques.

Identifying best practices in all the spheres of digital library development and knowledge organization.

To provide strategic directions for the development of digital libraries

To prepare a sustainable knowledge organization framework for digital library development

### Themes (but not limited to)

- Digital Libraries Development
- Tools and Techniques for Managing Digital Repositories
- Digital Resource Management Strategies
- Evaluation of Digital Libraries
- Content Development: Tools and Techniques
- Cultural Issues of Online Services
- Technology Issues in Online Services
- Standards and Specifications for Digital Objects
- Metadata Standards, Interoperability and Crosswalks
- Case Studies of Digital Libraries and Institutional Repositories

- Multilingual Digital Libraries
- Digital Preservation Strategies
- Web Retrieval Tools and Strategies
- Information Retrieval in Indian Languages
- User Interface and Patron Interactions Tools
- Open Source Software Tools for Digital Library Development
- Open Access Initiatives, Open Access Repositories
- Open Access for Scholarly Contents
- Information Management Using Web 2.0/3.0 Technologies
- Social Networking Tools for Information Services
- Knowledge Organization Techniques
- Knowledge Representation Models
- Emergent Techniques for Search Algorithms and Context Sensitive Indexing
- Semantic Web Technologies for Knowledge Representation and Management
- Ontologies and Approaches to Building Ontologies

**Important Dates:**

Submission of full paper	: September 30, 2010
Workshop/tutorial proposal	: August 10, 2010
Notification of acceptance with reviewers' comments	: October 30, 2010
Submission of the final paper	: November 30, 2010

**For further information about the conference, please visit the conference site at <http://www.mdi.ac.in/ICDK/Home.html>**

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v) **Compilation mode**

Compilation should better be done using a computer. The entries should be arranged chronologically. The conferences which are going to be organised sooner will come first and later will figure afterwards. Once the compilation is over, it takes the form of a publication. Now, it can be easily placed on the organisation's website, if need be print-outs can also be taken.

vi) **Periodicity**

If the periodicity is once a month it will be quite satisfactory. It can be increased to bimonthly or quarterly in case the number of conferences is less.

vii) **Dissemination**

The publication can be e-mailed to the members who have e-mail ids. The print-outs can be sent by post to others.

viii) **Updation**

For such a publication, updation is a continuous process. In a computerised format updation is very easy. The conferences which are occurring in the present month will be deleted while bringing out the next issue, and conferences of one more month will be added at the end. Suppose, in the present issue you have included conferences of July 2010 to June 2014. In the next issue you will include conferences of August 2010 to July 2014.

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## 2.7 SUMMARY

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While discussing current awareness service, its importance, definition and scope, types, as well as characteristics have been highlighted.

Title announcement services are of varied types. Of these *Current Contents* type is possibly most popular. Steps involved in its compilation have been detailed so that depending on the need one can start the service. The advantages and disadvantages of the service have also been pointed out. The service can also be provided by arranging entries under subject or class number. How this can be done has been discussed.

Announcement of research in progress more often than not appears in the form of a directory. How it is to be compiled and what will be the components of an entry have been detailed.

The history of SDI service has been outlined, and its various components have been described in detail. How SDI service can be provided at local level without the help of a computer has also been highlighted.

While dealing with list of forthcoming conferences, the importance of such a publication has been pointed out and collection of information, scope of the publication, components of an entry, mode of compilation, periodicity, mode of dissemination, and updation discussed.

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## 2.8 ANSWERS TO SELF CHECK EXERCISES

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- 1) The salient characteristics of current awareness service are as follows:
  - i) It is basically an announcement service brought out usually in printed form.
  - ii) Speed is the essence of CAS. The periodicity of the service usually varies from weekly to monthly.
  - iii) It aims to serve or generate in researchers current approach to information.
  - iv) It does not answer any specific query but provides a broad view of recent developments.
  - v) The service is usually on a broader area.
  - vi) The service is a formal channel and supplements the information received through informal channels.
  - vii) The service is meant for scanning.
  - viii) The service is for temporary use only.
- 2) The advantages of *Current Contents* type service is that it can be brought out very quickly, with less cost and labour, and practically without any editing. It serves the purpose of the users quite well. They are just to scan through the pages to see whether any paper of their interest has appeared recently. Suppose somebody is interested in the articles of library classification. S/he may find articles of Dewey Decimal Classification, Colon Classification, classification in general, etc. It is possible that in some issues of this type of service there may not be any article on classification.



If an issue of the service contains many pages, say around 50 or more, then it takes time to find out the articles of interest. Moreover, in the *Current Contents* type service there is little scope for editing. At times, because of poor reproduction, some titles become unreadable. These are some of the disadvantages.

- 3) An entry in the directory of research in progress contains the name/s of the investigator/s, address/es of the investigator/s, title of the research project, date of starting of the research project, the date when the project is likely to be finished, and the abstract. For research projects undertaken for obtaining degrees such as PhD, the names of the degree and the guide/s are also given.

- 4) The contents of a feedback card will be as follows:

*Please return the feedback card after ticking the most relevant statement.*

The information being provided to you is:

- 1) Fully relevant
  - 2) Partially relevant
  - 3) Irrelevant
  - 4) Backdated
  - 5) Already received
- 5) First of all, I shall make a list of all the 25 research scholars. The list will contain the names of the researchers, their areas of interest, their telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. Within a short time I hope the areas of interest of all the researchers will be in my memory.

The library receives 40 research periodicals, of which one or two will be weekly and the rest will be monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, etc. It is expected that in a day two to three issues will be received. After recoding is done, I shall go through the contents of the issues, and inform the researchers as I come across the articles relevant to their interests. From time to time I shall gather their feedback, and will modify their profile as per the need.

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## 2.9 KEYWORDS

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**Core Journal** : A journal fully devoted to a particular field of study. For example, *Annals of Library and Information Studies* is a core journal in the field of library and information science.

**Formal Channel** : Conventional channel such as a printed publication.

**Informal Channel** : Non-conventional channel such as correspondence.

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## 2.10 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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**AACR** : Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules

**BLA** : Bengal Library Association

**CAS** : Current Awareness Service

**CCC** : Classified Catalogue Code

<b>DELNET</b>	:	Developing Library Network
<b>DESIDOC</b>	:	Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre
<b>IASLIC</b>	:	Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres
<b>IFLA</b>	:	International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
<b>ILA</b>	:	Indian Library Association
<b>INFLIBNET</b>	:	Information and Library Network
<b>INSDOC</b>	:	Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre
<b>ISSN</b>	:	International Standard Serial Number
<b>LIS</b>	:	Library and Information Science
<b>NISCAIR</b>	:	National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources
<b>SDI</b>	:	Selective Dissemination of Information
<b>UGC</b>	:	University Grants Commission
<b>Web</b>	:	World Wide Web

Current Awareness Services  
(Including SDI and  
Alerting Services)

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## **2.11 REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING**

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