

90- **SOME SPECIAL SERVICES OFFERED BY PANSDOC**

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The Pakistan National Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre (Pansdoc for short) has now been in operation for a year and a half, and many of the readers of this Journal have already called upon its services, while many more are aware of the nature of these services, details of which have been distributed widely among the scientific and technical institutions in Pakistan. As an introduction to this discussion of some of the special services which are now being developed, it is thus only necessary briefly to summarize these basic services. They are:—

(i) *Document Procurement*: Pansdoc will, on request, provide a microfilm or photocopy of any published scientific or technical paper, on receipt of adequate bibliographical details.

(ii) *Bibliographies*: Pansdoc will, on request, compile a selected list of references to the published literature on any special subject in the field of science and technology

(iii) *Translations*: Pansdoc will, on request, provide an English translation of any scientific or technical paper.

Though there are many problems to be overcome before we can guarantee a rapid 100% service, especially in the field of translations, where a great deal of training is needed before staff are fully competent, nevertheless we have dealt satisfactorily with hundreds of requests, and feel justified in extending our scope to include some other interesting aspects of scientific documentation.

Russian Literature

Even in scientifically advanced countries such as the U.K. and the U.S.A. it has been recognised in the last few years that Russian scientific literature has not received the careful attention that it merits, because the scientists themselves are, with few exceptions, unable to read Russian, and translations from it are costly and time consuming. As a result of discussion and cooperation between various organizations in the U.K. and U.S.A., both official and private, arrangements have been established during the last few years whereby a number of the leading Russian scientific and technical journals are being translated completely and made available as independent publications,

or "cover-to-cover translations". The subscriptions to these "cover-to-cover" translations are naturally higher than those to the original journals, but even so they are much more economical than translations made on an individual basis (in response to an isolated request) and there is a great overall economy in translating manpower. A list of Russian journals of which cover-to-cover translations are known to be in hand is given in the Appendix. Pansdoc has made a careful scrutiny of this list and has decided to subscribe immediately to several titles likely to be of particular interest to scientific workers in Pakistan. The special significance of this is that Pansdoc will be able at short notice to supply microfilms or photocopies of the papers in these journals, at a cost very much lower than that of individual translations.

Some issues of journals in the fields of Biochemistry, Experimental Biology and Medicine, Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Chemical Technology have already been received, and Pansdoc will on request supply lists of contents of these journals. Later, it may be possible for Pansdoc to issue a regular bulletin giving the contents lists of these cover-to-cover translations; this would depend both on the degree of interest shown by the scientific public in Pakistan and on the staff position at Pansdoc. Moreover, the number of the cover-to-cover translations to which Pansdoc subscribes may be increased, again depending on the demand for them.

Literature Exchanges

Of equal importance is the question of literature exchanges between specialised organizations in Pakistan and their corresponding organisations in other countries. As an instance in point, during a recent visit to New Zealand, the author stopped over at Sydney, Australia, and made a point of calling at the Scientific and Industrial Research Organization and the Agricultural Department. The information officers and librarians of these organisations were more than willing to send us their own publications and to help us to organise exchanges between appropriate institutions in their countries and in Pakistan, and within a few weeks the author received a letter from the Dept. of Agriculture in Sydney giving details about the Journals of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science, Rural Research in C.S.I.R.O., and the Australian Journal of Agricultural Research.

While fully aware of the importance of Commonwealth contacts, Pansdoc does not restrict its efforts to this area. Because of its position as a centre of scientific documentation and its link through Unesco and other channels with libraries all over the world, Pansdoc has already been able to acquire material, in the form of reference works and specialised publications, from a number of countries. It will be possible to acquire much more of this material from abroad when Pansdoc is in a position to offer suitable Pakistani publications in exchange. A practical arrangement would be that organizations in Pakistan interested in acquiring reference literature from abroad, on exchange terms, should inform Pansdoc of their interests and state what publications they have available for the exchange.

One advantage to the Pakistani recipient of operating through Pansdoc in this way would be that, in cases where the incoming exchange publications are not in English, Pansdoc would undertake to translate their contents list before passing them on. Another advantage would be that Pansdoc would keep a check on the due arrival of the publications.

At least one Pakistani scientific organization is already alive to the advantages of using Pansdoc for such purposes, namely the Meteorological Department, which recently referred to Pansdoc an enquiry from the official Chinese Institute of Scientific Information, requesting just such facilities for arranging exchanges. A list of scientific and technical publications offered for exchange by the Chinese institutions is now available at Pansdoc and copies can be obtained on request. Pansdoc has also received direct enquiries from important libraries and documentation centres in various other countries, including the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia and Japan, regarding the possibilities of publications exchanges. Especially in view of the currency difficulties experienced by most of the scientific institutions in Pakistan, the exchange method is a most useful way of obtaining literature from abroad, and Pansdoc will do its utmost to further such exchanges.

Scientific Contacts

Allied to the question of receiving published literature from abroad is the problem of establishing and maintaining direct contact with organizations and individuals doing related work in other countries. Pansdoc is accumulating as many reference works as possible to provide information of this nature, and will be glad to deal with enquiries in this class.

Commonwealth Index of Translations

This card index, which constitutes a very large and valuable reference work comprising thousands of items, is compiled in London from details supplied by all the countries of the Commonwealth, and a copy of the whole index is likewise sent to every country of the Commonwealth. In the case of Pakistan, this index is now held at Pansdoc, where it will in due course be used to make a check whenever Pansdoc receives a request for a fresh translation. In this way it will be possible to avoid wasting time and labour on making a new translation when one is already available. Since the translations index covers the whole field of science, the references will also be useful in compiling bibliographies on special subjects. Pansdoc is trying to take full advantage of this particular activity in the sphere of Commonwealth cooperation, and is already contributing its quota of translations to the index.

Incidental Equipment

A number of microfilm readers, obtained by Pansdoc through Unesco, have been supplied on long loan to leading scientific institutions in Pakistan, where they are giving valuable service, as they enable the research workers to obtain their information from microfilms instead of full-size photocopies, and save a good deal of time and money. Pansdoc will be glad to give information regarding the supply of these or similar microfilm readers on request. In this connection, mention may also be made of facilities for the proper storage and filing of microfilms. For its own use and for demonstration purposes, Pansdoc has obtained convenient three-drawer filing cabinets to take the standard 9" film strip. Information about these and alternative accommodation for microfilms will be supplied by Pansdoc on request.

In conclusion, some mention must be made of the problems encountered by Pansdoc in its endeavours to give the scientists of Pakistan the 100% documentation service they need. Although as an institution Pansdoc is still very young—it is barely a year and a half since it commenced operation—its staff is now well able to deal with all normal document procurement enquiries. The users of its services may, however, be reminded that they can save themselves and also Pansdoc considerable time and trouble by stating fully and accurately the details of the papers they require. In regard to translations, it may also be pointed out that due to shortage of personnel, it is not possible at present to meet the demands as expeditiously as one would like, but efforts are being made to improve

this position. Further, in case of translations from Japanese and other languages for which it is particularly difficult to obtain the services of translators, it may be stated that the cost of the translations will be very much higher than for the more usual languages, and it is expected that those interested in translations from these languages will be prepared to pay at a somewhat higher rate for them, which will in any case still be highly subsidised.

Appendix

List of "Cover-to-Cover" Translations of Russian Journals

(Journals marked with an asterisk are being subscribed to by Pansdoc; copies of contents lists will be supplied on request, and microfilms or photocopies of individual papers will be supplied at Pansdoc's usual rates.)

Automatic Welding
Automation and Remote Control
*Biochemistry
Biophysics
*Bulletin of Experimental Biology and Medicine
Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR:
 Division of Chemical Sciences
Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR:
 Geophysics Series
Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR:
 Physical Series
Cement
Colloid Journal (USSR)
*Doklady: Biological Sciences Sections
*Doklady: Botanical Sciences Sections
*Glass and Ceramics
Instrument Construction
Journal of Analytical Chemistry of the USSR

*Journal of Applied Chemistry of the USSR
Journal of General Chemistry of the USSR
*Journal of Microbiology, Epidemiology and Immunobiology
Machines and Tooling
Metallurgist
Microbiology
Pharmacology
*Pharmacology and Toxicology
Plant Physiology
Problems of Hematology and Blood Transfusion
Problems of Oncology
Problems of Virology
Proceedings of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR: Agrochemistry Section
Proceedings of the Academy of Science of the USSR: Applied Physics Section
Proceedings of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR: Biochemistry Section
*Proceedings of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR: Chemical Technology Section
Proceedings of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR: Chemistry Section
Proceedings of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR: Geochemistry Section
Proceedings of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR: Geological Sciences Section
Proceedings of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR: Physical Chemistry Section
Radio Engineering
Radio Engineering and Electronics
*Sechenov Physiological Journal of the USSR
*Soil Science
*Soviet Journal of Atomic Energy (Supplement of the Journal of Nuclear Energy)
Soviet Journal of Atomic Energy (Consultants Bureau Translation)
Soviet Physics — Acoustics
Soviet Physics — Doklady
Soviet Physics — JETP
Soviet Physics — Technical Physics