

Objective 10.1 (continued)

We would see the promotion of ISDS as being also relevant to the attainment of the objective in that it has the potential for reducing the ambiguities which increase the amount of effort that individual centres have to put into the identification of material.

Another area to which we would assign some priority is theme 05 - Promotion of the training and education of specialists in and users of information. It is our experience, when cooperating in projects in developing countries, that a lack of skilled information personnel is a major obstacle to success. No single organization like IDRC can do much to solve the problem; we find that a considerable amount of effort goes into identifying suitable training opportunities for project personnel; but these opportunities are rarely available in developing countries where the general setting of the courses would have most relevance to the students. There is a definite need to develop curricula which reflect the requirements of developing regions and to establish schools in these regions.

Throughout the program emphasis is placed on the development of systems to expedite the transfer of information. Lacking ready access to literature sources, information systems, no matter how ingenious, are of little value. In a current awareness service such as SDI, the service fails if users cannot obtain prompt access to cited papers and if data bases cannot be delivered on schedule. Thus with regard to Theme 03 attention should be given to determining the strengths and weaknesses of literature resources in a nation or a region and the creation of mechanisms whereby at least basic resources can be established.