

in either language. If they can not then it might be suggested that to retrieve material written in the other official language will not be of much assistance anyway.

The difficulties caused by adopting the latter course could be partially overcome by adding descriptors or enriching keywords in the other language at the time of input. This would simplify and speed up retrieval but would also increase input time and costs. Use of a fixed thesaurus and provision for machine translation of the thesaurus terms would probably be a more satisfactory answer. In this regard, the plans for the development of the Department's internal records management system should be examined since that system will probably include some provision for machine translation of thesaurus terms. A parallel system should be planned for use with this data base.

From the user's point of view, translation of the full abstract would also be very useful, but this practice would add considerably to the cost of creating the data base. It is highly questionable if the added costs and probable delays that would result from attempting translation of the abstract would be worth the added benefit.