

# Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

## LBL Publications

### Title

Energinfo Vol 7 No 9

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3fb5644z>

### Author

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

### Publication Date

1983-09-01

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PUB-416  
Special TI Meeting Issue



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Manager's Remarks

Vol. 7, No. 9

September, 1983

## DOE's Technical Information Responsibilities

The following address was presented by Joseph G. Coyne, Manager, Technical Information Center, at the opening plenary session of the Technical Information Meeting, on August 16, 1983.

Many of the statutory and executive branch responsibilities assigned to DOE are achievable only with active information gathering, processing, and dissemination programs. Achieving U.S. energy goals through effective information management has historically framed the Technical Information Services Program. In DOE's enabling legislation, at least ten sections specifically or implicitly deal with the management of technical information, including classified, sensitive, and unclassified work. The responsibilities cited in these sections include:

- Support for planning, coordination, and management of a balanced and comprehensive energy research and development program (42 USC 7112 (5)). One might ask, "Is this possible without an effective technical information program?"
- Dissemination of scientific and technical information to provide for the interchange of ideas and criticism essential to scientific and industrial progress and public understanding (42 USC 7151 (A)).
- Assurance that full and complete safety-related information under the Nuclear Safety Research, Development, and Demonstration Act (PL 96-567) be made available by the Secretary of Energy (42 USC 9703) in a timely manner to appropriate committees of Congress, Federal, state, and local authorities, relevant segments of private industry, the scientific community, and the public.
- Assurance that appropriate DOE-generated sensitive but unclassified material is properly con-

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### Editor's Note

This issue focuses on the Technical Information Meeting that took place August 16-18 at the Technical Information Center in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The meeting brought together DOE/RECON users, technical information officers, and DOE contractor personnel from around the country.

Articles based on talks delivered at the meeting include: TIC Manager Joseph Coyne's opening remarks, "DOE's Technical Information Responsibilities"; a review by TIC Program Analyst William Buchanan of DOE Order 1430.1; a survey of the status and future of the DOE/RECON system by Systems Analyst Barbara Corey of Oak Ridge National Laboratory; and a report on possible forms of searcher certification, presented by Jo Maxon-Dadd of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory.

Finally, the "Overview" reports on other talks presented at this multi-faceted meeting. Part I covers the first plenary session and the DOE/RECON track. The rest of the meeting will be covered in Part II in the next newsletter.

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trolled under Section 148 amendment to the Atomic Energy Act (PL 97-90).

- Support for the administration of nuclear weapons and the national security functions of the Department (42 USC 7112 (18)) [through management of its classified R&D information systems].
- Informational support to state and local governments to assist them in carrying out national energy policies and programs (42 USC 7112 (11)).
- Support for implementation of the nation's comprehensive energy-conservation strategy and for the development and use of solar, geothermal, and renewable resources (42 USC 7112 (4&6)).

Several Executive orders and treaties give DOE responsibility for the handling of technical information. One example is Executive Order 12333, which directs the Secretary to identify foreign energy technology for intelligence purposes in the interest of national security. Other examples include the information programs deriving from the International Atomic Energy Agency (International Nuclear Information Service) and the International Energy Agency (Coal and Biomass).

Within the Department, there are at least six orders identifying authorities and responsibilities for information management. They are:

- DOE Order 1360, Computer Software Sharing
- DOE Order 1300.1, Micrographics Management
- DOE Order 1324.2, Attachment IV-1, Records Disposition
- DOE Order 1330.2, Uniform Contractor Reporting System
- DOE Order 5635.1, Control of Classified Documents and Information
- DOE Order 5700.7, Field Work Package Proposal and Authorization System

With such a plethora of laws, treaties, and orders, the Department recognized the need to refocus on its overall information programs. This led in part to the issuance of DOE Order 1430.1. This Order is rather explicit in assigning, within DOE, responsibilities for governing the management of research and development information results; in particular, it delegates responsibility for DOE's overall Technical Information Services Program to the Manager of the Technical Information Center.

I would like to share with you how we characterize those responsibilities and our implementation of them. We see four major objectives:

- To ensure that the results of DOE-funded research and development are properly reported and managed through DOE's centralized technical information system.

(Continued on page 5)

## DOE Order 1430.1—What It Says

By William Buchanan,  
Program Analyst, TIC

DOE Order 1430.1, of February 23, 1983, defines DOE's responsibility for managing scientific and technical information developed in the Department's research and development program. The Order applies to all Departmental elements except the Energy Information Administration (EIA) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); it also applies to all DOE contractors and subcontractors, and to financial assistance recipients when appropriate. The Order, which is titled "Managing the Department of Energy's Scientific and Technical Information," replaces Chapter IV of DOE Order 1340.1A "Management of Public Communications Publications and Scientific, Technical, and Engineering Publications" of 8/25/82. The expanded provisions of this new order include the following responsibilities:

(1) *Heads of Departmental elements:*

- Assure that research in progress is reported to TIC at least annually.
- Assure that procurement and financial assistance agreements contain checklists of reporting requirements for scientific and technical information.
- Assure that contracts and financial assistance awards are not closed out until the research results are received at TIC.
- Review and evaluate the scientific and technical information programs of performing organizations under their administrative jurisdiction.

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Published by the Information Research Group, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, under Contract No. DE-AC03-76SF00098 for the Department of Energy's Technical Information Center to fulfill requirements that DOE and its contractor organizations be informed about the Department's technical information program and activities.

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# TI Meeting Overview (Part I)

By Rita LaBrie, LBL

The Technical Information Meeting was divided into tracks to accommodate a wide variety of interests. This article reports on the first plenary session, which included all attendees, and the DOE/RECON users' portion. The rest of the meeting will be covered in the next newsletter.

The meeting opened with a welcome from TIC Manager Joseph Coyne (see page 1). William Buchanan, TIC Program Analyst, followed with a review of DOE Order 1430.1 and its Implementation Order (see page 2).

David Bost, Director of the Science and Technology Division at TIC led the DOE/RECON portion of the meeting.

## Instruction Modules

Attendees at this session previewed the first videotape in a planned series of six training videotapes for beginning DOE/RECON users. Entitled "DOE/RECON On-Line Retrieval System: Overview," the videotape is approximately 13 minutes long and provides viewers an introduction to the DOE/RECON system and its capabilities. The other five videotapes are scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

## User Group

Hillis Griffin, Chairman of the DOE/RECON User Group reviewed the purpose of the group, introduced its members, and spoke on the recent significant achievements made by the DOE/RECON staff.

## RECON Prices

Charles Spath, Assistant Manager for Information Services, talked about RECON prices for FY 1984. The previous front-end charges of \$200 for access to DOE/RECON have been dropped. The printed search tools (manual, etc.) will be provided free of charge to password holders, except for the thesaurus, which will be made available in limited numbers at each site. Additional copies of the thesaurus can be purchased from NTIS as it is updated. Also, there will be no charge for DOE/RECON training. Charges for searching DOE/RECON will probably be increased by about 10% in FY 1984.

## EDB Reload

Following Barbara Corey's talk on the status and future of the RECON system (see page 6), Benita Gately of the DOE/RECON staff reviewed the prefixed indexes being made available with the EDB reload, and Julia Redford, Thesaurus Specialist in TIC's Science and Technology Division, illustrated different strategies used with the new proximity feature and discussed significant implications of the reload.

## Numeric Data Bases

Bonnie Carroll, Assistant Manager for Program Development, spoke on the future of numeric data bases at TIC. These data bases may contain original survey data or statistically manipulated representations of data. They may have various levels of aggregation or mixed content (textual information and numeric data) and are generally in the form of spatial time series or standard properties.

TIC presently supports and monitors cooperative efforts in numeric data base management projects, e.g., those with CODATA, the National Bureau of Standards, and Chemical Information Systems. Specific numeric data base projects at TIC have included CINDA, NESC, data tagging in FEDEX and EDB, the GIDEP engineering data interchange, and R&D (ANSI/ISOX3L5 standards and networking at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory).

Plans for FY 1984 include raising staff knowledge; developing better links between data center program managers and information managers in DOE; undertaking major analyses of R&D results management, user needs, technologies, and resources; and evaluating options and preparing long-range plans for numeric data base development and management. Since effective planning requires user input, Carroll distributed a questionnaire for users (see box).

*("Overview" continues on next page)*

## Numeric Data Base Users' Questionnaire

- (1) What types (by subject area, problem orientation, other) of numeric data or specific data sets would you like to have available online?
- (2) Would you and could you recommend someone to work with the Technical Information Management Program on planning, development, and evaluation of numeric data access systems?
- (3) Would you or could you recommend someone to work with TIMP on product development and evaluation of data tagging?

Please provide names, addresses, and phone numbers (if possible) for individuals recommended for participation. Answers and additional comments should be sent to:

Bonnie C. Carroll  
Assistant Manager  
Program Development Office  
P.O. Box 62  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-9962  
Phone: FTS 626-3382,  
Commercial (615) 576-3382

## New TIC Products and Services

This session was led by Dora Moneyhun, Director of TIC's Customer Services Division. Clata Worley, Research in Progress Coordinator, reported on the recertification effort. A packet sent to users contained a computer-generated list of titles of products currently being received by the user, a fact sheet of items users are eligible to receive, and a feedback sheet designed to pinpoint user needs. Through this effort, 816 addresses of government-owned contractor-operated facilities were recertified. TIC's responses to the needs users expressed through this survey were reviewed, two in particular:

- *Translations.* A proposal for a translations center is in process. The center would arrange for translations of foreign literature on request.
- *Conferences.* With the conference title, place, and year now searchable on EDB with the reload, conference literature will be easier to locate and verify.

In addition, a data base containing future meetings is planned for this fall. This is essentially an online version of *Energy Meetings*.

Also, an index to conferences (*Index to Conference Titles: Selected Conferences Cited in the Energy Data Base 1977-1982*, DE82014296, DOE/TIC-4045-S2) is now available. A combined volume covering 1972-1982 is planned.

Other needs expressed by users included access to holdings of other libraries and a publication on energy education.

## Headquarters Briefing Program

Elizabeth Buffum, Manager of TIC's Washington, D.C. office, discussed this program. Because of the "King Report," the value and usefulness of scientific and technical information has been recognized. With this in mind, Buffum and Dora Moneyhun have been speaking to DOE Headquarters personnel on the usefulness of TIC's products and services. These briefings include slide presentations of tasks being undertaken at TIC, products and services available, and online demonstrations of DOE/RECON data bases. Future efforts will involve subject area briefings and orientation sessions for new personnel.

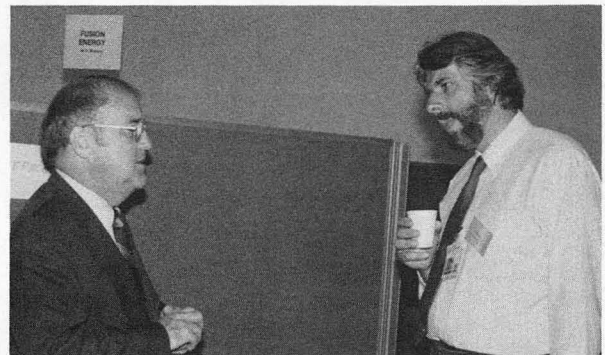
## Program/User Publication Needs

Meg Jared, Marketing Specialist, reported on publication needs of users and program managers. A user comment sheet was sent to those receiving the monthly update journals (*Fossil Energy Update*, *Solar Energy Update*, *Fusion Update*, and *Energy and the Environment*) on standard distribution. So far, response has been good. Most users felt that the updates are useful publications. Comments concerned timeliness, indexing (if journals were converted to bulletins, would TIC index them?), and information needs (users suggested including lists of research in progress, meeting calendars, and lists of projects available for bid). Future plans for publications include a state energy directory and a more comprehensive directory of DOE data bases. *The Resource Directory of DOE Information Organizations* is being updated, and its availability will be announced shortly.

## People at the TI Meeting



**Eric Motz** (left), Chicago Operations Office, DOE, chats with **Dianne Borgen**, Ames Laboratory, Ames, Iowa; **Mary Ann Paliani**, Rockwell International, Rocky Flats, Colorado, listens to **Hillis Griffin**, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois.



**Joseph G. Coyne** (left), Manager, TIC, talks with **Don Holz** of DOE's San Francisco Operations Office.



## Update on Data Bases and Services

Dora Moneyhun said that TIC is upgrading the searching capability of the classified data bases, and TIC staff will search these data bases for authorized requestors. TIC is reviewing the access to data bases referencing reports given limited distribution. The procedures being developed will provide the broadest access that can be given to limited report records.

The Research in Progress data base (RIP, file 3) has been expanded. (See "Changes Coming in RIP," May issue of *Energinfo*.) Magnetic tapes of the file can be leased from NTIS. It is also included in the Federal Energy Research data base, which will soon be made available on DIALOG by NTIS.

Back issues of *Nuclear Science Abstracts*, volumes 11-20, are available online on DOE/RECON as NS2, file 5. Loading of volumes 1-10 online will be completed in October. Abstracts of this older material will not be included.

TIC is studying ways to improve the automatic (standard) distribution program. The possibility of using subject category numbers and thesaurus descriptors is being considered.

The microfiche index service will continue until the end of the year. TIC would like comments concerning the usefulness of these indexes to determine whether they should be continued. Questions and suggested improvements should be addressed to Clata Worley, FTS 626-5636 or commercial (615) 576-5636.

## DOE/RECON Clinics

Jo Maxon-Dadd, LBL, held clinics for DOE/RECON searchers throughout the course of the meeting. The reloaded Energy Data Base on DOE/RECON was discussed and reviewed using slides and online demonstrations. This included the basic index, the proximity search feature, new and changed indexed fields, and search strategies. On Thursday, time and terminals were provided for participants to solve assigned search questions.

## New Technology

The following new and interesting technologies were demonstrated throughout the meeting by TIC staff:

- *Gateway Computer Concept*—The Intelligent Gateway System being developed by Viktor Hampel at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) provides its users with automated access (dialing, logon, password) to other major information centers, downloading (a process in which a host computer transfers subsets of data bases into another computer), and post-processing of the transferred data. Post-processing includes text analysis, plotting, statistical and cross-correlation of the data elements, and the creation of concordances and indexes. TIC is in the process of installing the system for DOE and is developing a query language common to several accessible bibliographic data bases.

- *Document Tracking System*—The Tracking Resources, Analysis, and Control system (TRAC) is an automated system for tracking reports during their pro-

cessing cycle at TIC. Bar-code labels are placed on the reports, and each office handling the report in the processing cycle uses an optical-wand reader to input information on the location of the reports.

The TRAC system can locate a report within the processing cycle; establish the exact time and date that it entered a work station; note any special circumstances, such as "holding for patent clearance"; provide a history of an individual report; furnish immediate essential data; prepare for station supervisors a list of delinquent documents under their control; and provide descriptive statistics for management overview, planning, and control. This system has tremendously improved services and operations of the reports processing unit at TIC.

- *Office Automation*—The ALL-IN-1 Office Automation Package by Digital Equipment Corporation was demonstrated. Some of its features included a customized electronic mailing system; a desk management system that permits you to keep a personal calendar by day, week, or month, and schedule meetings with other users on the system; a desk calculator that allows you to incorporate calculations into a document or mail message; and a video phone option that allows up to eight users to communicate with each other simultaneously by keying in messages on the screen.

- *Graphics Systems*—A videotape on the concept of very high resolution graphics was shown. This is a sophisticated, high-tech computer graphics system that produces a variety of media (overheads, slides, color separations, video, and microfiche). The system allows the user to draw free forms directly on a sensitized surface. The user then has 16.7 million colors (shades and hues) to work with; 124 colors can be used on any particular image. The possibilities for creative presentations on this system are virtually unlimited.

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## (MANAGER'S REMARKS, continued from page 2)

- To ensure availability of worldwide R&D results for DOE research programs to improve research productivity and avoid research duplication.
- To develop and manage systems and services to meet the needs of DOE's program managers, scientists, and engineers.
- To ensure that the results of R&D (classified and unclassified) in the form of scientific and technical information are managed in conformance with existing laws, regulations, and Department Orders by all DOE Headquarters, field, and contractor operations.

We intend to work within the guidelines of DOE 1430.1 to ensure that the Department has the most effective scientific and technical information program in the Federal government. We owe it to the Department to work toward that goal. It is important to us from both economic and security standpoints. Let's do what we can to make these research and development and information systems work together!

## DOE/RECON System Update

*By Barbara Corey,  
DOE/RECON Staff, ORNL*

The past year has seen tremendous changes in the DOE/RECON system. About 25% of some 150 modules that support the retrieval program had to be modified, and another dozen or so file maintenance programs were changed to support new features. The coming year's list of software achievements may not be as long in number, but their scope will be as great.

The first major addition to RECON since the last User Meeting was the SuperSELECT command implemented in January. This feature allows users to perform several SELECTs and a COMBINE in one step. This was actually the first phase of implementing proximity searching, but we decided to make it available while we finished the last phases.

Proximity searching was the next major change. This feature was combined with the concept of pooling all textual fields into what is called a BASIC index and then allowing either searching on all fields contained in the BASIC index or searching of specific fields by a FIELD suffix. The new capability also allows proximity searching on prefixed indexes, but this will be implemented only to a limited extent on the EDB reload with the Corporate Source index (CS=).

In general, the proximity feature allows a user to search for terms that are (1) adjacent to each other, (2) within some number of words from each other in the same sentence, (3) within the same sentence (or subfield), (4) within the same field or within a specific field, or (5) within the same citation.

Along with proximity searching, several other features were added. A new warning mode tells users not yet familiar with proximity syntax what specific error was keyed in. Other systems that have implemented proximity merely formed empty sets upon receiving invalid commands, but we felt that our users deserved all the information that we had at our disposal. Currently, the warning mode is on by default, and once a user decides the extra information isn't needed, he or she can turn the WARNMODE OFF. With WARNMODE ON, you will receive messages when a term is not found in the index, when you have a invalid suffix, and, in general, whenever some proximity syntax has been illegally specified.

Another improvement is the 80-character line for the EXPAND, SET HISTORY, and Related Terms display. We felt it was time these displays were updated to put the entire term (or at least as much as is stored by the program) on one line, and to place the citation counts on the left for easier reference.

The display of a range of citations will also be improved soon to eliminate page headings and to number each citation within the range in all formats, not just formats 3 and 6 as before.

Online ordering of EDB documents was also improved to allow more document types from EDB to be ordered from TIC. Further improvements in this service are anticipated in the year to come.

With all these changes comes the necessity of documentation, and after that is finished we plan to plow into yet more system enhancements. One capability we plan to implement will be a SORT command to allow display and printing of sets in an order specified by the user. In conjunction with this, we will allow users to select which field will be displayed or printed from a given set of records.

There will be a long-needed enhancement to our HELP feature on RECON. An 80-character line will top the list of changes. Also, updated command information is badly needed. Many suggestions have been made, such as putting the file number next to each data base so that, when you remember only the name, you can find out the file number. We are taking comments from all sources and would be glad to consider any suggestions you have.

One major area of change in the next year will be in communications—USER-TO-RECON, RECON-TO-USER, and USER-TO-USER. Electronic mail should allow more user to user communication and supply a much needed enhancement to our online ordering system. Conversion to a newer IBM terminal access program will allow users to use a BREAK key in the middle of unwanted commands. The new program will also allow us to send out broadcast messages to all users logged on at any time about any system problems during the day. We will also be able to accept longer input lines to save users from entering multiple transactions.

Another feature to be offered soon is a display of the cost of each session at logoff time. Work on the EDB reload and new data bases delayed this project, but it is now almost completed. Print charges, if included in this display, will be an estimate only.

A new effort in FY 1984 will be a look into the implementation of Numeric Data Bases either on the current DOE/RECON or on an entirely new version of DOE/RECON. There is much planning to be done before any actual data bases will be available. We expect this project will not be in operation for a least another year.

As you can see, many changes are planned. We hope that users who have suggestions will voice them now while the planning is just getting under way. You can provide your input directly to the DOE/RECON staff, to TIC, or through a member of the DOE/RECON User Group. We would like to make these changes as useful as possible, and we need your help to do this.

## Searcher Certification Schemes

*By Jo Maxon-Dadd (LBL),  
RECON Training Coordinator*

The RECON track at the TI meeting included a discussion of searcher certification. TIC has been considering ways to provide advanced training and to recognize competent searchers.

In April 1983, the RECON training coordinator was asked to draw up some ideas on how a certification program could be designed. This report was presented at the meeting.

Following the report, there were a number of comments, some supporting certification, and others questioning its usefulness. There was general agreement that an intensive training program would be useful; some favored the idea of an examination for those who are already accomplished searchers, while others felt it was the responsibility of management at a particular site to see that staff were fully trained, and that an outside certification program was not needed. The report follows.

### **Purpose of Certifications**

The purpose of a certification program would be to identify talented searchers so that TIC can have confidence that its data bases are being searched effectively and recommend these searchers to those lacking search access, equipment, or expert personnel. (Of course, the searcher's own institution would have to concur in providing searches for outsiders in light of its own staffing and workload.)

TIC is naturally concerned about the expertise of searchers. While basic training provides the wherewithal to learn the mechanics of searching and to gain an initial familiarity with the data bases, it takes time and practice to become a good searcher, and a searcher who does not have the opportunity to practice may not achieve a high level of competence. TIC is concerned that some people exposed to RECON training nevertheless perform RECON searches with inadequate technique. Some kind of follow-up is needed. Advanced training has been offered, but it has not drawn full audiences.

### **Incentive**

One of the first questions that must be addressed is that of incentive: what reason does an institution have to send its searchers for the certification training, or to otherwise support them in this endeavor? In discussions with colleagues, this point has not been easily answered, particularly for an institution with very experienced staff.

Probably the best incentive for an institution to get its searchers certified would be the knowledge that its information needs are being competently met by skilled personnel. For individuals, the incentive would be in having an award or rating attached to their names.

### **Method 1: Specialized intensive training course with take-home exam**

Perhaps the best way to conduct a certification program is to offer an intensive 2-day course at TIC. This would be in conjunction with, but just after, the RECON User Meeting each year. The course could offer two subject areas, e.g., one day on nuclear and one day on fossil fuel or coal. It would feature a discussion of indexing specialties and retrieval tricks in these subjects. It would draw heavily on TIC Science and Technology staff expertise, so as to make the subject area as challenging as possible.

The course could be attended for both days, or just one day, depending on the subject responsibilities of the attendee. At the end of the course, a take-home exam would be given out; this exam would have to be received and "passed" by TIC before the individual would receive a certificate. The certificate itself would say, for example,

*"This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_, address \_\_\_\_\_, has successfully completed the intensive DOE/RECON subject course in the areas of nuclear energy and fossil fuels..."*

To qualify for intensive subject search training, searchers should have a minimum of one year's subject searching experience, during which they used RECON at least 15 connect hours. Subject searching would have to be one of their regular, frequent activities. This type of training would be appropriate for reference people, but not for those in acquisitions, cataloging, interlibrary loan, etc.

Invitations to participate in the certification program would be sent first to all password holders, then carried in *Energinfo*. The emphasis could be on supervisors recommending their employees, but there should also be room for individual employees' initiative in requesting the intensive training.

### **Method 2: Examination without training course**

For those who have already attended both basic and advanced training courses, an examination would be given, either by mail (stress-free) or during the User Meeting (stressful), after which a certificate would be awarded.

### **Method 3: Searchers send in search problems and answers**

In this method, searchers are encouraged through *Energinfo*, on a voluntary basis, to send in copies of their search transcripts, along with a statement of what they were looking for. The searches would be reviewed by an experienced searcher on the RECON training staff (or at TIC, if time is available; if not available, TIC



could act as a resource and provide a second opinion when requested).

This method would be non-threatening, without the pressure of examinations. However, it would potentially be very time-consuming for the reviewers, and possibly difficult to judge, because it is necessary to have a clearly stated search question before the adequacy of the answer can be assessed.

This method would provide a means to follow up on the basic training for as many people as took advantage of the offer. However, it would do nothing for those who do not realize that they are not searching well, as they would presumably not send in searches to be critiqued.

Without some sort of standardized exam, however, a certificate should probably not be issued.

#### **Method 4: Search contest**

A search contest could be held via the newsletter: a search problem would be posed and a prize offered for the best solution. The prize could be something like two "free" hours on RECON. Searchers could send in their solutions for review to the RECON training staff or to TIC, depending on the emphasis. (TIC would also be asked to do its version of the search.) The names of winners and their solutions would be published in *Ener-*

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*(DOE ORDER, continued from page 2)*

#### **(2) *The Manager of the Technical Information Services Program:***

- Participates in the field review and evaluation of performing organizations when requested by Departmental elements.
- Conducts evaluations of technical information programs administered by heads of Departmental elements.
- Serves as the single point of negotiation and agreement for the dissemination of DOE scientific and technical information products by NTIS, and other dissemination outlets.
- Ensures that DOE scientific and technical information is made available to DOE users in the most efficient and economical manner.
- Ensures that scientific and technical information developed during work supported by DOE is made available to industry and to the public through approved channels as security, patent, or other DOE policy considerations permit.

For the successful implementation of 1430.1, it is essential that both field and program offices be aware of its requirements, that new contracts and modifications to existing ones specify the technical information deliverables and identify TIC as a recipient, and that procedures are established within Departmental elements to ensure report flow to TIC.

**Editor's Note:** *Further discussion of the guidelines and of a draft of the accompanying Implementation Order will appear in the next newsletter.*

*ginfo*, along with TIC's version. This could be done two or three times a year.

This method would gain publicity for the searcher certification program, but it would only yield two or three certified searchers per contest: on the other hand, this method would have a training function for newsletter readers, since they would read the search problem and later on read the winning search solutions.

#### **Conclusions**

Of the four methods above, the first probably offers the most benefit for the effort invested. Each has implications in terms of staff time to conduct planning and review.

Comments on the idea of searcher certification may be addressed to Dora Moneyhun, Director, Customer Services Division, TIC, at (615) 576-1303 or FTS 626-1303.

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## **TIC ANSWERLINE**

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### **Ordering Reports**

**Q:** *Can I order a report from NTIS by title only, if I don't know the report or order numbers?*

**A:** NTIS can respond to requests by title; however, reports distributed in printed copy are sent to NTIS a few weeks before the bibliographic record is sent. During this period, they cannot supply reports ordered by title but will fill orders if the order number (DE) or report number is given.

**Q:** *When I have the numbers, do I need to use both in ordering?*

**A:** The DE number is the order number and should be used when requesting reports distributed after 1981. Reports with earlier publication dates should be ordered by report number. When you order reports, it is a good idea to supply all the information you have—title, report number, DE number, and any other data that might be useful in identifying the report.

**Q:** *Do reports with DE numbers have NTIS numbers also?*

**A:** Reports with DE numbers do not have NTIS order numbers, nor do older publications with DOE (ERDA/AEC) report numbers. But all reports from DOE and predecessor agencies can be ordered from NTIS, either by DE number or, for older reports, by report number. If you have problems obtaining DOE reports from NTIS, you can call the Technical Information Center Customer Services Division (FTS: 626-1301; commercial: 615-576-1301) for verification of titles and numbers.

Remember that, if you need a report for official use by a DOE office, you can get it without charge from the Center. The Center also supplies reports to major contractors if stock is available.

## Licensee Event Reports on NSC— Keywording Computerized

The Nuclear Safety Information Center data base (NSC, file no. 8) contains a wide variety of citations and data sources from the literature concerning the safety and operation of nuclear power plants, as well as regulatory information, news articles, and other documents (see "NSC File Changes Scope," *Energinfo*, April 1982).

An important subset of the NSC file is a complete collection of licensee event reports (LERs) of operating experience information from nuclear power plants. NSIC has indexed and abstracted LERs (and their predecessor documents) since the late 1960s. There are currently over 35,000 such events on the file. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's monthly listing of LERs in NUREG/CR-2000, *Licensee Event Report (LER) Compilation*, is generated from the same information that is supplied to the NSC file on DOE/RECON.

The NRC's Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operations Data has developed, through NSC at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, a detailed system for coding events reported in the LERs for computer storage and retrieval—the Sequence Coding and Search System (SCSS). This has changed the process of assigning keywords to LERs for the NSC file.

First, the manual assignment of keywords by the NSIC technical staff has been discontinued. Starting with Edition 153 (added to the NSC file on June 9, 1983), the keywords for LERs have been generated from the SCSS codes.

Second, correlation tables have been developed for computer translation of the SCSS codes to existing keywords. Thus, with one exception, described below, the user will see only slight differences in the keywords.

Third, total system and subsystem faults are identified in SCSS, and this information is being included in the citations on the NSC file, again starting with Edition 153. Where applicable, either the keyword

"total system fault (TSF)" or "subsystem fault (SSF)" is included along with the general systems keyword and a compound system keyword indicating a total or subsystem failure. For example, for a fault in the service water system, the following keywords would appear: *subsystem fault (SSF)*; *service water system*; and *service water system/SSF*.

Generally, the user will see more keywords assigned to each LER as a result of the detailed coding of events captured in SCSS. This provides the user more information but may cause some false drops when searching LERs on the NSC file. Also, some additional keywords may represent information extracted from supplemental information provided with the LER but not discernible from the abstract itself.

Questions about these changes should be directed to:

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Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
P.O. Box Y  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
FTS: 642-0391  
Commercial: (615) 574-0391

### DOE/RECON Statistics

DOE/RECON statistics for uptime and user activities during July and August are as follows:

Month	System Uptime	User Sessions	Citations Printed
July	97.6%	4,635	70,132
August	96.6%	5,342	91,124

—Leon Yount, DOE/RECON Staff, ORNL

## DOE/RECON Calendar of Events

October 24 Basic DOE/RECON Training: Introductory Module on Using Terminals (optional session for novice users)  
Forrestal Building, Washington, DC

October 25-26 Basic DOE/RECON Training (for newer users)  
Forrestal Building, Washington, DC

October 27 Energy Data Base Update (for experienced DOE/RECON searchers)  
Forrestal Building, Washington, DC

Please send training reservations to DOE/RECON Training Coordinator, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Bldg. 50, Room 130, Berkeley, CA 94720, telephone: (415) 486-6307 or FTS 451-6307.

**For Reference**

**Not to be taken from this room**

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