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the latest developments about
DOE'S Technical Information Program,
Products and Services

United States Department of Energy, Technical Information Center, P.O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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State of TIC

CONTENTS

First, I would like to thank all those who contributed to yet another outstanding year at the Technical Information Center. As we continue to educate and re-educate people on our program, at all levels in Washington, we find that two things are fairly consistent:

1. Most are quick to recognize the importance of our programs.
2. They are also quick to recognize how well we do our job.

The beginning of a new year is an excellent time to review the past year's accomplishments and to review in some depth our goals and objectives for 1983 and beyond.

From several major program targets for 1982, we accomplished the following:

- We met a need that resulted in the addition of 180,000 energy research and development descriptions to our Energy Data Base (EDB), exceeding by many thousands the previous annual total for EDB.
- We improved the quality and comprehensiveness of the Research in Progress file.
- We further upgraded the Technical Information Monitoring System.
- We decided to try to determine the real value of the Energy Data Base to DOE. We not only succeeded in that goal but also obtained a value for other aspects of the Center's program. For example, in terms of time, materials, or equipment, our efforts in FY 1981 led to a benefit exceeding \$8 billion to DOE. If there were or still are skeptics around, I am told that in a review of our counterpart in the Department of Defense, these savings are being confirmed.
- We completed the upgrading of the classified processing system, with the addition of a new stand-alone computer and a system for classified work. Much of the work needed to convert pre-1970 weapons data cards to machine-readable form was completed on almost 25,000 records. This was, of course, the equivalent of a one-time 25,000-item workload increase.

State of TIC (Manager's Address)	1
Changes in TIC Publications for 1983	3
NTIS to Market DOE Software	3
DOE/RECON News	
VADIC Triple Modems Installed	3
Statistics	3
Calendar	4

- We completed the installation of all new terminals in the descriptive cataloging group and almost completed the implementation of our new photocomposition system.

- After two years of really hard work, we completed most of our building renovation program.

- In addition to all this, our work output was quite astounding. In 1981, we processed 27,000 reports; in 1982, 35,000. In 1981, we added 133,000 items to EDB; in 1982, 180,000. And, as already noted, we added nearly 25,000 weapons data items to the system in 1982, for which no comparable workload existed in FY 1981.

Now let's take a look at FY 1983. After the recent retirement of Andrew Aines, the Washington Office of Scientific and Technical Information was abolished. The functions and responsibility of managing DOE's Technical Information Services Program (TISP) are being integrated under the Manager of the Technical Information Center.

A Department Order delineating these new responsibilities and clarifying existing ones is being prepared. Our broadened area of responsibility will include:

- Ensuring that the results of DOE-funded research and development programs are properly reported and managed through DOE's centralized technical information system.
- Ensuring that worldwide energy R&D results are available for DOE research programs to

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MANAGER'S ADDRESS, cont.

improve research program productivity and to avoid research duplication.

- Developing and managing systems and services to meet the needs of DOE's program managers, scientists, and engineers.
- Ensuring 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 have developed two sets of strategies for the Center for FY 1983-1984—management and operations.

Management strategies include:

- *Legal*: Developing an understanding for top DOE management of how the TISP allows them to fulfill their legal responsibilities in a cost-effective manner.
- *Political*: Making technical information a recognized resource of the DOE R&D program and building a better understanding among policy makers, R&D managers, and information managers of this resource.
- *Programmatic*: Ensuring that our technical information system will enable DOE to capitalize on existing knowledge and thus maximize research program productivity.
- *International*: Developing understanding and control of DOE's technical information as a national resource and as an international trading and economic asset.
- *Public/private sector*: Contributing more directly to the national economic health by working with the private sector to support the industrial sector's knowledge and use of new technologies developed by DOE.

Operating strategies include:

- Segmenting our clients or users by technical information needs and developing programs that respond to specific needs. These segments are:
 - Policy makers—DOE assistant secretaries and above, OMB officials, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Congressional staff.
 - Program managers—those at Headquarters and those in the field and major contractor operations.
 - Researchers—including information specialists who provide the researchers access to needed information.
- Ensuring the integration of the Technical Information Services Program into DOE's research and development program.

For over three decades of active information management for the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), the interactions and premises underlying this second strategy were well accepted. During the years of transition from AEC to the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) and then to DOE, because of the new responsibilities, participants, and organizational structures, there was a loss of understanding of, and commitment to, the vital links between the success of an R&D program and access to the knowledge base that it both feeds on and increases. Recently, the importance of effective information resources management has been reasserted, and effective two-way communications are now vital for the success of our TISP program plan.

To carry out these strategies, we will emphasize six areas for attention in this fiscal year.

1. *Briefing programs*. We will continue to develop our briefing program, with a heavy emphasis on providing Headquarters and the field offices briefings on our technical information management responsibilities and orientations on products and services available from the Center.

2. *Oversight/appraisal*. In the simplest terms, it is now our responsibility to assure that R&D program managers in Headquarters or in the field have adequate systems to ensure the routine delivery to our central facility of technical information generated as a result of R&D programs.

3. *Control and evaluation*. Adequate resources will be provided to document control and evaluation to assure that this activity, which is critical to the proper management of DOE's technical information generated through its R&D program, is improved and maintained.

4. *Quality assurance and quality control*. Over the past several years we have been very busy upgrading equipment and systems. Replacing aging equipment was absolutely necessary to enable us to handle larger workloads, and we therefore placed our priorities on getting those tasks accomplished. That has caused some unexpected results. I believe that we spend too much time correcting mistakes that occur in our processing

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systems. By paying closer attention to quality assurance and by using quality control programs to identify problems, we can obtain some relief from our staffing constraints—perhaps improvements of 8 to 12%.

5. *Contract management.* One thing we can surely do is to ensure that the specifications in our contracts are clear, so that the products we receive are immediately usable. That sounds simple enough. Almost all of us are affected in one way or another by the help we get from contractors. We will concentrate on improving our skills in developing specifications in 1983. Since over 60% of our budget is spent on outside contracts, this is vital to us.

6. *Technology and systems.* I think you have all seen the benefits of good, reliable systems and equipment. We have worked hard to acquire both. Several years ago, downtime almost exceeded uptime. Now that we are even with the board, so to speak, let's take the opportunity to use all of the modern information technologies to the advantage of our nation's energy R&D program. The economic assessment of the Center and its worth proved the substantial benefits of our existing system. Anything more that we can do to improve the productivity of DOE's researchers is profit to the United States. I believe that new technologies can help us in this effort.

—Joseph G. Coyne,
Manager, TIC

DOE/RECON NEWS

VADIC Triple Modems Installed

In addition to the Bell 212A modems, five VA3480 modems were recently installed for DOE/RECON users. These modems are compatible with the Bell 103 at 300 bits/second and with the Bell 212A and the VA3400 series at 1200 bits/second.

We suggest that users for whom TYMNET is not practical and who want to use a VA3400 series modem call: (615) 574-7600 or FTS 624-7600. Others who do not use TYMNET should call the appropriate direct-dial telephone numbers (see *DOE/RECON User's Manual*, DOE/TIC-4586/R1, page SYS 5).

DOE/RECON Statistics

DOE/RECON uptime for December was 89.5%. There were 3,735 user sessions, and 65,981 citations were output via the PRINT commands.

—Leon Yount, DOE/RECON Staff,
ORNL

Changes in TIC Publications for 1983

The Technical Information Center announces the following changes in its publications, effective in January:

- *Geothermal Energy Update*, a monthly journal, is replaced by *Geothermal Energy Technology*, a semi-monthly bulletin.
- All bulletins are being published without indexes.
- Corporate, personal author, and subject indexes to *Energy Research Abstracts*, *Energy Abstracts for Policy Analysis*, and all Update journals have been modified to denote after each index citation the type of document, the country of publication, and the language, if other than English.

Because of changes in its processing system, the Center is now able to handle more comprehensive information more rapidly. (An article on the processing of information for Update publications will appear in the February issue of *Energinfo*.)

Three other Update journals, *Fossil Energy Update*, *Fusion Energy Update*, and *Solar Energy Update*, are being evaluated, with the assistance of DOE Headquarters offices and divisions, to determine the feasibility of converting each to two or more bulletins. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Address them to:

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—Lee M. Thompson,
TIC

NTIS to Market DOE Software

The National Energy Software Center operated by Argonne National Laboratory under the direction of the DOE Technical Information Center has signed an agreement with the National Technical Information Service for NTIS to market and license DOE software packages. This agreement will result in more effective sharing of DOE software with other government agencies and the private sector. Under this agreement, over 750 software packages—the entire NESC library—will be added to the NTIS software inventory, effectively doubling the number of software packages licensed by the service.

—James D. Cape,
TIC

DOE/RECON Calendar of Events

1983

Jan. 24 Basic DOE/RECON Training: Introductory Module on Using Terminals (optional afternoon session for novice users)
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Berkeley, CA

Jan. 25-26 Basic DOE/RECON Training (for newer users)
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Berkeley, CA

Jan. 27-28 System-Independent EDB and Advanced DOE/RECON Training (for experienced DOE/RECON searchers)
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Berkeley, CA
(January 27, System-Independent EDB, is also open to experienced searchers on commercial systems.)

April 11 Basic DOE/RECON Training: Introductory Module on Using Terminals (optional afternoon session for novice users)
Washington, D.C.

April 12-13 Basic DOE/RECON Training (for newer users)
Washington, D.C.

April 14-15 System-Independent EDB and Advanced DOE/RECON Training (for experienced

DOE/RECON searchers)
Washington, D.C.

(April 14, System-Independent EDB, is also open to experienced searchers on commercial systems.)

May User Meeting
Oak Ridge, TN

July 4 DOE/RECON Holiday: Independence Day

Fee Schedule for 2-Day DOE/RECON Training Sessions

	Existing password	Start-up fee*
DOE Employees	Free	Free
DOE Contractors	\$125	\$200
Other Federal Employees	\$150	\$225
All Others	\$175	\$250

*Includes one training slot plus search aids.

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. The fees are payable to the Regents of the University of California.

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