

PUBLICATION, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

DURING the year under review, the Council brought out a number of publications including the Indian Journal of Medical Research. Activities were also undertaken in the field of informatics and communication.

PUBLICATIONS

Indian Journal of Medical Research

The Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR) continued to be indexed and abstracted by all major global current awareness and alerting services. The IJMR is available full-text free on the internet (www.icmr.nic.in) and is also available in the medIND, the online full-text database of Indian biomedical journals.

A special theme issue on “Poverty & Human Development” was brought out in October 2007 as part of a global theme initiative by Council of Science Editors, USA with 237 participating journals from 37 countries across the globe. Another special issue on “Nutrition & Bone Health” was brought out in March 2008. Editorials covering themes of various World Days as also on contemporary topics such as Resurrection of DDT, Smoke free environment, Viral hepatitis, International standards of child growth, *etc.* were published.

Annual Report

The English and Hindi versions of the Annual Report of the Council (2006-2007) were brought out during the year with improved overall get up. A compact disc (CD) was also brought out for easy handling and user convenience.

Hindi Publications

The publication of *ICMR Patrika* was continued during the year. Two articles originally written in Hindi entitled “*Chikangunya : Ek Punah Ubharti Janswasthya Samasya*” and “*Malaria Nyantran : Ek Bahuyami Prayas*” were also published.

A booklet entitled “Pictorial Identification Key for Indian Anophelines,” of the National Institute of Malaria Research has been translated into Hindi and brought out as “*Bhartiya Anopheles Machharon Ki Sachitra Pahachan Kunji*”.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Biomedical Information

The ICMR-NIC Centre’s webpage, <http://indmed.nic.in> continued to be ranked amongst the top Indian health websites by the Google directory; over 700 searches were conducted during the year.

The medIND database at present covers 39 journals. The indexing of journals for IndMED database is ongoing and at present contains approximately 45,000 records. Updating of the Union Catalogue of Biomedical Periodicals is also ongoing.

Separate training programmes were organized for medical librarians and medical professionals on “Biomedical Information Retrieval”. Four programmes were held for medical professionals with little or no internet experience and those with advanced knowledge of internet resources.

Scientometric Studies

The annual document ‘2006 Research Output of ICMR Institutes’ with analysis of publications from all the institutes including RMRCs was brought out. A total of 502 papers were published by the ICMR institutes during the year 2006. TRC, Chennai topped the tally with 63 papers followed by Niced, Kolkata (48) and NIN, Hyderabad (39). Of the 502 papers, 65.14% were covered by JCR/SCI in 2006, while 72.80% were covered during 2005. In this category, the TRC, Chennai was at the top with 44 papers. A total of 244 journals were used for publishing these papers, of which 153 were JCR/SCI covered, 131 with an impact factor (IF) greater than or equal to 1.000.

Scientometric studies of ICMR institutes from the inception till 2000 is being carried out. During the period

under report, four institutes namely NARI, Pune, NIOH Ahmedabad, NIRRH, Mumbai, and RMRC, Bhubaneswar have been covered.

Bioinformatics Centre (BIC)

Six Biomedical Informatics Centres established by ICMR during 2006 at different locations across the country are fully functional. Two more Centres at NIN, Hyderabad and RMRIMS, Patna were established during 2007-08. The Coordinating unit is with Bioinformatics Centre, ICMR Headquarters. Homology modeling, structure based drug design, database and software development, training and services towards application of bioinformatics tools in research work of scientists of the host institutes etc. are some of the major activities of these Centres.

In addition to routine maintenance of ICMR databases, the BIC initiated information system development for a technical division of the Council and developed a web based module for an ICMR task force project 'Capturing Acute Cardiovascular Events in Hospitals'.

Work on creating video conferencing facility in eight ICMR institutes was initiated. Facility management of networking for all ICMR institutes was renewed for three years.

Popularity of ICMR website <http://www.icmr.nic.in> continued during the year. The site was visited by about nine lakh visitors. The most frequently used areas were Annual Reports of ICMR institutes, IJMR, ICMR News etc.