

PIMRIS
(Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System)
Inter-Sessional Report
ASFA Advisory Board Meeting
Rome, Italy, 4-8 October, 2005

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3. Input statistics

Year	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Input	32	0	88	11	30	0	0	0	0

The former Coordinator, Ganeshan Rao, finished in January 2005; Chris Nelson commenced in July 2005. Ganeshan conducted a training session for Chris, another staff member of the USP Library and Rachele Oriente, the SPC Librarian, in November 2004. Preparation of records for ASFA input began in January 2005. By early September, 32 records had been created, 20 of which had been reviewed by ASFA staff in Rome. Records will be forwarded to CSA as a batch once the records on hand have all been reviewed.

Ganeshan also contributed 431 retrospective records from the PIMRIS database as an ASFA Trust Fund Project which was completed in November 2004.

4. Distribution list for complimentary ASFA entitlements

Access to ASFA via CSA Illumina continues. Although our listed entitlements also include the printed ASFA journals, we ceased receiving these at the end of 2003 (and do not need to receive them).

5. Usefulness of ASFA products

Access to ASFA via the Internet is an integral part of the information literacy classes provided to all Marine Studies students at USP, both undergraduate and postgraduate. It is an essential tool for academic staff and researchers at USP. The PIMRIS Coordination Unit also uses it to conduct searches for all PIMRIS participants upon request. Improvements to USP's Internet services have made access to the online database faster and more reliable, so the printed ASFA products now receive virtually no use.

6. Changes to monitoring list information

In January 2005 the PIMRIS monitoring list was divided between the PIMRIS Coordination Unit (based at USP in Suva, Fiji) and the SPC Library (in Noumea, New Caledonia). SPC now enters data for all of their own publications. Some titles remaining on the PIMRIS list have become problematic through infrequent publication, cessation or issues not being received by the Coordination Unit. Some titles are being withheld from public distribution on the basis of confidentiality of information. These matters were debated at the PIMRIS Steering Committee Meeting in May 2005 and it is hoped that clarification of publication and distribution status of all titles will be achieved by the end of the year.

7. Problems

Other work responsibilities interrupted the contribution of records immediately after training, but it is hoped that this will improve. Acquisition of some titles for abstracting has been an issue. No problems have been encountered using the www-ISIS-ASFA software, though some aspects of data entry have required clarification. (In this regard, the always prompt and patient advice of both Luciana Lombardi and Helen Wibley is much appreciated.)

8. Ideas for development and improvement to ASFA

- a. Consider making the Geographic descriptor pick-list in the www-ISIS-ASFA a true authority file, as in the DOS version. (Helen's email to the ASFA Board list of Sept.10 discusses this.)
- b. Consider expanding the ASFA Thesaurus to include more sociological terms. (Many works pertaining to the Pacific involve concepts for which there are currently no precise terms, such as traditional/indigenous knowledge, or gender roles.)
- c. Consider adding or amending scope notes and links between ASFA Thesaurus terms to help distinguish between similar headings or alert users to related concepts, eg. the scope note for **Biological collections** begins "Museum collections..." but there is no direct link to the latter (**Museum collections**) as a unique heading nor a clear idea of how these terms differ.

Very best wishes for a successful meeting.