

ASFA input training in Polar Scientific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO), Murmansk, Russia, 5-11 October 2004

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Introduction

The Polar Scientific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO), Murmansk, Russia becomes collaborating member of Russian ASFA network in 2004 when PINRO and National ASFA Partner in Russia: All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Fisheries & Oceanography (VNIRO), Moscow signed an Agreement on ASFA collaboration. In accordance with the Agreement PINRO obtained status of ASFA Collaborating Centre in the Russian ASFA network. Taking into consideration limited human resources of VNIRO it was agreed that Evgeny Romanov (Ukraine)¹ would visit PINRO for training. Funding for travel and accommodation was provided by Institute of Marine Research (IMR), Bergen, Norway.

ASFA Training

ASFA training was arranged at the PINRO library from 5 to 11 October 2004. There were four PINRO library personnel involved in training: Irina Merkina, Head of Library; Irina Inyaeva, librarian; Valentina Khazova, librarian, and Ol'ga Shibanova, librarian.

PINRO LAN Administrator was invited and was present during installation of WWW-ISIS-ASFA software and CSA ASFA searching and retrieval software.

A training agenda developed by Brit Skotheim (IMR) and Sofia Levashova (VNIRO) at the ASFA Board Meeting (Mar del Plata, Argentina) were followed during training. Training was based on the ASFA training outline developed by Richard Pepe (ASFA Secretariat, FAO) especially for PINRO training.

The following items were covered during training:

1. Introductory ASFA information.

As introductory information there were described: History, Structure and Function (FAO and FAO's information mandate, ASFA history², ASFA structure and function).

The ASFA end products (ASFA printed journals, ASFA database: on CD-ROM (with practical demonstration) and on Internet)

ASFIS Reference Series publications (ASFIS-1 Serials Monitored for the ASFA Bibliographic Database, ASFIS-2 Subject Categories and Scope Descriptions, ASFIS-3 Guidelines for Bibliographic Description using www-ISIS-ASFA, ASFIS-4 Guidelines for Abstracting using www-ISIS-ASFA, ASFIS-5 Guidelines for Indexing using www-ISIS-ASFA, ASFIS-6 ASFA Thesaurus, ASFIS-7 Geographic Authority List (GAL), ASFIS-8 Taxonomic Authority List, ASFIS-10 Authority List for Corporate Names).

Introduction to www-ISIS-ASFA: brief description of www-ISIS-ASFA software

¹ Dr. E. V. Romanov is the leader of Ukrainian ASFA network. He has an experience in training the staff of several Ukrainian collaborating centers in ASFA input methodology (in Russian).

² *ASFA the First Twenty Years* by A. Varley was handed to PINRO library

2. Installation of www-ISIS-ASFA

Network installation, XITAMI web-server, assignment of IP addresses for proper input programme functioning, modification of ASFA authorization file, development of user profiles, assigning of user rights and passwords. In this session mainly PINRO LAN Administrator was involved. Only general information on network software functioning was given to the library input staff.

3. Description of the bibliographic data elements and data entry (using www-ISIS-ASFA software)

Description of the abstract: its types (informative, indicative, informative-indicative), content and rules of preparation. ASFA scope, selection of the records for input.

Starting the ASFA input interface (WWW-ISIS-ASFA), i.e. "ASFA-Data entry". Structure of the records: MFN, Worksheet (bibliographic level).

Step by step data entry using www-ISIS-ASFA, description of indexing.

The finished ASFA record(s), verification, exporting (importing) records

4. Test input of the records

Trainees made an independent input of several records into ASFA database under general supervision of the lecturer.

Checking of the records, corrections of the records.

5. ASFA responsibilities

National ASFA partner responsibilities. Collaborating partner responsibilities. Russian monitoring list (VNIRO responsibilities, PINRO responsibilities). Input priorities. Other possible sources of ASFA records (monograph, thesis, grey literature, library holdings, local databases). ASFA Trust fund projects.

IMR database on Soviet publications on marine research (in *Procite* format). Possible ASFA Trust Fund proposal for converting of IMR *Procite* database into ASFA format. Searching in the ASFA database for the records duplicated in the IMR *Procite* database.

Taking into consideration huge amount of information which have to be fully understood and learned just for conventional ASFA input, no great attention were paid to detailed preparation to conversion of IMR *Procite* database at it was intended initially.

It was realized that converting of the majority of the records from IMR *Procite* database (which contains totally 2078 records) is relatively high amount of work which needs an experience for its finalizing in the reasonable period of time. After discussion with PINRO and VNIRO staff it was decided that obtaining of the necessary experience is much simpler during preparation of the records in accordance with current monitoring responsibility.

Finally I would like to say that PINRO library staff is well educated, easily works with computers, has an experience in using IRBIS bibliographic system, easily goes through training and I have not seen any problem for PINRO to become one of the most active collaborating Russian centres in the nearest future.

5. Suggestion for future training

It should be noted that my numerous e-mail suggestions to PINRO to prepare at least 10 abstracts well before training (consulting with ASFIS-4 Guidelines for Abstracting using www-ISIS-ASFA) were not followed. So some excess time were spent to abstract typing and checking. If the abstracts were ready at the day of training more efforts might be addressed to abstract content and quality.

Other activities

It was arranged meeting with Vladimir Shibanov, Deputy Director of PINRO. During the meeting I made general introduction of ASFA information system, benefits of member of ASFA community and responsibilities of ASFA collaborating centres. Dr. Shibanov expressed his confidence that PINRO recognised their obligations and seriously considered its steps before signing of Agreement on ASFA collaboration.

I would like to acknowledge excellent arrangement by PINRO library staff and PINRO administration the training environment and my stay in Murmansk.