

Estonia

**INTERSESSIONAL (1998–2000) ACTIVITIES IN MARINE
INFORMATION IN ESTONIA**

By

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In **Athina** in 1998 I reported that the library of the Estonian Marine Institute was the only EURASLIC library in Estonia. Thus, our efforts have been directed at getting other Estonian libraries acquainted with EURASLIC activities and to enlist new members.

In December 1998 the relevant information was sent to the libraries of five Estonian scientific, governmental and educational organisations who, at least in part cover the marine sciences. Around the same time a paper introducing the library of the Estonian Marine Institute was published in a leading Estonian professional journal *Raamatukogu*. The paper was aimed at persuading the librarians from special libraries to scientific institutions in Estonia to join the Section within the Estonian Librarians Association.

I am glad to inform you that as a result of the efforts of some enthusiastic members of the above-mentioned Association, the Section of Special Libraries was registered in autumn 1999 in Estonia. Presently, the Section involves about 50 special libraries, among which nine members represent special libraries, related to the natural and environmental sciences. This means that we now have a forum in Estonia to exchange ideas, discuss our problems, and make new links between special libraries. Joining this section has opened up new possibilities for librarians to continue professional development in Estonia.

Other good news is that in March 2000 the Library of the Ministry of the Environment of Estonia became an associate member of EURASLIC. The library is unique for its specifics on the scale of Estonia with publications covering subjects such as water, ambient air, the Baltic Sea, marine environment, nature conservation, fishery, biological diversity, wastes, sustainable development, environmental status reports, environmental policies and strategies, environmental economics, EU legislation, etc. The library was established in 1994 with the aid of Germany, Sweden and United States. Today the library's collection has increased to approximately 6,000 items of periodicals, books, videos and CD-ROMs. The users of the library are mostly the employees of the Ministry, the people of its 34 subordinate institutions, teachers, scientists, journalists, students, pupils, etc. The library has good relations with the library of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency with regard to exchange of publications and advanced training. Good cooperation with the US Environmental Protection Agency has been maintained. Mrs Kristi Tamm, the librarian is sure that joining EURASLIC and participating in the conferences will be of mutual benefit for the Library of the Ministry of the Environment and as well as for the other EURASLIC libraries. She hopes that this will help her to enhance the specific activities at the Ministry's library.

I would also say some words about the library of the Estonian Marine Institute. The last two years were quite intensive for us. In the summer of 1998 the library was moved into a renovated building with much better conditions for users and staff, and improved safety for the library collections and computer software.

As an ASFA partner, the library continues to submit the Estonian records into the ASFA database. The Estonian partner has participated at the ASFA Advisory Board Meeting 1999 in Silver Spring, USA. Since 1999 the library has had access to the ASFA database via the internet.

The scientific activity of the library is presently concerned with the analysis of the Estonian Marine Institute publications as a part of evaluation of scientific activity of the institute. According to the accessible literature it seems that similar investigations are rather rare in marine libraries. Thus, the general methodology has to be adapted to the idiosyncracies of marine information and to the local needs.

Such indices as the real/average number of publications per scientist and per department, data on language, place of publication, type and volume, data on number of co-authors and their geographic location, number of publications reflected in major databases (such as *Current Contents*, *Science Citation Index*, *Biological Abstracts*, *ASFA*), and on the other parameters such as academic degree, age, length of service in the department and gender will enable us to conduct the comparative analysis of scientific productivity of different departments for the years 1992-1999, and to indicate the reasons influencing the scientific productivity at the institute. The reasons for choosing one or another periodical edition for publishing are also going to be investigated. The citation analysis based on the *Science Citation Index* data is aimed to clear up the sphere of influence and interest to the Estonian marine research. The justification of the self-citation as well as the co-authorship trends will also be investigated.

The results of the work could be used by the institute authorities for design of the scientific and personnel policy of the institute. The scientists are also interested in the results, which can help them in their publishing activity.

I am going to keep you informed through the EURASLIC Newsletter on how the work advances. I would be very glad to discuss the matter with colleagues from other institutions having experience in similar field.