

Fisheries Periodicals in the FAO Library

Review of an International Collection

ABSTRACT

The paper discusses a complete review of almost 2000 periodicals titles on fisheries, aquaculture and related aquatic sciences held by FAO's Fisheries Branch Library, the most comprehensive and relevant collection of fisheries-related literature in the world.

The review process used present and past FAO strategies to identify a series of relevant criteria for evaluating the relevance and importance of each title. The review process and recommendations are relevant to many library situations - not only national fisheries institutions but also specialist libraries in many fields.

ANALYSIS

A Core Collection of over 1700 titles was identified. Listings of titles are included in the Circular. 200 titles were identified for disposal. The review confirmed the effectiveness of previous collection policies, and the strategy-based approach formed an appropriate basis for a future collection policy and maintenance strategy. The paper discusses issues such as alternative access to periodicals via digital means, collection development, maintenance and disposal policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

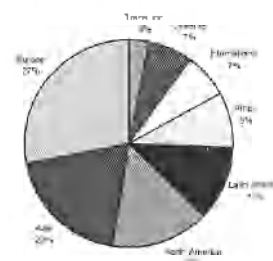
Some general points relevant to periodicals collection policy in many specialised libraries:

- Organisational strategy should be the main determinant of collection policy.
- Collection policy should be defined in a Collection Policy Statement.
- A review of collection policy should take place when strategy changes.
- The transition from print to electronic access should be evaluated in terms of cost-effectiveness and long-term goals. For the present, the 'hybrid' library remains the best option.

FAO FISHERIES LIBRARY

Within FAO's global strategic objectives of sustainable food security, the Fisheries Department is the international agency for fisheries. The library collection is unique in the breadth and depth of its coverage of fisheries and aquaculture in the developing world.

Countries of publication of periodicals in FAO Fisheries Library



AN OUTLINE FOR A COLLECTION POLICY STATEMENT

An outline collection policy statement might cover:

Introduction

- Purpose and audience
- Institution and clientele served
- Mission Statement and Goals

Overview of collection

- History
- Subject – emphasis and de emphasis
- Collection locations

Organisation of programme

- Staffing, liaison, budget
- Management of collection
- Equipment and technical support

General collection management

- Types of publications: eg rare and archival material, languages and translations, institutional publications, popular/scholarly
- Access: eg multiple copies, reserve/reference, access policy

Analysis of subject collection

- Collection levels
- Languages

THE AUTHORS

Ian Pettman, Pettman & Associates, 1 Templand Oaks, Allithwaite, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 7QX, UK. Telephone: +44 15395 33950. E-mail: in@ceeh.ac.uk

Jean Collins, Librarian, Fisheries Library, David Lubin Memorial Library, FAO, Via delle Terme Caracalla, 00100, Rome, Italy. Telephone: +39-06-57054742. E-mail: fi-library@fao.org.

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