

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1981

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from the Department for Scientific and Technical Communication

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## THE 'GREY' LITERATURE

## 1. SIGLE

(System for Information on Grey Literature in Europe)

## SIGLE project launched

From the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1981 the SIGLE information system on non-conventional or grey literature will run on an experimental basis for a two-year period. This project combines, in its present initial phase, the possibilities offered by important information centres from five community countries in order to fill a major gap in the coverage and accessibility of grey literature documents.

## What is grey literature?

The term "grey literature" or its equivalent "non-conventional literature" refers to literature which is not issued through the conventional commercial publication channels and which is therefore in most cases difficult to access. Typical examples of this kind of literature are reports, theses, conference proceedings and translations not published commercially, official documents issued in limited numbers, technical recommendations or rules, etc.

## Why is the problem of grey literature important?

Among the producers of scientific and technical literature, there is an increasing trend to publish their papers in the form of grey literature. The main reasons are that this type of publication is easier, faster, cheaper and that it allows the originators to supervise the delivery and to keep in close contact with the interested users. However if grey literature gives some advantages to the authors, the problems encountered in its detection, identification and availability means that a large part of the volume of this literature fails to be recorded by data bases and finally escapes a large number of potential users.

Fully aware of this situation, the Commission of the European Communities organised in December 1978 in YORK (UK) a seminar on non-conventional literature attended by some 30 experts of the Member countries. One of the most important recommendations made by these experts was to take, with the help of the Commission, the necessary steps to promote the detection and the document delivery of grey literature in each Member State and to create a bibliographical data-base covering this material which would be made accessible on-line via Euronet DIANE.

The role of the national "grey literature" authorities associated in this common action will be to ensure:

- the collection of GL documents issued on their own territories;
- the assignment of unique codes;
- the cataloguing of the documents according to standardised rules;
- the document delivery or referral to producers;
- the education of EC grey literature producers for the assignment of a minimum of cataloguing elements to the documents.

## SIGLE project is born

In February 1980 in Luxembourg, the British Library Lending Division (BLLD), the Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique — Centre d'Études Nucléaires (CEA-CEN) and the Fachinformationszentrum Energie, Physik, Mathematik GmbH (FIZ) agreed on a French proposal to initiate a European referral system on grey literature on the basis of the large collections of scientific and technical reports available in these centres and to ask for financial support from the Commission in the framework of the IDST second action plan. The project will run on an experimental basis for a two-year period and the central data processing will be performed by the CEA centre.

At a plenary meeting held in March 1980 in Luxembourg and attended by representatives of all Member

States, the initial consortium of three countries, UK (BLLD), FR (CEA-CEN) and DE (FIZ), was enlarged by the participation of **Belgium (LABORELEC)** and **Denmark (Risø Library)**. Efforts are being made to include the participation of the other community countries. Some third countries are already interested in the project.

### Aims of the SIGLE system

The aims of the SIGLE project are thus:

- to improve the detection, the identification and the collection of GL items in each Member country;
- to perform a document delivery service for each item of GL recorded by the system;
- to set up a European GL bibliographical data-base available through **Euronet DIANE** and the publication of a GL index.

Therefore **SIGLE** will be in the near future a valuable complement to the existing information services of **Euronet DIANE** because this system fills a gap which has up to now always been a weak point in present data bases: the detection and the accessibility of non-conventional literature.

### Development of the SIGLE system

The scope of **SIGLE** deals with all fields where there is grey literature. Details can be found in the "**SIGLE subject categories**".

In the initial phase of the development, the system will mainly rely upon the stock of reports available in the participating centres. But for a more exhaustive coverage of grey literature in each country, a sectorial approach is envisaged. Temporary sectorial groups of experts could be set up. For the time being possibilities are already offered in fields such as:

- **medicine;**
- **education;**
- **electricity production.**

Attempts will be made to ensure compatibility of cataloguing rules between these new developing GL data-bases and the **SIGLE** project in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work and to share the possibilities offered both by the data-bases and a referral and document delivery system.

For more information about the **SIGLE** project, please apply to:

**Mr. Marcel MAURICE**  
CEC — DG XIII  
P.O. Box 1907  
Luxembourg

### 2. A better fate for the 'grey' or non-conventional literature

'The "Grey" Literature', December 1978. The results of this seminar are presented in

J.M. GIBB and E. PHILLIPS — 'A better fate for the grey, or non-conventional literature' — *Journal of Research Communication Studies*, 1 (1978/1979) 225-234

J.M. GIBB et E. PHILLIPS — Un meilleur sort pour la littérature 'grise' ou 'non conventionnelle' — *Bull. Bibl. France, Paris*, 24 (1979) 349-353

J.M. GIBB/E. PHILLIPS — Bessere Zeiten für graue oder nicht herkömmliche Literatur — *Bibliothek Forschung und Praxis* — 3 (1979) 122-126

J.M. GIBB ed E. PHILLIPS — Prospettive migliori per la letteratura 'grigia' o 'non convenzionale' — *Boletino d'informazioni AIB* 19 (1979) N. 2.

A summary is given of a seminar on the grey literature, held in York, Great Britain, on December 13-14, 1978 and organized by the Commission of the European Communities in cooperation with the British Library Lending Division. Grey, or non-conventional, literature, is loosely defined as material not issued through normal commercial publication channels, so that access to it is often difficult, and includes many scientific and technical reports, theses, conference papers not published in commercially-available proceedings, some official documents, and so on. The aim of the seminar was to detect ways of improving access, within the European Community area, to information contained in the grey literature. Recommendations generated by the seminar are reported: these concern the creation of guidelines for producers of grey literature, the unique identification of documents, the establishment of grey literature bibliographies, and measures to improve the supply of the documents themselves to users. Several recommendations involve the establishment of national "grey literature authorities".

## PUBLICATIONS ON ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Measures to combat oil pollution

The arrangements for marine oil spill response are described for Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America. The basic approaches adopted within these countries are discussed in relation to resources threatened by oil pollution, assessment of pollution risk, clean-up policy, designation of clean-up responsibility, organisation for clean-up response, manpower and equipment resources, and research and development. Training schemes and international agreements for co-operation in oil spill combat in European waters are also considered. A critical appraisal of the response to past major oil spills is given and a number of conclusions and specific topics requiring action are identified.

Recommendations are made to enhance the effectiveness of the existing national arrangements for oil spill combat through further international co-operation. These include the establishment of an in *potentia* clean-up equipment and materials; a databank on the properties, behaviour and amenability to clean-up techniques of oils; the promotion of co-operation and information exchange regarding research, development and testing of clean-up equipment and materials; the encouragement of training schemes; and the sharing of certain specialised clean-up techniques.

chemical wastes; their quantitative reduction; their collection, transport, treatment, utilisation and disposal; the reclamation of usable materials; and management aspects of solid and chemicals wastes.

Excluded from coverage are air or water pollution by solid or chemical waste, such as emissions to the atmosphere, effluents and sewage.

ENREP is a computer-based permanent inventory of Environmental Research Projects within the Member States of the European Communities.

ENREP is a co-operative system in which information is collected on a national basis by Focal Points in the Member States under the management of the Commission of the European Communities.

In principle, any organisation, group, department etc, concerned with environmental research may be included. The essential criterion for accepting an organisation is its ability and willingness to serve as an information source for the users of ENREP.

The ENREP Inventory covers the whole environmental field and is used to produce information services such as this directory. The ENREP Inventory is updated regularly to include new research projects and amendments of existing project records. Thus it comprises a source of current information on environmental research in the European Communities.

Further information may be obtained from the  
ENREP Secretariat  
Mr Roland COLBACH  
Commission of the European Communities  
Jean Monnet Building  
LUXEMBOURG — Kirchberg

or by contacting one of the National Focal Points.

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Pp. 201

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Pp. 211

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Kingdom.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### • Directory of the professional organizations set up at Community level

This index has been updated from information collected by the services of the Commission of the European Communities from a questionnaire addressed to the European federations. Its main objective is to establish and make available to the public a census of

organisations which bring together all national trade and professional associations.

The list of organisations which are members of the European federations is restricted to the Member States of the European Community and to the countries which are candidates for adhesion, i.e., Spain and Portugal. Information concerning organisations from other countries which are members of the European federations listed herein can be obtained from the secretariat of the federations concerned.

Most of the federations have as their members national trade associations or trade unions. Others, however, are composed of individual firms. These firms do not appear in this index. Some federations have a permanent secretariat, others have a secretariat on a rota basis. Changes of address can therefore occur.

EUR 6921 DE, EN, FR ISBN 2-8029-0025-0  
pp. xiv + 818  
Price: BF 1 800  
Order from: Editions Delta, 92-94 square Plasky,  
B-1040 Bruxelles.

## 2. Solar energy for development

Solar energy is increasingly recognized as being among the most promising energy options for developing countries. It does not involve the infrastructures associated with conventional energy networks, it is consistent with existing technological capabilities in developing countries, and developing countries have particularly favourable conditions in terms of solar energy input (direct radiation, biomass, wind, etc.).

An assessment of the potential of solar energy for meeting the needs of developing countries, especially in their rural areas, is the subject of this book, which contains the proceedings of a conference organised by the Commission of the European Communities. Participation was by invitation only. The proceedings report the exchange of information which took place between experts in the technical aspects of solar energy and specialists in various fields of application such as rural development, agronomy, hydrology, power generation, cottage industry and telecommunications. Economic, financial, environmental and social aspects of solar energy are also covered.

EUR 6377 EN ISBN 90-247-2239-X  
pp. 240  
Price: Dfl. 45  
Order from: Kluwer Academic Publishers Group, Distribution Centre, P.O. Box 322, 3300AH Dordrecht.

EUR 6377 FR ISBN 2-85206-074-4  
pp. 255  
Price: FF 150  
Order from: Librairies Lavoisier, 11 rue Lavoisier,  
F-75834 Paris Cedex 08.

## 3. The impact of new technologies on publishing

The publishing industry is expected to undergo vast changes during the next few years as a result of technological innovations. In particular the sector of the industry concerned with "information" publishing—the scientific, technical, economic, and social fields for example—will be strongly affected, and radical changes of attitude will be needed on the part of pub-

lishers, editors, printers, librarians, documentalists and even authors and users. The symposium brought together representatives from all these sectors to examine the consequences of the technologies which will soon affect the presentation, storage, transmission, and distribution of information.

Contents: Technological developments in the printing industry from now until 1990; Using text processing, computer networking and satellite telecommunication technologies to publish primary scientific and technical information; Information transfer and the significance of new storage media and technologies; Teleordering in Denmark; Prestel; French policy on videotex; Euronet Diane, the European network for direct access to scientific, technical, economic and social information; Origination and editing: the point of view of author, editor and referee; Processing: the point of view of publisher, printer etc.; Dissemination 1: the point of view of the secondary services; Dissemination 2: the point of view of the publisher, bookseller, librarian etc.; Conclusions.

EUR 6830 EN ISBN 0-907150-09-8  
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8000 München 71.

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## SERIES

### EUROPEAN APPLIED RESEARCH REPORTS

A Journal of European Science and Technology

#### Nuclear Science and Technology Section

ISSN: 0379-4229

This periodical publishes refereed papers covering all applied research areas in nuclear science and technology which have been sponsored by, or published in col-

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## CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, SYMPOSIA CALENDAR

1. EURIPA Symposium: The electronic information marketplace. January 27, 1981 — Jean Monnet Building, Luxembourg.
2. Symposium on Lexicography in the Electronic Age. July 7-9, 1981 — Luxembourg.
3. 6th International Conference on Structural Mechanics in Reactor Technology (SMIRT — 6). August 17-21, 1981 — Palais des Congrès, Paris.
4. Conference on Measurements, Testing and Control in Rolling Mills. September 2-3, 1981 — Luxembourg.
5. Symposium on the Scientific Basis for the Assessment of Hazards from Chemicals associated with the Environment. September 7-10, 1981 — Imperial College, London.
6. Symposium on Coke Oven Techniques. September 23-25, 1981 — Luxembourg.
7. Conference on Steel in Marine Structures. October 5-8, 1981 — Paris.

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