FISHERIES LIBRARY SERVICES IN VIETNAM

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BACKGROUND

Vietnam is situated in the tropical monsoon area in the Southeast Asia. It has a coastline of more than 3,260 km. The total area of the territorial waters is 226,000 km². The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) area is about 1 million km².

Vietnam has numerous inland bodies of water associated with the two major river systems in the deltas such as the Mekong and the Red River. These inland waters play a significant role in supporting the food security of the population, as they are the major source of fish protein for rural populations.

There are more than 4,000 islands and many bays, lagoons, estuaries as well, in Vietnamese waters. The country has about 300,000 ha of intertidal areas, which could expand coastal aquaculture into the twenty-first century. Those are huge for re-creating resources and developing different economic sectors such as transportation, tourism, as well as fisheries and marine culture.

Under such the favourable natural conditions, Vietnam fisheries have been developing fast, becoming a key economic sector and currently ranking as the third biggest export sector of the nation, just after the petroleum and garments. Fisheries products provide about 40% of the animal protein diet for the people. The fisheries sector has also directly employed over four million labourers and created a part-time income for millions of people. At present, the fisheries sector plays an important role in the social and economic development in Vietnam.

Total fisheries production was estimated at 2,536,361 tons in 2003, of which 1,426,223 tons from capture fisheries and export value reached US$2.24 billion (MOFI 2004).

There are over 2,030 fish species in Vietnamese waters, among which are around 130 species with economic value; 1,600 crustacean species; 2,500 species of mollusks and many other kinds of seaweed and seabirds. The standing stock of fisheries resources is estimated at 3.1 - 3.2 million tons and the potential yield at about 1.4 - 1.5 million tons (Dao Manh Son, 2003).

Therefore, it is necessary to develop fisheries library services for the scientists, and raise the awareness of communities of fishermen.
ORGANIZATION SYSTEM OF VIETNAM’S FISHERIES SECTOR

The highest government agency responsible for the administration, development and management of the fisheries is the Ministry of Fisheries (MOFI). Vietnam is one among a few countries that have separate ministries for fisheries. Under the Ministry of Fisheries, there are the following departments:

- Department for Aquaculture
- Finance and Investment Department
- Department for Science and Technology
- International Co-operation Department
- Legislation Department
- Personnel and Labour Department
- National Directorate of Fisheries Resources Exploitation and Protection
- The National Fisheries Quality Assurance and Veterinary Directorate
- Inspection Bureau
- Administrative Office

Apart from the above-mentioned departments, there are institutions under the Ministry of Fisheries such as: Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF); Research Institute of Aquaculture No. 1 (RIA 1); Research Institute of Aquaculture No. 2 (RIA 2); Research Institute of Aquaculture No. 3 (RIA 3); Fisheries Economic and Planning; Institute Central Fisheries Extension Centre; Fisheries Informatics Center; Fisheries Review. In all coastal provinces, the fisheries administration authorities are the Provincial Fisheries Departments under the Provincial People’s Committees and the professional management from the Ministry of Fisheries, too. In the inland provinces, the fisheries administration units are included in the Provincial Department for Agriculture and Rural Development.

ORGANIZATION SYSTEM OF VIETNAM’S FISHERIES LIBRARIES & INFORMATION

- Fisheries Informatics Center (FICEN) under the MOFI, in Hanoi.
- Department of Technological & Scientific Information Library under the Research Institutes for Marine Fisheries (RIMF) in Haiphong City.
- Information Division under the Research Institutes of Aquaculture No I (RIA1) in Bac Ninh Province.
- Information Division under the Research Institutes of Aquaculture No II (RIA2) in Ho Chi Minh City.
- Information Division under the Research Institutes of Aquaculture No III (RIA3) in Nha Trang City, Khanh Hoa Province.
- Information Division under the Institutes of Fisheries Economics and Planning in Ha Noi City.
- Library Division under the College of Fisheries No I in Haiphong City.
- Library Division under the College of Fisheries No II in Bac Ninh Province.
- Library Division under the College of Fisheries No III in Ho Chi Minh City.
Generally speaking, the fisheries libraries of Vietnam are still developing. All fisheries libraries in Vietnam have the same categories of users: Scientists, Researchers, Managers, Policy-Makers, Post-Graduate Students, and Students, but the functions and objectives of each institution are different. For example the functions of RIMF are mainly: to survey and research living marine resources (distribution, migration, biology, stock assessment, potential yield estimates and resource conservation methods, etc.; to study marine environment and relations between the environment and fisheries development including methods for monitoring the marine environment; to study biodiversity and the establishment of marine protected areas (MPA); to study, experiment, develop and apply new technologies for exploiting fish; to develop post-harvest technologies and to transfer technologies in the fields of fishing, post-harvest technologies to all economic counterparts; to provide post-graduate training on specific subjects and other training on marine fisheries science and technology; to provide consultation services. But the main tasks of FICEN are management and implementation of information services activities at the level of the ministry, and supplying concrete guidelines on professional skills in information development for all institutions and agencies under the Ministry of Fisheries of Vietnam.

Main Tasks of the Fisheries Information Library System:

- Collecting all scientific, technological and economical documents and materials (books, monographs, journals, reports, thesis, project reports, etc.) related to fisheries via systems such as NECESTID, NGO’s, FAO Rome and FAO in Hanoi, SEAFDEC, ICLARM, etc.
- Providing all information services, such as: managing the overall information resources of I-L, practicing the librarian’s tasks, keeping track of users’ needs.
- Establishing databases on fisheries.
- Creating web sites.
- Monitoring the computer network in the office.
- Publishing bibliographies, magazines, bulletins, proceedings and monographs.
- International co-operation in Information and Library Science.
- Storing and managing all collected materials.
- Establishing a bibliographic database.
- Providing library services (loans, bibliographies, and assisting in retrieval).
- Taking part in exhibitions and trade fairs for introduction to fisheries documents and materials.

Besides the above tasks, five libraries are participating in the project “E-Library” in order to make the database available on the Internet. Since early 2004 the project has promoted cooperation between FICEN and research institutes of MOFI under the auspices of the DANIDA project.
Introduction to Fisheries Libraries in Vietnam:

Library of Fisheries Informatics Center (FICEN) under the MOFI
The Fisheries Informatics Center was established in November 24th, 1983 under the Ministry of Fisheries in Hanoi.

- To date the collection comprises over 5000 books (in Vietnamese, English, French, Russian, Chinese and Japanese); nearly 1000 research reports; about 30 periodical journals in Vietnamese, English, Russian, Chinese; over 60 newspapers in Vietnamese, English. The database includes over 12,000 records in the CDS/ISIS software, at present the database is converting to E-Library (iLib – Integrated Library).
- Document technical processing: cataloging according to MARC 21.
- Classification according to UDC for fisheries and controlled keywords for Fisheries sector (Published by FICEN).
- The project “E-Library” contains the following modules: acquisitions, bibliographic, serials, news, managing, OPAC.
- Cooperation and exchange of documents with other libraries in the Fisheries Sector of Vietnam.
- Cooperation and exchange of documents with some regional fisheries and aquaculture organizations such as INFOFISH, NACA, SEAFDEC, etc.
- The FICEN is an ASFA partner (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts)
- Publishing two or three issues of bibliographies on special subjects and 3 issues of fisheries scientific and technical abstracts per year.
- Participating in training on library technique for librarians in fisheries sector of Vietnam.

The Library of Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF):
The library of RIMF was set up in 1961 (at the same time as the establishment of RIMF) under the Research Institute for Marine Fisheries in Haiphong City. It is presently housed in the 4th floor of a 5-floor building, with a total area of 200 m², of which the reading room comprises 90 m²; the bookstore 80 m². At present, there are four staff

Technical services:
- Books and monographs are described according to the international standard: ISBD
- Books and monographs are classified according to UDC Classification System.
- The books are arranged in a closed-stack system.
- All materials and documents are being systematized and computerized using UNESCO’s software program (WINISIS program).
- All materials and documents are arranged and classified by the languages, time and kinds.
Services from the RIMF library include:

- Providing materials and documents for:
  - All scientists and researchers on specific fisheries not only internally but also externally from RIMF continuously and carefully in order to secure the most efficient use of resources.
  - Students and postgraduate students, who cannot obtain material where they are studying and who can find their own references.
- Centrally acquiring and classifying all kinds of materials.
- Loans and providing and assisting services:
  - The library is open from Monday to Friday: 7.30 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. except on public holidays.
  - All documents have to be read on site.
  - Loans are two books per 10 days for RIMF staff. The readers coming from other institutions can only read at RIMF library and cannot borrow.
  - Providing scientific literature, monographs for the users using LAN network and OPAC.
- Collection:
  The library's collection initially comprises only fisheries, biological fisheries, technological fishing, fish processing, biodiversity and aquaculture related material, specializing in tropical literature. The resources of the RIMF library include books and monographs, serials, reprints, CD-ROMs, pamphlets, posters, journals, newspaper. Materials are acquired through purchase, gift, photocopy. To date the collection comprises:
  - Vietnamese books: 500 titles
  - English and French books: 1000 titles
  - Russian books: 2429 titles
  - Scientific reports: 620 titles
  - Journals: 30 titles of serials (including Vietnamese and foreign languages)
  - Newspapers: 14 titles
  - Database consists over 4,500 records in the CDS/ISIS software, at present the Database is converting to E-Library iLib.
- Processing techniques: the same as FICEN
- Conducting the Project “Improvement of capacity of RIMF Library” a part of the ALMRV Project of DANIDA
- Participating in the project “E-Library”
- Cooperation and exchange of materials, monographs, books, journals with FICEN Library and other libraries in the Fisheries Sector.
- Having a librarian participating as an IAMSLIC member.
- Taking part in publication documents of RIMF

Library of RIA1 – Bac Ninh Province:
- About 1,000 books
- Research reports and thesis – over 100
- 10 periodical journals.
- No database yet
- Participating in the project “E-Library”
- Cooperation and exchange of documents with FICEN Library and other libraries in the Fisheries Sector.
- Taking part in publication documents of RIA1

**Library of RIA2 – HCM city:**
- About 2000 books
- Reports and theses – over 100
- 20 periodical journals.
- Database consists of over 2000 records in the ISIS software, at present the database is converting to E-Library ILIB.
- Processing techniques: the same as FICEN
- Participating in the project “E-Library”
- Cooperation and exchange of documents with FICEN Library and other libraries in the Fisheries Sector.
- Taking part in publication documents of RIA2

**Library of RIA3 – Nha Trang city, Khanh Hoa Province:**
- About 1700 books and reports
- 10 periodical journals.
- No database yet.
- Participating in the project “E-Library”
- Cooperation and exchange of documents with FICEN Library and other libraries in the Fisheries Sector.
- Taking part in publication of documents of RIA3.