

INFORMATION SUPPORT TO AQUATIC SCIENCES IN ESTONIA: A BRIEF OVERVIEW

Maria Kalenchits
Information Specialist
Estonian Marine Institute

There are about 10 libraries and information centres in Estonia related to the aquatic sciences to a different extent. Among them there is one aquatic special library (the library of the Estonian Marine Institute) and 2 universal public research libraries (Estonian Academic Library and the Library of the University of Tartu). The rest of the libraries are special libraries of research institutions, educational organizations and of a shipping company (the library of the Ministry of the Environment of Estonia, the library of the Estonian Maritime Academy, the library of the Institute of Botany and Hydrobiology of the University of Tartu, the library of the Institute of Zoology and Botany, the library of the Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, the Technical library of the Geological Survey of Estonia, the Information Centre of the Estonian Shipping Company). In all of the above-mentioned libraries, except in the library of the Estonian Marine Institute, aquatic sciences is just one in the range of the subjects covered. Two of the Estonian libraries are members of EURASLIC and four of the libraries are members of the Section of Special Libraries of the Estonian Libraries Association (registered in 1999, to promote professional development, cooperation, and information exchange between libraries). Talking about the latest period in aquatic information provision in Estonia one may notice a certain progress in this sphere. The full text of several electronic aquatic journals became available to Estonian users as a result of agreements concluded by the Estonian Academic Library and the Library of the University of Tartu with Elsevier and EBSCO. In 2001 a licence allowing on-line access to the databases, maintained by the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI), was purchased by the Library of the University of Tartu. One of the most important sources of aquatic information in Estonia is the ASFA database. The Estonian ASFA Centre, acting as an input centre for aquatic information published in Estonia since 1996, provides multiple on-line access to the database from the library of the Estonian Marine Institute as well as at scientists' personal computers. On-line access to the database is also available from the library of the University of Tartu as a part of Cambridge Scientific Abstracts package purchased by the library.

In January 2001 the Estonian Marine Institute joined the University of Tartu (it was affiliated to the Ministry of the Environment before). A principal agreement has been achieved to get a free on-line access from the library of the Estonian Marine Institute to electronic journals and databases subscribed to by the Library of the University of Tartu, however some technical problems are not yet resolved.

The State Environmental Monitoring homepage, accessible since 2000, has helped the provision of aquatic information to the public and scientific community. Unfortunately, the Estonian Marine Institute homepage does not yet provide comprehensive information about the institute's activities.

Turning back to the aquatic libraries one could mention that all libraries related to the aquatic sciences and shipping are equipped with computers and maintain digital databases using either CDS-ISIS or ProCite software. The digital catalogue of the collections of the universal public research libraries is accessible *via* Internet. Finally, a few words about the bibliometric analysis of publications by the scientists of the Estonian Marine Institute, that has been carried out in the Library of the Estonian Marine Institute in 2000-2001. The bibliometrical methods used in research are productivity analysis and citation analysis. The research undertaken is probably one of the first attempts to evaluate the scientific productivity of one specific scientific institution in Estonia by means of the analysis of scientific publications. The productivity analysis was based on the bibliographical index including 378 records of the monographs and articles published by the scientists of the institute during the period 1993-1999. Data on the type, language, place of publication, number of co-authors and their geographic location, number of publications reflected in the ISI databases "Current Contents" and "Science Citation Index" were investigated. The citation analysis based on the data from the "Science Citation Index" was aimed at collecting information and drawing conclusions on the sphere of influence and the interest to the results of the Estonian marine research. The justification of self-citation as well as the relation between co-authorship and the citation trends were also investigated. 177 articles published by the EMI scientists in foreign and leading Estonian journals were selected for the citation analysis. All together 133 citations to the 50 articles were identified. It has been confirmed that publications written in international co-authorship are more intensively cited than publications authored by only Estonian scientists. Recommendations to the scientists and administration of the institute, concerning the improvement of productivity and citedness have been made.