1 Karangan

DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION SERVICES
IN INDONESIA

Reported by :

Luwarsih Pringgoadisurjo

A brief illustration of the libraries and information cen-
ters available in Indonesia is as follows:

Centers with national missions are the National Library,
the Indonesian Center for Scientific Documentation and In-
formation, and the National Library for Agricultural Sci-
ences. The above centers with national wide-responsibil-
ities, functioning as focal points, are supported by spe-
cial libraries linked to research centers or academic
setttings.

Another national agency is the Center for Library Develop-
ment, responsible for developing the public and school li-
brary system. This center will have to play an important
role in the creation of the future generation of the Indo-
nesian information users. The policy aspiration is to
serve all levels of the population (147.383.075, 1980 cen-
sus). The problems in achieving that goal are still plenty,
be they administrative, environmental, technical as well as
manpower aspects.

The information users group could be classified as follows:
policy makers, scientists, engineers, technologists, lec-
tures, extension workers, students, and the general public.
The above classification does not mean that their needs are
very clear-cut. In many cases a person could have double
or even triple functions and duties. Their background
training also influence their search behaviour in looking
for information. Intensive programs still need to be launch-
ed in order to make the community value information for

use to back-up their daily activities.
Activities in the social science documentation and informa-
tion are the following:
No special national center exists to serve the social sci-
ence group. Many social science research centers have their
own small libraries. Several of the social science special
libraries are good, mainly due to the hard work and dedica-
tion of the library staff, but also because of the under-
standing and support from the administrative levels. When
this is not the case, we will witness low priority given to
the allocation of budgets for library management and ser-
vices, also low working morale.

The Indonesian Center for Scientific Documentation and In-
formation (PDII/formerly PDIN) partly answer the informa-
tion needs of the social science group. PDII published among
others the following references:

Index of Learned Periodicals, annually since 1960; *Index of
Research and Surveys*, annually since 1970; *Index of Confer-
ences and Seminars*, annually since 1978; *Indonesian Ab-
stracts*, quarterly since 1973; *Union Catalog of Disserta-
tion*, irregular since 1981. On irregular bases it also pub-
lishes special bibliographies and directories. In the field
of social sciences, published were among others *Selective
Bibliography on Villages* (1980); *Literature Review on Women
Work Force* (1982). PDII is also in charge of developing
collection of the grey literature type of information pub-
lished by the R & D institute in the country. Therefore,
one would say that the center has a strong collection of
current Indonesian generated documents.

When PDII was established in 1965 it was meant to serve the
science and technology group. In practice this strict
mission is difficult to fulfill. Questions coming in are
often interdisciplinary in nature. Development problems are
often touching in economic, anthropology, population, tech-
nology, agriculture, public health aspects, etc. The col-
lection and services rendered by PDII are not strictly in
the field on science and technology anymore. That was also
one of the reasons why in 1979 the 'Clearinghouse for in-
formation on Women in Development' was attached to the or-
ganization set up by PDII. Many of the existing libraries

2

attached to research institute give traditional library service. Services such as current awareness services, SDI, literature searches and the like are given by centers with national missions.

Computerization at PDII only began in late 1984. The computer hardwares were obtained under UNDP country program, while the MINISIS software was given by IDRC. The immediate objectives of PDII'S computerization is the development of the national STI (including social science) database. In the long run, other aspects of the library operations will also be computerized. When later the automated information system has fully integrated the documentation and library functions of PDII, we can expect that information to meet users' interests will be more personalized.

On the issues of cooperation programs through networking. The idea of sharing resources and making them accessible for general use through a library and information network system was launched in 1971. Regretfully the program in the daily operation met plenty of problems, be they administrative as well as technical. Most of the participating libraries have never had the chance to serve their own institute adequately, let alone to take part in resource sharing programs as was anticipated in 1971. The communication system to back-up services, is still handicapped by the high cost of the telecommunication system in the country, unable to be covered by most libraries, budget. In other words, the existing telecommunication system does not yet help libraries improve resources to the maximum. Supporting rules and regulations as how to develop the centers' capabilities situated under different administrative ministries are difficult to implement.

Because of the above constraints, many of the cooperative library programs planned, could only be done on a voluntary basis. Full commitments from the libraries as partners are still difficult to achieve. Even if centers are willing to embark on cooperative programs, problems such as different financial allocations, shortage of professionals, cumbersome administrative regulations are common elements affecting the operation of the system.

We have recognized that the development in computer and communications technology has opened new possibilities for libraries to interconnect with each other in sharing resources. There seems to be no limits to these new possibilities. However, in practice the system is still facing many basic issues, which need solutions. The issues are among others about uniform computer standards, telecommunication services which are still costly for libraries budgets to bear.

The above illustrate problem issues on a national level. Experience has shown that the same issues are also cropping up in inter-country network programs. In fact, two additional issues will be faced by the countries in this region embarking on network programs. Language in the Asia Pasific region will also create problems of inputting as well as displaying of information. Funding will also influence the daily operation of the network. In fact, funding seems to be crucial issue influencing the life of the network. To achieve effective program implementation, network programs should be managed on a formal basis. Partners should agree on common objectives, goals,standards to be applied, and sharing the expences for the day management of the program.

With the current difficult economic situation which is faced by most countries, requests for additional funds in the library sector seem difficult to obtain at national level. Unless partners are ready to commit themselves to sharing the financial burden of the network operation, the system will soon face management problems.

A crucial problem which needs our frank answer: Will all the efforts made in sharing and the exchange of bibliographic resources answer the information needs of the social science users ?. Observations have shown that while bibliographic references are necessary information, social science users in this region are in more need of analyzed information. Reorientation and adjusment of services are necessary in order to meet that need.

The education and training programs of librarians in this
region also need reorientation and adjustment in order not
to fall behind the new changes and demands in the informa-
tion field.