

IDENTIFICATION OF CORE JOURNALS FOR FISH GENETICS RESEARCH LIBRARY

Sukla Das and P. Chithamparam

National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (I.C.A.R.)

Allahabad - 211 006 (U. P.)

ABSTRACT

The paper describes an attempt for identifying the core journals of the subject-specialised library at the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources. The techniques followed for subscribing these journals are outlined.

INTRODUCTION

The growth of fisheries journals has taken place exponentially, mainly in post-1960s. Since the literature on fisheries is associated with a broad diversity of journals which do not use terms like Fisheries, Fish, Aquaculture, or Ichthyology, in their titles and also due to their wide distribution around the world, it is difficult for Fisheries Research Libraries to find out their 'core journals'. Among the specialized journals of pre-1960s: *Canadian Journal of Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences* (formerly *Journal of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada* (1938), *Progressive Fish Culturist* (1938), *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* (1872), *Bulletin of the Japanese Society of Scientific Fisheries* (1932), *Archives for Fisheries Science* (1948), *Philippines Journal of Fisheries* (1951), and *Indian Journal of Fisheries* (1954) were more focused journals.

During 1960s to 1970s the growth of fisheries journals enhanced. Since 1970 the international publishing houses have begun to publish important fisheries journals common for all kinds of fisheries libraries viz., *Aquaculture* (1972), *Aquaculture and Fisheries Management* (1970),

Fisheries Research (1982), *Environmental Biology of Fishes* (1976), *Journal of Fish Biology* (1967), *Asian Fisheries Science* (1988), *Fisheries: a Bulletin of the American Fisheries Society* (1976), etc.

GROWTH OF AQUACULTURE JOURNALS

'Aquaculture' deserves special mention because it has been honoured as an important branch of fisheries science in the 1960s. The word 'Aquaculture' has quick access in the journal titles. The international journal *Aquaculture* (1972) is a landmark in this discipline and recognised as an important core journal.

Among the secondary journals, *Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts* created by FAO in 1970s in conjunction with the United Nations, IOC (UNESCO) and agencies in 11 countries is an important reference tool which reflects the growth of fisheries literature. At present *ASFA-Part I: Biological Sciences and Living Resources* publishes about 2,300 abstracts followed by author, subject, taxonomic and geographic indexes.

On going through the list of *Aquaculture Journals & Serials* compiled by

Table : 1, INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTION PRICES OF SOME OF THE CORE JOURNALS

A. PRIMARY JOURNALS

| Sl. No. | Title of the Journal | ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (IN Rs.) | | | Percentage increase 1988-1991 |
|---------|--|------------------------------|--------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | 1983 | 1989 | 1991 | |
| 1. | American Fisheries Society Journals & Publications | 3,670 | 5,410 | 6,325 | 98.70 |
| 2. | Aquaculture | 13,560 | 15,170 | 16,860 | 72.19 |
| 3. | Biochemical Genetics | 2,240 | 8,500 | 9,975 | 79.16 |
| 4. | Canadian Journal of Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences | 2,990 | 3,168 | 3,530 | 51.50 |
| 5. | Chromosoma | 6,830 | 9,098 | 9,495 | 109.79 |
| 6. | Conservation Biology | 1,250 | 1,770 | 2,165 | 112.10 |
| 7. | Environmental Biology of Fishes | 5,800 | 6,520 | 7,100 | 120.08 |
| 8. | Fisheries Research | 1,807 | 3,950 | 4,400 | 241.44 |
| 9. | Genetical Research | 2,380 | 2,850 | 3,180 | 83.19 |
| 10. | Journal of Fish Biology | 6,900 | 8,340 | 9,335 | 58.18 |
| | | | | Average Increase | 102.62% |

B. SECONDARY JOURNALS

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|--------|------------------|--------|--------|
| 1. | Genetics Abstracts | — | 11,930 | 13,795 | 15,810 | 32.52 |
| 2. | ASFA, Part 1 : Biological Sciences & Living Resources | — | 12,550 | 14,510 | 16,470 | 31.23 |
| | | | | Average Increase | | 31.87% |

of subscribed journals and kept pending for its consideration at the time of renewal of subscription.

- If any journal is urgently required by the Scientists for reference for their project work, the library arranges its subscription for the running year commencing from January issue and that is also added to the existing list.

- At the time of renewal, the currently subscribed journals list and the added titles of journals are circulated among the Scientists and Senior Lab Technicians with the following columns requesting them to mark their views on the usefulness of the journals.

| Sl. No. | Title of the Journals with Vol. & year. | Periodicity | Subscription price | Essential | May be considered | May be deleted |
|---------|---|-------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|
|---------|---|-------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|

Signature & Name
with date

SCORING SYSTEM

The journals which were marked 'Essential' are given 2 points and the journals which were marked 'May be considered' are given 1 point.

The value of the journal is assessed by the total number of points received by each journal. If a journal has received 16 or more points, that particular journal is treated as a Fish Genetics Core Journal. These journals are rank listed in Table 2 by total number of points received by each journal for the current year. These 26 journals are the Core List of International Fish Genetics Journals. The other journals are generally deferred for the next year.

CONCLUSION

The compilation of list of core journals for Fish Genetics Library needs careful processes and task. In future the librarians of the Fisheries Institutes may plan to subscribe a combination of extremely specialized journals dealing with the mandates of the respective Institutes and a few multidisciplinary journals with the ASFA database compact disc (CD-ROM) for mutual benefits.

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Coche (1987) we find that the list includes nearly all the overtly fisheries journals and serials (mainly post 1960s) as well as specific 'Aquaculture' titles. These are fairly treated as fisheries core literature as a whole.

ACQUISITION OF JOURNALS IN SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES

In view of the rapid growth of fisheries journals the problems that the fisheries research libraries of developing countries like India face is their acquisition. The majority of scientific research occurs in the developed countries and new advances and techniques take time to reach the researchers of the third world. The geographical distance, highly enhancing subscription prices of foreign journals, the galloping fluctuations in foreign exchange rates and the paucity of budget do not encourage subscription to scientific and abstracting journals in required numbers in most of the research libraries in our country.

After a critical study of the increasing prices of international fish genetic and allied journals, it has been noticed that the subscription rates are enhanced by 102.62% on an average of every four years (Table-1).

AT THE NBFGR LIBRARY

The NBFGR Library started functioning in 1986-87 with the primary purpose of serving its scientists and technicians who are engaged in fulfilling the main areas of conservation of fish genetic resources of our country :

- Cataloguing of fish genetic resources and ascertaining their present status.
- Study of genetic variations, in natural population.
- *In situ* conservation of resources.
- Identification of endangered, threatened and rare fishes and their conservation.
- Cryopreservation of gametes for Gene Banking.

The journals are normally subscribed after receiving the comments of the Scientists and Senior Technicians attached to the laboratories. With a view to overcome the problem of subscribing costly foreign journals within a limited budget a blend of few systematic approaches to compile a list of core journals for NBFGR library have been followed :

- A committee comprising of Scientists, Sr. Technicians and Librarian compiles a list of journals to be subscribed keeping in view the mandate of the Bureau. After proper scrutiny for acquisition the list will be got approved by the Director.
- After procuring subject-wise catalogues of new titles of journals from different publishers, the catalogues are circulated among the Scientists and Sr. Lab. Technicians for their suggestions. If majority of them recommend for the subscription of new journals, the library procures sample copies of the indented journals for final scrutiny. After receiving green signal from the users, the new titles are added in the existing list

Table : 2. RANK LIST OF CORE FISH GENETICS JOURNALS

| Sl. No. | Title of the Journal | No. of points received |
|---------|--|------------------------|
| 1. | Aquaculture | 34 |
| 2. | ASFA, Part 1 : Biological Sciences and Living Resources | 34 |
| 3. | American Fisheries Society Journals & Publications | 34 |
| 4. | Canadian Journal of Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences | 34 |
| 5. | Journal of Fish Biology | 33 |
| 6. | Fisheries Research | 32 |
| 7. | Aquaculture & Fisheries Management | 32 |
| 8. | Environmental Biology of Fishes | 31 |
| 9. | International Union for Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources (IUCN) Bulletin | 30 |
| 10. | Cryobiology | 29 |
| 11. | Conservation Biology | 28 |
| 12. | Genetics Abstracts | 27 |
| 13. | Asian Fisheries Science | 27 |
| 14. | Chromosoma | 25 |
| 15. | Biochemical Systematics & Ecology | 25 |
| 16. | Endangered Species Update | 25 |
| 17. | Copeia | 24 |
| 18. | Biometrics | 23 |
| 19. | Comparative Biochemistry & Physiology | 22 |
| 20. | Biochemical Genetics | 21 |
| 21. | Chromosoma Information Service (CIS) | 21 |
| 22. | Nature | 20 |
| 23. | Bioscience | 18 |
| 24. | Trends in Genetics | 18 |
| 25. | Genetical Research | 17 |
| 26. | Genetics | 17 |
| 27. | Journal of Heredity | 16 |

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