



ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

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The library managers in research environment specially in highly inter-disciplinary field like environment management are witnessing availability of wide array of information. So also multifaceted information requirements from the users. It becomes imperative to explore and organize the pertinent information resources for the patrons. This paper seeks to present glimpse of information available on the Internet from International and national agencies in the field of environment and specialized services from publishers for environment professionals.

INTRODUCTION

Developments on the information technology front have opened new vistas in access to information necessitating library managers in research environment to recognize the imperatives. The developments do not totally replace the library's present tools, techniques and services, rather they add a new dimension to these in the research libraries. The wide array of information across continents available on the Internet necessitate that the pertinent information resources for the library's patrons be explored and managed.

In a highly inter-disciplinary field of environmental management, multifaceted information is required including scientific, technological, legal, business, socio-economic and much more. The paper seeks to present a glimpse of information available on Internet from international and national agencies in the field of environment as also specialized services from publishers for environment professionals.

1 INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

Concern over environment issues internationally have led to the development of several programmes and agencies. Agencies like the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Us Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); World Resources Institute, International Development Research Centre (IDRC); International Water and Sanitation Centre and many more have contributed greatly to environmental management. Information on selected agencies is presented in Table-I.

2 INDIAN AGENCIES

In India several Government establishments, non-governmental organization, scientific associations, academic institutions, industries are generating environmental information. Recognizing the importance of such information in environmental management exploration of the internet tools for dissemination of such information is gaining impetus. The websites in Table-II exemplify such efforts.

3 TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Access to the latest technological information is crucial in arriving at solutions to environmental problems. Several agencies are devoted to the task of generating and disseminating such information. Table-III enlists a few major agencies in addition to the agencies in Table-I.

4 STANDARDS INFORMATION

Standardization agencies through their homepages on the World Wide Web offer information on their activities and services. Table-IV enlists the premier standardization agencies indispensable in the context of environment research.

5 INFORMATION SERVICES FROM PUBLISHERS

Various publishers offer specialized services on the internet for environment professionals. These include variously the following:

- * subject specific catalogues,
- * contents pages of the journals, abstracts, full text of articles, with key word search facilities,
- * information on products, events
- * information for authors, etc.
- * E-Journals

TABLE I- INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES

Agencies	Website	Information components
United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)		UNEP Seeks to Define and encourage the incorporation of environmental criteria development, help formulate Policies and strategies for sustainable Developments, promote preventive environmental protection and stimulate the exchange of information on environment and development
Industry & Environment (UNEP)	http://www.unepie.org	Environmentally sound technologies & Environmental management methods
UNEP : International Environmental Technology Centre	http://www.unepie.or.jp/	Directory of EST information creating a link between EST provides & uses IETC Projects, Publications Current and back issues of insight Newsletter
UNEP Chemicals	http://www.unep.ch/Irptc	Chemicals safety technology & users, Legal, trade & international aspects. Data profiles of chemical substances
UNEP IE Ozone Action Program	http://www.unepie.org/ozonation.html	Ozone depleting substances
UNEP-UNCTAD Mineral Resources Forum	http://www.naturalresources.org/Environment	Sustainable development of world's mineral resources

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Offshore Oil & Gas Environment Forum	http://www.naturalresources.org/ Offshore	Drilling discharges, gas, chemicals release, wastes spills, environmental impact, management, guidelines, codes
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TABLE II- INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES

Agencies	Website	Information components
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (US EPA)		
United States Federal Register	http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr	Daily contents and searchable summary
Office of Air Quality Planning & standard OAQPS Technology Transfer Network	http://www.epa.gov/ ttn/direct.html	Technical informatics on emission guidance
Air Pollution control Resources	http://members.aol.com/cleanair	
EPA policies on Self Audits	/news/newsoeca.html	
USEPA Audit Policy Update	http://es.inel.gov /oeca/apolguid.html	
US EPA Environmental Leadership Program	http://es.epa.gov/ elp/index.html	
US EPA Office of Solid Wastes	http://www.epa.gov/ Epaoswer/hazwaste/ Test/main.html	Test methods for evaluating solid wastes
Underground Storage Tanks	http://www.epa.gov/ oust	underground storage tanks cleanup technology construction Methods, UST Statutes, regulations, Notifications
US EPA Catalogue of Hazardous & Solid Waste Publications	http://www.epa.gov/ epaoswer/osw/ catalog/html	
US EPA Toxic Relevance Inventory	http://www/epa.gov/ opptintr/tri/ Fact96.html	Facts sheets
US EPA Environmental Infor-	http://www/epa.gov/	One-stop source of data and

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Mation & statistics	ceils	information on environmental Quality, status and trends
International Development Research Centre, Canada	http://www.idrc.ca	IDRC Reports. Development database. Press releases. Catalogue of IDRC Publications. Calender of events.
UK Parliament	http://www.parliament.the-stationary-office.co.uk	parliamentary information. Official records of proceedings
Japan Information Network	http://www.jinjapan.org/Index.f.html	Waste related information
World Business Council	www.wbcsd.ch/	Examination forum for career in Business finance & government On environmental issues for Students in several universities Across the countries Business Information
World Bank's Environment Department	http://www.world-bank.org/html/esd/env/envmain.HTM	
Recytrade from European Plastics Converters Association, Brussels	http://www.recytrade.com	Plastics recycling exchange
IRC International Water & Sanitation Centre The Netherlands	http://www.one-world.org/ircwater/	Water and Sanitation information, training and publications

TABLE III- INDIAN AGENCIES

Agencies	Website	Information components
Centre for Science and Environment 41, Tughalkbad Institutional Area, New Delhi-110062	www.cseindia.org	Activities, Publications
Tata Energy Research Institute Darbari Seth Block Habitat Place, Lodi Road New Delhi 110003	http://www.teriin.org	Database on Energy, Directory

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Sulabh International Museum of Toilets Sulabh Bhawan, Mahavir Enclave Palam Darbari Road New Delhi 110045	http://www.sulabh-toilet-museum.org	Activities, Sanitation Information
International Society Of Environmental Botanists, Lucknow	http://www.life.uiuc.edu/iseb	Environmental News
McClelland engineers Pvt. Ltd., Navi Mumbai	http://www.indnet.net/mac	Technology for pollution control
Nika Engineers (P) Ltd Noida	www.Bcity.com/nep	Incinerators

TABLE IV- TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION RESOURCES

Agencies	Website	Information components
Preventive Environmental Protection Approaches Europe (PREPARE)	http://cleantechnology.rtecork.ie/ PREPARE/	Activities of PREPARE working group on cleaner production
American Water Works Association, Denver, Co.80235, USA	http://www.awwa.org	Activities and Publications
Water Environment Federation, 601, Wythe St., Alexandria, Va 22314-1994, USA	http://www.wef.org	Activities and Publications
Air & Waste Management Association, 1 Gateway Centre, 3 rd Floor, Pittsburgh, Pa 15222, USA	http://www.awma.org	Activities and Publications

TABLE V-STANDARDISATION INFORMATION RESOURCES

Agencies	Website	Information components
Environmental Management standards	http://www.iso14000.com	standards on environmental Management
International Organisation Standardization	http://www.iso.org	International Standards
Bureau of Indian standards	http://www.bis.org	BIS Activities & Services

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Vsnl.net.in/bis.org

London Research Centre	http://www.london- Research.gov.uk/	News. Events and research updates on environment health Topics
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TABLE VI-ILLUSTRATES SUCH SERVICES

Agencies	Website	Information components
Subject- Specific Services		
Elsevier Catalogue of Publications and Services for Environmental Professionals	http://elsevier. enviroinfo.com	
MCV		
MCB's Global Health Care & Environmental Forum	http://www.mcb. vo.uk.ghcef	Sources of news information. Guide to sources of information. Offering interactive discussion forum
Contents, abstracts and full text services		
Science Direct/contents Direct	http://www/science- direct.com	Provides desktop access to remotely stored full text of more than 1100 Journals published by Elsevier Science and other Participating Publishers
Gorden and Breach Publication Group	http://www.gbhap. com/	Full text of articles to be published are available online
E-JOURNALS ON INTERNET		
Earth interactions. A new Electronic journal for The Earth System Sciences	http://www.agu.org/ ei http://www.amet- soc.org/AMS	
Tomorrow-AnOnline Magazine on Environment	http://www.tomorrow- web.com	

6. CONCLUSION

The Internet suggests an inevitable yet innovative activity to begin with for the research librarian to play a meaningful role in information access beyond the librarian's own and perhaps several libraries resources. Such activity encompasses the organization of information on information resources available on the internet appropriate to the needs of the specialized clientele.

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