

Notes

HOW TO LOCATE EXISTING TRANSLATIONS

Many thousands of translations are produced every year by different agencies throughout the world. A number of national and international services have been developed to help scientists to locate and obtain existing translations. Some of these important sources are :

(a) *Translations Register-Index (TR-I)* : It is the index of unpublished translations done in the United States and abroad. This semi-monthly publication is brought out by the National Translation Centre (NTC), Chicago since 1967.

(b) *BLLD Announcement Bulletin* : This monthly lists of translations is published by British Library Lending Division, Boston Spa.

(c) *Aslib Index of Unpublished Translations* : Association of special libraries (Aslib), London, maintains a card index of translations into English since 1951. Now, the index contains more than 500,000 entries with about 10,000 entries added annually.

(d) *International Translations Centre, Delft, Netherlands* : It is serving as a clearing house for scientific and technical translations. It is part of a network that includes national translation centers in a dozen countries. It maintains a central reference catalog of translations. The centre maintains the machine-readable World Transindex Data Base, which covers the period since 1978 with annual addition of about 30,000 items. It has two publications (i) World Transindex (monthly with annual source and author index)—announces about 30,000 translations per year, and (ii) Journals in Translation—a guide to nearly 1000 Journals containing translations.

(e) *Index Translationum* : It is an annual bibliography of translated books published by Unesco since 1948.

(f) *National Index of Translations (NIT)* : It is maintained by INSDOC, New Delhi and this monthly index reports in a classified sequence, translations of scientific and technical literature from foreign languages done by about 26 institutions in our country.

HOW TO GET A TRANSLATION PREPARED

If translation of a scientific paper cannot be traced after consulting the source materials mentioned above, then, arrangement to get the material translated should be made. The Indian National Scientific Documentation Center (INSDOC), New Delhi, has facilities for undertaking translation of scientific documents from about 20 foreign languages into English through its own in-house translation facility. Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers (IASLIC), Calcutta, also caters to the need for translations through the services of a panel translators.

Another way of getting the required paper translated is through professional translators with the help of guides like the Directory of Technical and Scientific Translators which lists translators with their subject specialisation and languages. But this procedure is expensive.

Important overseas services from where required translation can be prepared are British Library Lending Division, Boston Spa and Aslib, London.

LITERATURE

The simple way of finding out the existence and contents of a foreign language document is to consult the English language abstracting and indexing journals like Bibliography and Index of Geology, Geotitles Weekly, Geophysical Abstracts, Mineralogical Abstracts, Oceanic Abstracts, Coal Abstracts, Chemical Abstracts etc. Scientists, who are familiar with foreign languages can consult a number of foreign national bibliographies, abstracting and indexing services. Such important abstracting services are the Russian publication Referativnyi Zhurnal and French service Bulletin Signaletique and German publications Zentralblatt fur Geologie und Palaontologie/Zentralblatt fur Mineralogie.

Few hundred translations are prepared every year by different Indian agencies which call for proper bibliographic control and notification, so that wasteful duplication of work can be avoided and proper utilisation of existing translations is ensured.

To cope with this problem, the INSDOC has developed Translation Bank for storage, retrieval and maintenance of translations done by INSDOC as well as those received from other organisations. This bibliographic data base of Indian translations is being used to bring out a monthly 'National Index of Translations' and distributed free of cost to about 700 institutions.

In the field of Earth Science National Geophysical Research Institute, Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Geological Survey of India have developed an in-house translation facility for Russian, German and French Languages to meet the departmental requirements. But the translations thus prepared are not well announced with the result the translations remain underused.

It is essential to develop a specialised translation pool in the area of Indian earth science by co-ordinating and harnessing existing in-house translation facilities and that of INSDOC. A well co-ordinated translation programme should be evolved and implemented aided by a national earth science translation policy to serve the earthscientists in our country more effectively. In order to disseminate translation information, 'Earth Science Translation Abstracts' should be brought out regularly containing abstracts of translation prepared with full bibliographic details.

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D. K. NAG

There is something that is much more scarce, something rarer than ability. It is the ability to recognize ability.

ELBERT HUBBARD

WELCOME TO HIND ZINC TECH

We extend a hearty welcome to the technical magazine started by Hindustan Zinc Ltd. which has as its objective the publication of new thoughts and provision of a common platform for sharing technological knowledge with others. The first issue under the Editorship of Dr. S. N. Bhatnagar which we have just received, has appropriately started with an account of the accomplishments of our ancients in the art of zinc production. We look forward to interesting accounts of all aspects of the development of non-ferrous metal industry in our country.

ADDENDUM

In the note on the 'Metamorphic Map of South East Asia' in the Journal of the Geological Society of India, v. 33 (1), January 1989, pp. 1-3, by oversight the name of the Publishers and the agency from which the map could be obtained had not been mentioned. We are furnishing this information below. Those interested can contact: Dr. O. Dottin, Secretary General Commission for the Geological Map of the World, Maison de al Geologie 77, rue Claude Bernard 75005, Paris-France and obtain copies of the map.

Announcements

International Meeting 'Catastrophes and Society' The Meeting will be held at Madrid (SPAIN) in **October, 24th, 25th and 26th, 1989**. Its basic aims are the analysis of the social and economic problems produced by natural catastrophes, the diffusion of educational and prevention systems against the catastrophes and the improvement of the relationship between public and private institutions for the set-up of international common action programmes.

For further particulars contact: 'Catastrophes and Society' International Meeting. Meeting Secretariat Itsemap Paseo de Recoletos, 25-28004 Madrid (Spain) Tel: (1) 581 11 00, Telex: 48902 Mapfr e-Telefax: (1) 419 91 95.

National Seminar on Tectonics and Metallogeny of Ophiolites and Recent Advances in Geology of the Northeastern India, Nov. 16-18, 1989. The Department of Earth Sciences, Manipur University is organising a National Seminar in order to provide a forum for discussion of Ophiolite Geology (including Himalayan Ophiolites) and to assess the georesources of the North-Eastern states in relation to recent advances in the geology of this region. It is proposed to hold the seminar at IMPHAL, capital of Manipur State, from November 16-18, 1989. The success of the seminar principally depends on larger participation of geoscientists of our country and the organizers solicit this cooperation from fellow geoscientists.

For further particulars contact: Dr. Rajesh Anand Convener of Seminar, Department of Earth Sciences, Manipur University, Canchipur, Imphal-795003, Manipur.