

ACHIEVEMENTS, EXPERIENCES, AND PROSPECTS IN SERVICES PROVIDING LITERATURE INFORMATION FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY

By Chen Ziyi

Science and technology are the first production force, and various information media of science and technology are records of development in productive forces, if that is not being studied and taken as example any science and technology can not be further developed. The development of the 20th century science and technology is now making our world as a world of information. What is the most important literature information on source in this ever changing world? The answer should be explicit, that is the library, it is the information source and the main social channel to obtain information.

We feel that to explore continuously the method and model of how to utilize the rich information source in the library for serving scientific research and society should be our responsibility.

1970s witnessed a great change in biological study genetic engineering - an area which will completely change the living of human being had advanced more rapidly. In order to keep abreast with the world tide. China followed up with great effort. Facing this situation, we began to consider further enlarging the Library's information service scope. First of all, in 1978 we established the Journal „*Genetic Engineering*“, providing a new service model for biology information service.

Later on, we edited a series of special issues reporting hot research areas of genetic engineering at home and abroad, including “*Gene Structure, cloning and expression*“, “*Genetic Engineering of Hormones*“, “*Protein Engineering*“, etc. for the enhancement of research work and advances of biotechnological industry in China. Among these ‘*Meeting Report of Biotechnology Expert Committee*“, and ‘*The Influence of Biotechnology to the Development of Economic Society*“ had not only enhanced the study and development of this high technology, but also deepened the understanding of biotechnology in public. Therefore, through recommendation by experts, and appraisal by the evaluation committee, this information service project obtained the “*Science and Technology Progress*“ award from Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1986.

With a journal as „locomotive“ continuously open the new areas of information service

The success of the Journal “Genetic Engineering“ greatly raised our fame in science information service. Therefore we were invited to national symposiums, and we utilized these opportunities to continuously enlarge the scope of our information service. We screened relevant literature from the rich resources of our library, compiled into bibliographic type information, and brought to the meeting, thus providing active service that was appreciated by all participants. They call this service „sending charcoal in the snow“.

Since 1986, we began selective dissemination of information to provide systematic service to research projects with great development values. For example, we offered papers about a gene gun to a research group. After they successfully made this powerful tool, which will find wide use in breeding new plant and animal varieties, they said „Our gene gun reached world advanced level is based on the key information provided by you“. In order to improve this product continuously they keep close contact with us and become long term customer.

Put emphasis on investigation, enlarging and research of information resources

In order to master the distribution of biotech information resources, its pattern and trend, for the purpose of development and utilization, we widely surveyed biological literature and reference tools and edited a tool book over 300,000 words “The Resources of Biotech Information“, and had written several papers on the methods of finding biotech literature. This work had laid a good foundation for studying and establishing „Biotech Information System“.

Continuously explore new model of service - Serving for leadership in policy decision

According to the requirements of authorities for information, we completed dozens of reviews, the representatives are “Biotechnology and Health of Human Being“ a chapter in the book “*Influence of Biotechnology to Development of Economic Society*“ edited by the Economic Development Research Centre of State Council, “Review of Biotechnology in 1989“ for Chinese Science and Technology Development Promoting Centre, “Conventional and Biotech Plant Breeding“, “Biotechnology and Intellectual Property“, and “Prediction on 21st Century Biotechnology“ for Planning Bureau of Chinese Academy of Sciences; these papers all obtained good appraisals.

Undertaking SDI service for scientific research and national economic construction

Responsible for national biotech key project's information tracing service among them, some representative projects are: "Hormone Biotechnology", "Promoting Plans Resistance by Genetic Engineering".

"Raise Biotechnological New Varieties in Animal and Plant" and editing relevant Newsletter. Since 1986, we had reported more than 10000 relevant literature and provided some 7000 literature copies.

Edited and published the academic journal "*Progress in Biotechnology*", and the information journal "*Newsletter in Biotechnology*". The journal, "*Progress in Biotechnology*" broaden the reporting scope of original journal "*Genetic Engineering*" and the journal "*Newsletter in Biotechnology*" accelerate the reporting speed.

Propaganda of modern scientific and technical knowledge

Propaganda of new scientific and technical knowledge is a policy made by governments. In recent years, we were invited to write articles as "Biotechnology today", "Biotechnology Tomorrow", "Ten Years of Genetic Engineering Research" by People's Daily, Guangming Daily, Xinhua News Agency etc.

These activities had great influence on the society, many readers wrote us asking for information. We feel that librarians with their information dominance, can serve the society in various forms, and participate in all important activities of economic development.

Other important products of biotech information

We take part in editing three big tool books, one is "*Catalogue of Biotech Institutions and Workers in China*". This is a great promotion to the exchange of information in academic world.

Continuously innovate the basic construction of information work

We set up several computer data banks concerning organizations, staff and research programs and performing application experiments using the newly built information retrieval system.

To extend information service areas according to requirements from society

We played an important role in the establishment of the Chinese Society of Biotechnology, the society also designated our journal "*Progress in*

Biotechnology“ as its transactions. The establishment of Chinese Society of Biotechnology is of great significance in promoting and commercialization of Chinese biotechnology.

Conclusion

Through many years of exploration, we have established a multi-level biotech information system, which include investigation report, reviews, reference tools, journals, proceedings, computer data banks, CD-ROM, selective dissemination of information, to serve government's policy making, education, research and development. Famous scholars and professors in Chinese biotech circles all had high evaluation for our information service works. In 1991 we received „Science and Technology Progress Award from Chinese Academy of Sciences“.

We believe following the development of Science and Technology and the construction of information high way library will become more and more important to the advances of world economy and will have a brilliant future,

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