

RRRIAN 2002 FACTS & FIGURES

Regional Information Network in the Nuclear Area

RRRIAN EXPANDS INIS SERVICES IN LATIN AMERICA

The Network has completed another year and now it is time to show the results of our activities. The INIS based information dissemination services in the Region grew noticeably in 2002. Internet access to the database was facilitated and the number of subscribers to the professional updating service, SONAR-RRRIAN, increased significantly.

The main difficulty arose with regard to regional participation in the formation of the INIS Database.

Because of internal constraints, several countries could not continue sending documents at the same levels as last year.

For the third consecutive year, Facts & Figures summarizes our activities and shows that the RRRIAN remained active in 2002. By joining forces, we continue contributing to the development of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy in our countries.

Working together we are more useful

IAEA OFFERS FREE ACCESS TO THE INIS FOR UNIVERSITIES

Teaching and research in the nuclear area received encouragement from INIS. Following one of the recommendations from the INIS member countries, the IAEA offered universities free access to the INIS Database. To have Internet access to the IAEA server universities must offer courses or projects related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Authorization is for an Internet address, which facilitates access to the entire academic community and student body at the universities.

Argentina, Brazil and Chile prepared promotional material about this service. An electronic post card was prepared to be sent via e-mail, as well as a standard letter to be used by the Liaison Officers for communication with university authorities. The authorization request procedures were included on the RRRIAN homepage for immediate access by interested persons.

By the end of the year, 17 universities in the Region already had received access authorization, while requests from others were being processed.

International Atomic Energy Agency

Ahora las
Universidades tienen
ACCESO GRATUITO

La base de datos más
completa sobre ciencia y
tecnologías nucleares

Visite la home-page de RRRIAN , Red Regional de
Información en el Area Nuclear , para más información
<http://www.cnea.gov.ar/rrrian/>

International
Nuclear
Information
System
INIS

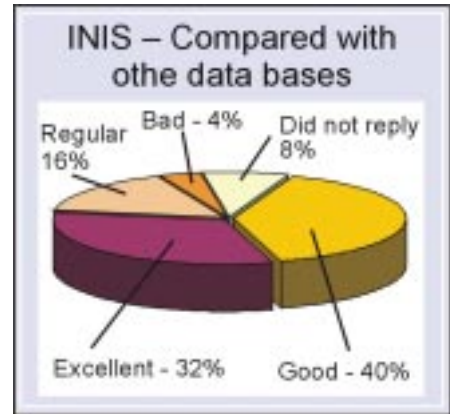
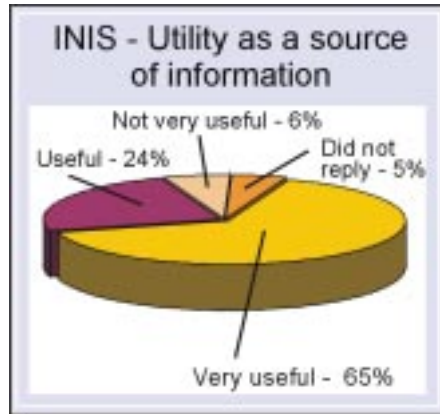
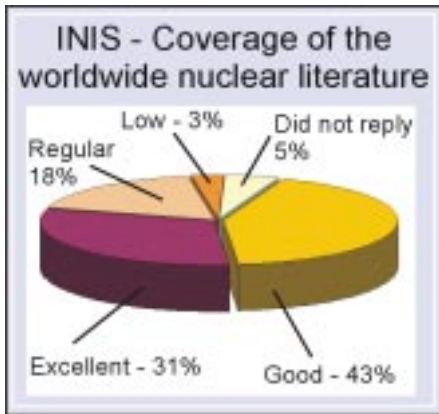
EVALUATION OF INIS

At the end of 2001, the IAEA authorities began an evaluation program of the INIS as part of the organization's general reform. Thirty-two years after its creation, radical changes in the political and technological environment had occurred. It became necessary to reexamine the system's worth in terms of its utility and relevance for meeting the needs of the Member States. An evaluation of the efficiency and efficacy of its operation was also needed.

The three main components of the process were a self-evaluation carried out by the INIS team, a user survey

and an evaluation panel of external experts. The first two components gathered the necessary information for an examination of the system by the external experts.

The user survey received 1,165 replies from 41 countries in a universe of 108 countries. The graphics show the evaluation of the INIS Database, undertaken by these professionals, for the coverage of worldwide nuclear literature, compared to other data bases and with reference to their utility. Of the total replies, 550 came from Latin America, representing a 47.2% share.



Among the External Evaluation Panel's recommendations arising from the INIS Evaluation was the establishment of a general strategy to gather together all the IAEA's information resources and increase the ability of INIS to form a portal of knowledge for the Agency's staff and for the Member Countries.

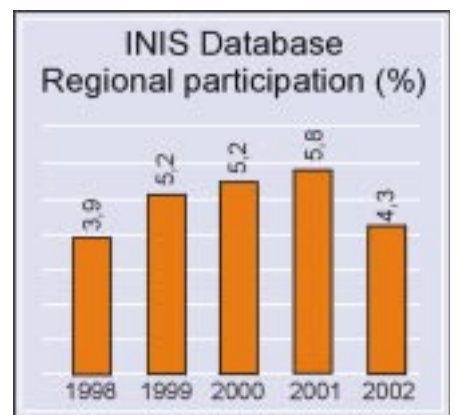
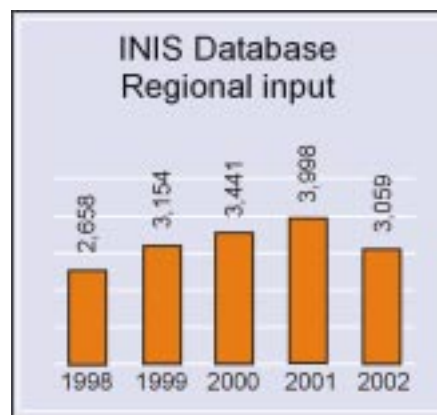
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INIS EXTERNAL EVALUATION PANEL

"The system is a vital tool for the IAEA's statutory mission of promoting the peaceful applications of nuclear energy".

"It should become a more effective information system, rather than being considered as merely a bibliographic data base. It will provide greater benefits and services to the Member States and to the Agency".

REGIONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE INIS DATABASE

In 2002 several countries in the Region had problems with maintaining the level of participation achieved in 2001. Therefore, the number of records included in the INIS Database this year was 3,059, a 23% drop compared to the previous year. Participation, however, is still at a higher level than that recorded before the ARCAL XLII Project, which led to the RRIAN. In 1998, the number of incorporated documents was 2,658, 13% below the number included in 2002





SONAR-RRIAN: MORE SUBSCRIBERS

The SONAR-RRIAN service, launched in 2002, had a year of consolidation shown by the number of new subscribers. In December 2002, there were 247 users, an increase of more than 100% in one year. They receive a monthly e-mail with the new publications in their area of interest. Dissemination of the new information in the INIS Database helps to keep the region's professionals up to date in the nuclear area.

A REGIONAL HOST FOR THE INIS DATABASE WAS LAUNCHED

The RRIAN participating countries presented a project to the ARCAL for the 2002-2003 period, which aiming to facilitate access to the INIS Database by implementing a regional mirror site for this data base. The project, which was duly approved, nevertheless remained pending because the resources needed for its development were not forthcoming.

The option of setting up regional hosts, as a way of simplifying the demands of a mirror site and reducing the costs involved, was discussed at the last Consultative Meeting of INIS Liaison Officers, held in May 2002 in Sofia, Bulgaria. Despite the lacking of IAEA financing, a regional host was established using the human resources, hardware and software already available in the Brazilian Nuclear Information Center. This host offers free access to researchers from RRIAN's 16 participating countries through subscription and the issuing of a password.

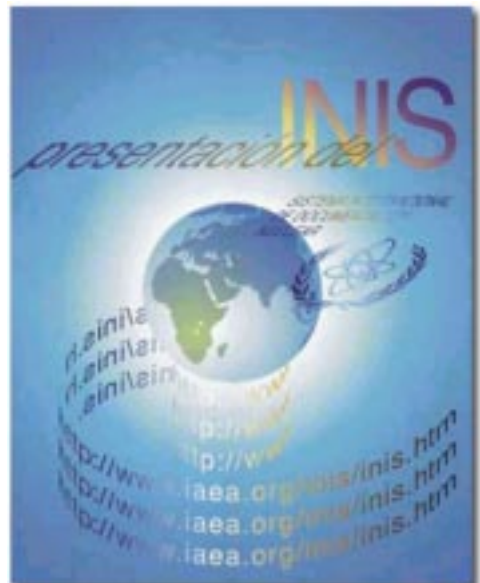


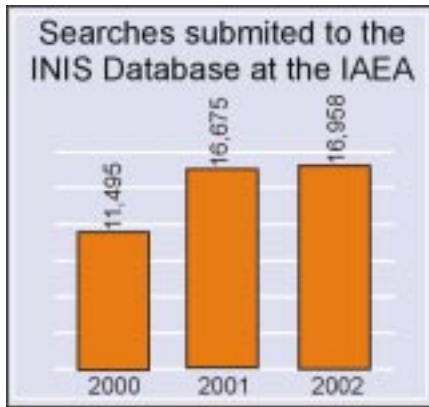
<http://cin.cnen.gov.br/inis-rrian>

As of now, the host covers the period from 1990 to date. The loading of the full data base is programmed for 2003. The service was launched in December and to date 37 passwords have been issued.

NEW EDITION OF THE PUBLICATON “PRESENTING INIS”

A new edition of the leaflet “Presenting INIS” was revised and updated. This promotional material describes the system's operation, services and products. The previous edition was issued in 1998. The translation to Spanish of the new English version was a contribution of Costa Rica to the INIS Secretariat. Distribution began in May 2002. The participating countries have already requested about 250 copies from the INIS Secretariat. This publication is an important instrument for promoting INIS in Spanish, the predominant language in the RRIAN countries





RRIAN HAS A NEW GENERAL COORDINATOR

The RRIAN countries elected, via e-mail, the new RRIAN General Coordinator for the two-year period 2003-2004. Mrs. Alejandra Chavez Flores, Liaison

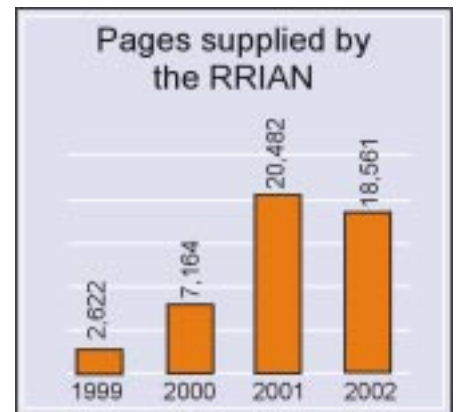
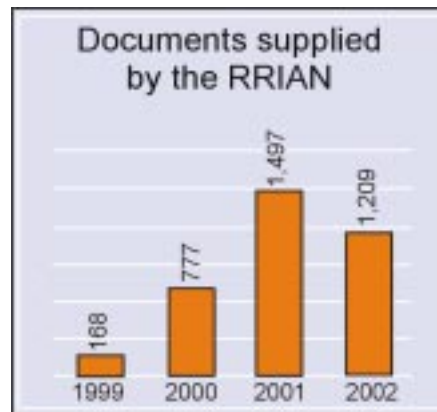
Officer from Argentina, was elected. The General Coordinator for the previous two-year period was the Liaison Officer from Brazil.

DOCUMENT EXCHANGE IN THE NETWORK

RRIAN

Improving access to nuclear information in Latin America

<http://www.cnea.gov.ar/rrian>



Participating Countries and Contacts

ARGENTINA

Alejandra T. Chavez Flores
Comisión Nacional de Energía Atómica
CNEA
e-mail: chavez@cnea.gov.ar

BOLIVIA

Carmen Rosa Fuentes Salome
Instituto Boliviano de Ciencia y Tecnología Nuclear - IBTEN
e-mail: ibtent@caoba.entelnet.bo

BRAZIL

Ailton Fernando Dias
Comissão Nacional de Energia Nuclear
CNEN
e-mail: afdias@cnen.gov.br

CHILE

Lila Trujillo Cerda
Comisión Chilena de Energía Nuclear
CCHEN
e-mail: ltrujill@cchen.cl

COLOMBIA

Leopoldo González Oviedo
INGEOMINAS
e-mail: leogonza@ingegomin.gov.co

COSTA RICA

María Eugenia Briceño
Universidad de Costa Rica
e-mail: mbriceno@sibdi.bldt.ucr.ac.cr

CUBA

Manuel Fernández Rondón
Centro de Información de la Energía Nuclear
e-mail: mfr@cien.energia.inf.cu

ECUADOR

Hipsy Cifuentes
Comisión Ecuatoriana de Energía Atómica
e-mail: ceea.tox@andinanet.net

EL SALVADOR

Oscar Armando Amaya Monterrosa
Universidad de El Salvador
e-mail: amaya_armando@hotmail.com

GUATEMALA

Jorge Arturo Guillén Moreno
Dirección General de Energía Nuclear
e-mail: proradge@mem.gob.gt

MEXICO

Ricardo Botello Corte
Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Nucleares - ININ
e-mail: rbc@nuclear.inin.mx

See complete information at

<http://www.iaea.org/inis/membercontacts/liaisonbycntry.htm>

NICARAGUA

María del Carmen Morales
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua - UNAN - Managua
e-mail: lafram@unan.edu.ni

PARAGUAY

Victor A. Rodriguez Gauto
Comisión Nacional de Energía Atómica
e-mail: vrodiguez@sce.cnc.una.py

PERU

Carlos Gayoso Caballero
Instituto Peruano de Energía Nuclear - IPEN
e-mail: cgayoso@ipen.gob.pe

URUGUAY

Ana Rebellato
Dirección Nacional de Tecnología Nuclear - DNTN
e-mail: dntnbibl@adinet.com.uy

VENEZUELA

Xiomara Jayaro
Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas - IVIC
e-mail: xjayaro@ivic.ve

RRIAN

FACTS & FIGURES 2002

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