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of the European Association of Aquatic Sciences
Libraries and Information Centres (EURASLIC)
6-8 May 1998, Athina, Greece**

PEOPLE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Sharing Knowledge and Shaping the Future of
Aquatic Information in Europe**

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Scientific Library of the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

by

Olga Akimova

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The Scientific Library of the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas (IBSS) is the oldest among the Academic Libraries of Ukraine. It was founded in 1871. From early days the principal aim of acquisition has been collecting every book or paper published about the hydrobiology and ecology of the Black and Azov Seas. Another aspect is complementing the stock with publications related to hydrobiology, oceanology, ichthyology, microbiology, parasitology, radioecology and pollution of the Worlds Oceans. The treasured possessions of the library are contributions from private libraries made by prominent hydrobiologists. The oldest portion of the main stock comprises books published in Russia and abroad between 1766-1880. Native and foreign journals have been collected for a long time. The scientific literature stock represents a rich diversity of disciplines and related aspects and numbers 150,000 titles including 75,000 in foreign languages.

The library offers services to researchers from every concerned Institute or Institution, students, schoolchildren and non-governmental ecological organisations.

Information databases of the library divide into internal and external :

- Internal information databases contain traditional catalogues and card files. Several reference books have been compiled and printed, namely "The Biology of the Black and Azov Seas" covering relevant literature published in 1917-1988 -- "Anthropogenic eutrophication of the Black Sea and its effects."; "Hydrogen sulfide of the Black Sea." Creation of electronic databases started in 1995 (software CDS/ISIS) and includes "The Library catalogue", "The catalogue of works of researchers of IBSS", "The catalogue of publications of Sevastopol Biological Station - Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas." and the List of Serials.

- External information databases comprise journals of *Abstract of VINITI* (ALL-Union Institute for Scientific and Technical Information, Moscow, Russia), the last issue dated 1994; *ASFA* (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts) paper version published in 1971-1995; *Current Contents: Agriculture, Biology and Environmental Sciences* (paper version for 1990-1996); CD-ROM *ASFA (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts)* electronic information and *reference database* covering the period of time from 1988 to 1996 Scientific Library of IBSS has an access to INTERNET.

INVOLVEMENT OF THE LIBRARY IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The Library is a member of the working group on the preparation of bibliographic data for the database of the monthly abstract journal ASFA (*Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts*) printed as a paper version and as a CD-ROM version. Organisations involved in the work are the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System (ASFIS), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO/UN), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the publisher, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts.

The library of IBSS is an associate member of the European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres (EURASLIC).

The staff work at keeping in order and exploring diverse materials and photocopies of documents related to the history of IBSS and its Scientific Library.

A recent contribution is the manuscript "*From intention to implementation: how Sevastopol Biological Station was founded and developed into the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas*" submitted by Alevtina G. Sivtsova, an enthusiastic supporter of the library. Among recent publications on the past and the present of the institute's library are the following:

- Sivtsova, A.G., and O.A. Akimova, 1996. 125 years of scientific Library and Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas, *Bibliotechni visnik*, no.4, p.27-30. (in Ukrainian)
- "The Bibliography of Publications of Sevastopol Biological Station - Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (1871-1996)", *Gidrobiologicheskii zhurnal*. -1996, 32(6):84-105 (in Russian).
- Akimova, O.A. and O.V. Klimentova (1996). Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas and its Scientific Library: 125 years of Tradition and Progress. In: Moulder, D.S., Djorup, K. and Heath, S. (eds) *Proceedings of the Sixth Meeting of the European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centers (EURASLIC)*, Valletta, Malta, 25-26 April 1996. Plymouth: Plymouth Marine Laboratory. p.105-106.
- Akimova, O.A. (1996). "Marine and Aquatic Libraries of Ukraine - Today". *"Information Across the Waves: The World as a Multimedia Experience"* Proceedings of the 21-st Annual Conference of IAMSLIC held 8-12 Oct., 1995 at Southampton, England - Fort Pierce, Florida: IAMSLIC, 1996. - p. 45-47.

Ms. Akimova gives much time to developing international relations with the aim to benefit from the experiences gained by her colleagues in the West and to inform them about Marine Scientific Libraries of the Ukraine. The Scientific Library is now the centre destined to unite marine libraries of Ukraine into a well-coordinated system. The recent project outlines the range of works and services to be provided by marine libraries to institutes of Ukraine. The most urgent goals to be achieved are wider employment of computers and computer-based techniques and development of home on-line networks.

Staff in the library comprise six trained librarians with a knowledge of English, French and German.

Use of Computer Systems:

Computers: AMD K5-100, 8 Mb, and HDD 850 Mb

AMD K5-70, 8 Mb, and HDD 320 Mb

Software: Word-processing: Word for Windows version 7.0

Library databases: CDS/ISIS version 3.7