The International Nuclear Library Network (INLN)

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The International Nuclear Library Network (INLN) is a global nuclear information and knowledge management initiative. It provides a high benefit solution for nuclear information centres, libraries and research institutes to enhance their information pool and stakeholder services without generating additional costs to their parent organizations. Pooling the collecti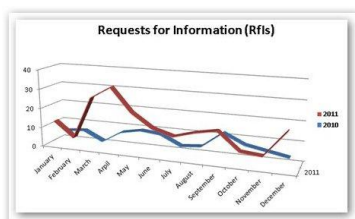ons of many institutions creates a meta-collection, an information resource of a size that cannot be achieved in isolation. Thus, responsiveness and flexibility in satisfying client needs and promoting collaboration on an international scale are considerably increased, without adding additional strain to the parent organization. The Network is coordinated by the IAEA Library, as it is the product of a joint initiative of the IAEA Library and the Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.

The Network allows for the identification, creation, distribution, and, where appropriate, adoption of insights and experiences, best practises and lessons learned, that relate to nuclear information and knowledge management; this represents the INLN's added value. A community of information and knowledge management best practices in the making, which, coupled with the shared culture of information exchange, is the reason behind the dramatic increase in membership. Forty four members from twenty seven countries currently constitute the INLN: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, and Uzbekistan. At a time when digital resources are growing in great proportion, the INLN facilitates the exchange of nuclear information, and provides a forum in which new relationships among nuclear information professionals are built, and existing ones are strengthened. Connecting people to people and people to nuclear information is the daily routine of the Network. The work of the members within the Network focuses on concrete actions: bringing the

right information in the right format at the right time to the right people is the Network's major goal. This collective effort aims to:

a) Promote the digitization of collections to enhance nuclear information retrieval
b) Invent innovative methods – or amend existing ones – for better processing of nuclear information
c) Evaluate both information storage procedures and digital preservation policies and practices
d) Document "best practices" and "problem-solving" paths implemented in retrieving, processing or disseminating nuclear information
e) Document both explicit and tacit knowledge of people working in organisations members of the Network, and contribute to the preservation of this knowledge for future generations.

Based on statistics collected in 2011, resource sharing is a well-established practice among members – this includes resources both in print and digital form. Requests for Information (RfIs) among members have more than doubled in 2011, an increase of 125% compared to 2010. Requests incorporate literature searches, the use and evaluation of both closed and open access nuclear information sources, methods of setting alerting services, nuclear information management research questions, the exchange of insights or experiences, and also queries concerning general guidance on nuclear information behaviour. The Document Delivery Service remains the major attraction of the INLN, representing the largest share of requests. The Research Support Service and requests for Interlibrary Loan are also a strong offering to INLN members. The newly introduced service of providing guidance on nuclear information and knowledge management via email, pre-scheduled online conferences, telephone or Skype already represents 7% of service requests, marking it a strong trend for the future.
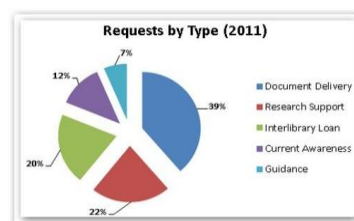
It is evident the more requests are submitted and met by INLN members, the more efficient the Network becomes. All Network stakeholders are thus able to reap the benefits offered: research on nuclear energy is encouraged and assisted, the exchange of scientific and technical information is further fostered, partnerships are strengthened, a nuclear information infrastructure is laid down, and barriers to sharing are overcome. In today's digital world, in the environment of data-driven science, user expectations are rather high. World Wide Web related functions such as integration of research and retrieval techniques across information repositories and data mining and analysis tools

to discover new knowledge, tools for visualizing complex datasets and the re-use of data and automated metadata extraction play an increasingly important role. To advance the particular focus on nuclear information and knowledge management, and in order to continue to gain momentum, steps towards an all-encompassing access point to the INLN's pool of information resources need to be taken. The introduction of *one-access point* to search among INLN members' resources, coupled with a practical arrangement to be signed by all members in 2013 are the next steps for the INLN. A human-centred knowledge and information management system harvesting the INLN meta-collection at one go seems to be the way forward.

More information: http://inln.iaea.org