RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

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ogy. She joined the U. S. Department of Agriculture,
National Agricultural Library (NAL) in 1981 as an
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Center, one of seven centers within the NAL branch.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

History
The National Agricultural Library (NAL) will be 130
years old in 1994. NAL was established by President
A. Lincoln in 1864 as part of the “Organic Act” that
established the U.S. Department of Agriculture. One
of the primary directives to Isaac Newton, first
Commissioner of Agriculture, was to establish a
library and an agricultural museum. The agricultural
museum has yet to be established, but the library
did. It is interesting to note that many of the policies
written in the “Organic Act” regarding the library are
still in place. (For agricultural history buffs, I encou-
rage you to read the “Organic Act” and Newton’s first
Commissioner’s report.)

Obviously, an agricultural library was an idea whose
time had come. The collection has expanded from its
humble beginnings of 1,000 volumes housed in the
Commissioner’s office to over 2.1 million volumes
housed in a 14 story building. The present building
was built in 1967 on the grounds of USDA’s Agricul-
tural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland (about
15 miles outside of Washington, D.C.).

Today, it takes approximately 48 miles of book-
shelves to house the collection. Over 50 languages
are represented due to the active international
exchange program, and the types of items collected
has also expanded beyond the traditional books,
journals, newsletters, proceedings, reports, to include
maps, microforms, slides, video recordings, films and
posters. (In 1991 approximately 40,000 volumes were
added to the collection and the 23,000 serial subscrip-
tions were maintained in 1991.)

The subject scope of the collection has always re-
lected the interests, activities, research and regula-
tory responsibilities of the U.S. Department of
Agriculture, but it is particularly strong in the
traditional agricultural subjects—food and fiber
production, applied veterinary science, nutrition,
forestry, natural resources, etc. In 1991, this impor-
tant national and international resource
was given national library status in the “Food,
Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990.”
The Act impacted the NAL program in several ways.
It allows NAL to collect and retain fees for informa-
tion products and services. It also instructs NAL to
“cooperate and coordinate efforts” among the
library/information center community to work
toward the development of a “comprehensive
agricultural library and information network.”

The NAL Program: A Brief Overview
I will briefly describe some of the of institutional
activities and policies that you might be of interest to
you.

AGRICOLA:
You are all aware that computer based technology
applications in the library field have included
various catalog databases in general and the biblio-
graphic data bases in particular. Bibliographic data
bases have become important referencing sources for
researchers and others interested in accessing the
world’s literature. These data bases enable informa-
tion providers to develop customized bibliographies
tailored to the patron’s specific information needs.
One of the most important activities of the Library is
the production of the internationally available
database AGRICOLA. NAL was one of the early
organizations to begin to exploit the new technology
as a way to share its extensive resources. As early as
1969 NAL developed the AGRICultural On-Line
Access, or AGRICOLA data base. Today,
AGRICOLA contains over 2.6 million citations to
books, articles, reports and audiovisuals covering
agriculture and related subjects. AGRICOLA is
currently available through 2 database vendors
DIALOG Information Retrieval Service (files 10 and
110) and the Bibliographic Retrieval Service (BRS)
(file CAIN). The database is also available commer-
cially on compact disc. AGRICOLA/CAIN may be accessed from the above commercial vendors using standard dial-up protocols and modems from computer terminals.

Document delivery. Documents and audiovisual materials are made available to all USDA personnel via either through USDA field libraries, the land grant universities system or by direct request. Other U.S. patrons, who come to the library as a last resort, are serviced via inter-library loan through any established library—corporate, academic, organizational, public, etc., in the United States. Non-U.S. patrons can be serviced via the AGLINET libraries system. Photocopies of articles (according to U.S. copyright laws) are available on a worldwide basis for a standard charge per page. For more information about document delivery specifics the following information sheets are available:

1. Document Delivery Services to Individuals.
3. Availability of Documents.

Reference and referral:
The Library provides general reference and referral services to the Department and the public. The public reading room provides patrons with access to a number of data bases on CD ROM, the Library’s on-line catalog, and cost recovery on-line searching done by NAL staff. Requests can also be received by phone and letter. The general reference number is: 301/504-5479.

Publications:
The Library produces a number of bibliographic series that help provide users with information on timely topics. Quick Bibliography (QB)s, Special Reference Brief (SRB), Miscellaneous Publications, and Search Tips. I will point out the differences between the series as I describe the Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) Program. I will mention here that those mentioned above are not routinely available from NTIS, however they are sent to the repository libraries. The only NAL series routinely distributed by NTIS is the Bibliography of Agriculture. This series is reserved for subject areas covered extensively in AGRICOLA and the format of the publications reflects the subject divisions of the AGRICOLA data base. At the present time, the publications are provided free to requestors. Also since they are produced by tax dollars, they are not copyrighted and can be freely copied. The Library also produces a newsletter that informs readers of any of the current activities. It is called the Agricultural Library Information Notes. Those interested in activities at NAL can subscribe to the newsletter free of charge.

Information Centers:
In response to large volumes of subject focused requests, the Library has developed and expanded the concept of the “information center”. Centers are a blend of an independent organizational structure within the larger parent structure—the Library. Centers are also a blend of unique user oriented activities and traditional library activities. The information center concept, as structured at NAL, has proven to be such a successful paradigm that over a dozen such centers have been established at NAL. Some of the subjects currently addressed by such centers are food and nutrition, youth at risk, sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, plant genomes, biotechnology and the animal welfare, which I will describe in some detail later. The subject focus of a center, historically, has been determined by several modes—the U.S. Congress, the Department, the Library, or an outside group that is interested in funding such an activity at NAL. Staff are usually selected for their subject expertise. (Often this means, that the necessary library skills such as database searching are learned on the job.) Staff are actively involved in many activities; reference and referral services, the production of subject related bibliographies, and a variety of outreach activities and collaborative efforts. The final array of products and activities can be quite unique for each Center depending on the mission and/or user needs. Since your interests are in the veterinary science/animal welfare areas. The rest of this paper will describe the history, activities and products of the Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) program.

THE ANIMAL WELFARE INFORMATION CENTER

History
AWIC was established at NAL 1986 as a result of the 1985 amendments to "Animal Welfare Act" (PL 99-189). I will refer to it as the AWA. In the Act, Congress mandated that:

"The Secretary [of the U.S. Department of Agriculture] shall establish an information service at the National Agricultural Library. Such service shall, in cooperation with the National Library of Medicine, provide information:

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(1) pertinent to employee training;

(2) which could prevent unintended duplication of animal experimentation as determined by the research facility;

(3) on improved methods of animal experimentation, including methods which could -

(A) reduce or replace animal use; and

(B) minimize pain and distress to animals, such as anesthetic and analgesic procedures.

With appropriations of $750,000 per year directed to the Library through USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for the fiscal year (FY) 1987 and 1988, AWIC was established as an Information Center within NAL. Beginning with the FY '89 budget year, the funding for AWIC was incorporated into the base budget of NAL.

**AWIC Program**

The AWIC Related Collection Activities:

Since the supporting collection is so important to an Information Center, let me say a few words regarding how AWIC interacts with the NAL collection. In addition to the materials purchased through the traditional book vendors, the AWIC staff recommend materials in a variety of media for purchase. Gifts to the Center are also donated to the collection. Commonly, those items added to the collection for AWIC's clientele cover important technical, ethical, political and legal issues related to the welfare of animals. The publication *Animal Welfare Information Center Scope Notes for Indexers*, which has served as an internal policy document, outlines the animal and subject areas considered to be within the scope both for acquisition for the NAL collection as well as for indexing these materials for the AGRICOLA database. Subjects include: anesthesia, analgesia, euthanasia, training and education of technicians and investigators, transportation and acquisition of animals, species husbandry, animal behavior, environmental factors affecting animals, laboratory animal management, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees, regulations and legislation concerning the humane treatment of animals, philosophies of animal welfare/rights and alternatives to the use of animals in research, testing, and education, etc.

The above subject areas overlap somewhat with the National Library of Medicine (NLM), but there are many types of non-refereed materials being added to the NAL collection that are not collected by NLM (training materials, facility plans, course syllabi, etc). This division of effort expands the resources available to the user group. There is dialog between the two libraries from time to time related to subject responsibilities.

Since the Primate Information Center of the University of Washington has an extensive collection of literature involving the use of laboratory primates, the NAL collection policy regarding primates is not to be comprehensive, but to include basic information about physiology and behavior. (We cooperate with both NLM and PIC for the production of selected subject area publications.) Currently, approximately one-fifth of the AGRICOLA is devoted to citations on animal production, laboratory animal science, veterinary medicine and animal welfare. To help patrons glean the animal welfare information from AGRICOLA, the publication *Searching AGRICOLA for Animal Welfare* details thesaurus terms, strategies and techniques for efficiently searching the database for animal welfare topics on both DIALOG and BRS.

**Patron Services:**

As an Information Center within NAL, AWIC's role has been and continues to be to provide reference services, bibliographies and listings of relevant documents, to update the subject scope for acquisitions and indexing, to conduct outreach activities, and interact with user groups. In turn, as mentioned previously, AWIC relies on NAL for the purchase and maintenance of the subject relevant part of the recollection, lending services and other technical services that ensure user access. Because of these cooperative efforts, the substantial resources of the Library enable the AWIC staff to supply information on a broad array of subjects, even though the main thrust of AWIC's subject responsibilities are determined by the AWA.

**Reference:**

Reference services are available to anyone, but most users either are, or serve the regulated community e.g. researchers in biomedical or zoological park, veterinarians, animal technicians and caretakers, USDA regulatory staff, facility managers, academics, organization personnel, students and the general public. For patrons served by full service libraries with the capability of multi-database searching, AWIC staff usually are a back-up resource by providing materials and advice or referrals. Those with very limited information resources, may use AWIC as their sole library resource. Fees for service are in place and the potential patron is advised to request the current fee schedule. There is an option for a free abbreviated search or to pay cost-recovery for more comprehensive service. Databases commonly utilized by the AWIC staff include the
DIALOG files CRIS (60), MEDLINE (154, 155), EMBASE (72, 172, 173), BIOSIS PREVIEWS (5, 55) and CAB ABSTRACTS (50, 53), and Life Sciences (76). At times, computer, legal, or other peripheral databases are utilized. In addition to using databases as a resource, the AWIC staff maintain a variety of subject-related vertical files that include: selected articles, copies of bills and legislation, materials from a variety of organizations, subjects files of acquired books and audiovisuals, and clippings from newspapers and magazines. These provide a source of contact persons and information about related organizations, as well as quick reference to current events and popular animal-related topics. It should be noted that every effort is made to protect the information that patrons provide regarding their protocols. Such documentation is not considered of archival value and is destroyed after the patrons request is answered. This policy was implemented several years ago.

Referrals:
The AWIC staff have developed an extensive network of subject experts and contacts in organizations active in the area of animal care and use. Referrals to individuals and groups will be provided upon request. However, often, the potential expert is called prior to the referral to request their permission to act as a resource.

Outreach activities:
The AWIC staff engage in a variety of activities to acquaint people with the Center services and activities, to distribute AWIC publications, to discuss user needs to improve the AWIC program and to educate the user community on information science as it relates to the Animal Welfare Act.

Staff members are available:
• for presentations at seminars and conferences.
• to exhibit at a variety of major conferences and annual meetings, where publications are distributed, and questions answered.
• to share information with other groups.
• to participate on various committees.
• to write articles for newsletters on request.
• to conduct workshops on information science and meeting the mandate of the AWA.
• to provide visitors with an overview of NAL.

• to organize and provide meeting space for Center-related activities.

A table-top exhibit, brochures, examples of publications and Fact Sheets, describing the purpose and functions of the Center is also available for loan to interested groups. The display is sent via overnight express mail. Return shipment must be arranged and paid for by the requestor.

Publications.
A number of subject related bibliographic reference publications on specific topics (defined as important animal welfare issues) have been developed and are continually being updated. For example, bibliographies are now available on the Draize Eye-Irritation test and LD50 and LC50 Toxicity tests, education, euthanasia, legislation, training materials for technicians and investigators, ethical and moral issues, transgenic animals, and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees, etc. Efforts will continue to develop new reference publications. (Refer to the attached listing of currently available publications at the end of the paper.) AWIC publications are generated in all five of the series mentioned previously, plus we produce a newsletter. Since the differences are quite evident when you look at them, I would like to clarify your potential confusion regarding what to expect from each series.

Quick Bibliography (QB):
QB's are downloaded from AGRICOLA. They are subject oriented and usually have 300 citations or less. The citations are listed in alphabetical order by title. NAL indexing it included as well as abstracts from selected journals. There is also an author index. QB's are usually updated on a yearly basis and are only available through NAL/AWIC. Topics include those areas that are covered rather extensively in AGRICOLA.

Bibliographic Literature of Agriculture (BLA):
BLA's are also downloaded from AGRICOLA, but are more comprehensive in the coverage of the subject matter. They are organized according to the subject headings of the database. BLA's are available from National Technical Information Service (NTIS) after copies of the original printing are exhausted at NAL. Ferrets as laboratory animals, laboratory animal welfare and farm animal welfare have been topics of AWIC publications in this series.

Special Reference Brief (SRB):
SRB's are produced from multiple sources both electronic and manual. SRB's usually contain a brief introduction to the topic, a selected listing of references organized by category, and an author listing.
They may contain additional information such as relevant organizations, etc. There are no limits on either numbers of citations or age of the cited documents. All AWIC SRB’s are reviewed by a highly respected expert in the field. Most of the AWIC publications fall into this series due to the limitations of the historical portions of AGRICOLA. Topics covered have been euthanasia, exercise for dogs, various toxicity testing methods, etc.

AWIC Series:
Because the needs of the user group required information that was not necessarily bibliographic, the AWIC Series was established. Included in the series are listings of the audiovisuals, federal legislation, listings of the computer simulation models for teaching, etc.

Fact Sheets:
A Fact Sheet contains information that will hopefully help a patron use the Center more effectively. Currently Fact Sheets are available on such topics as: databases routinely used by the staff, methods available for contacting the Center, tips on using the Center, searching for alternatives, etc.

Animal Welfare Information Center Newsletter.
This free quarterly Newsletter is available to those interested in the latest Center activities. Articles on topics related to the issues of the user community are provided by guest authors. A list of legislation and upcoming national meetings is also included. The Newsletter is free of charge and the current mailing list is approximately 4,000. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please contact the Center.

Keep in mind that these materials are distributed free. They are not copyrighted, so you are free to duplicate them.

Cooperative Projects:
From its inception, AWIC has been interested in and has supported projects that promote the mandates of the Animal Welfare Act. Center support for these projects has been of various sorts—grants and cooperative agreements, sharing of staff time and expertise, and the absorption of printing and/or distribution costs. The types of projects that have been completed include the collaborative production of bibliographies, manuals and handbooks, conference proceedings, and training audiovisuals. We are always looking for opportunities to work in collaboration with others, so if you have any project in mind that could constructively serve the regulated community, please contact us. (A complete listing of previous projects will be provided on request.)

Contacting AWIC:
There are various convenient ways that you can contact the Center. Staff members are available to take your calls between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern U.S. time. There is also a staff member who is fluent in Spanish. Anyone most comfortable in that language is encouraged to request his help.

1. Direct line via telephone - (301) 504-6212. (There is a telephone answering device on this line.)

2. Coordinator - (301) 504-5215.

3. FAX machine - (301)504-5472.

4. INTERNET - NALAWIC@ASRR.ARSUSDA.GOV.

Patrons are welcome to visit AWIC and other NAL offices on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A tour of the Library’s facilities is available by appointment.

You can contact the Center by letter at:

Animal Welfare Information Center
National Agricultural Library 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Room 205
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

I hope that the above information gives you a general overview of NAL, and specifics about the Center that may be of most interest to the participants at this Conference. Feel free to contact AWIC if we can be of help via our publications, programs and expertise or if you need clarification regarding anything I have touched on today. I am glad that NAL was able to provide partial support for this worthy project, and hope that there will be other such conferences in the future. It has also been a pleasure for me to meet and talk with you. I wish you the best as you depart from this first international meeting, have a safe trip home and I hope that we will meet again.