



# INIS/AGRIS Training Seminar

The second joint INIS/AGRIS Training Seminar for the two essentially compatible information systems, INIS (International Nuclear Information System) and AGRIS (International System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology), was held in Vienna, the first having taken place a year ago in Ankara. This year saw an expansion in the number of courses offered, which increased from nine to a total of 16. Additional courses in input preparation, and output utilization were offered, and improved retrieval facilities were available. Two joint courses for INIS and AGRIS magnetic tape users were given.

With an increasing number of countries preparing input in machine-readable form, and with increasing utilization of magnetic tape output products, a forum for tape users was a logical addition at this time. Five courses were given in abstracting.

INIS ATOMINDEX became the only international abstracting journal in the nuclear sciences with the cessation of Nuclear Science Abstracts at the end of June 1976, when INIS assumed responsibility for the inclusion of good abstracts. The significance of abstract quality and INIS specifications in terms of machine-readable format and characters, length and language were considered in specific courses. The courses on abstracting consisted of basic instruction on general principles, followed by abstracting in the areas of physics, chemistry, engineering and reactor technology, and the life sciences, where aspects specific to the particular field were emphasized. Participants were given an opportunity to attend demonstrations of the optical character recognition equipment and related hardware in use at the IAEA.

Five computer terminals were placed at the disposal of seminar participants, thus permitting interactive retrieval of documents in on-line dialogue. An adaptation of STAIRS (STorage And Information Retrieval System by IBM) was used. An INIS test data-base of 60 000 documents and AGRIS test data-base of 80 000 documents were available for direct search. An additional 100 000 INIS documents were used for retrospective searches in overnight batch processing by IRMS (Information Retrieval and Management System by IBM).

One course was offered on input preparation and retrieval for AGRIS. There were two plenary sessions. Apart from the two joint courses for INIS and AGRIS tape users, 13 courses were offered for INIS. Of these six dealt with indexing: a two-day orientation course and a five-day course for beginners, run concurrently with four workshop-type courses for experienced indexers in physics, chemistry, engineering and reactor technology, and the life sciences. Two courses, beginners' and advanced, were given in descriptive cataloguing, and five on abstracting.

The Seminar proved the biggest to date, with a total attendance of 131 participants and six observers, representing 46 countries and 12 international organizations. Of these, INIS accounted for 80 participants representing 28 countries and four international organizations, and AGRIS for 51 participants representing 31 countries and eight international organizations. Financial assistance to some AGRIS participants from developing countries was given by the International Development Research Centre, Canada.