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WATER FACT SHEET

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WATER RESOURCES SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION CENTER

INTRODUCTION

The Water Resources Scientific Information Center (WRSIC) acquires, abstracts and indexes the major water-resources related literature of the world, and makes information available to the water-resources community and the public.

A component of the Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, the Center maintains a searchable computerized bibliographic data base, and publishes a monthly journal of abstracts. Through its services, the Center is able to provide reliable scientific and technical information about the most recent water-resources developments, as well as long-term trends and changes.

WRSIC's products and services are readily accessible to government agencies, scientists, engineers, researchers, teachers, students, planners, water-resources professionals, and the interested public.

WRSIC was established in 1966 by the Secretary of the Interior to further the objectives of the Water Resources Research Act of 1964—legislation that encouraged research in water resources and the prevention of needless duplication of research efforts.

It was determined that WRSIC should be the national center for information on water resources, covering research reports, scientific journals, and other water-resources literature of the world. WRSIC would evaluate all water resources literature, catalog selected articles, and make the information available in publications or by computer access. In this way WRSIC would increase the availability and awareness of water-related scientific and technical information.

The Center conducted its operations in the Office of the Secretary of the Interior until 1982, when it was transferred to the Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey.

WRSIC ACTIVITIES

The basic operations of the Water Resources Scientific Information Center in USGS continue unchanged: to *acquire*, *abstract* and *index* the water-resources literature of the world.

The Center:

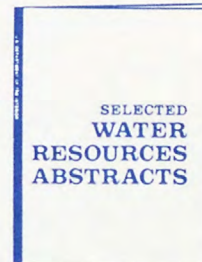
- Maintains a worldwide computerized bibliographic data base.
- Publishes the monthly journal "Selected Water Resources Abstracts."
- Maintains an information base of water research in progress.
- Produces literature reviews and bibliographies.

THE ABSTRACTS

WRSIC abstracts are available in two formats:

- A searchable, computerized, bibliographic data base.
- A printed journal of abstracts plus indexes.

The cumulative abstract information dates from 1968. Each month, new abstracts are entered into the bibliographic data base and published in the journal. The Center also



publishes annual cumulative indexes by subject, author, organization and accession number.

As reflected by the literature, the monthly journal shows the state of water resources knowledge while the bibliographic data base contains both current and historic data that show the trends in issues and problems over the past 20 years.

SOURCES OF LITERATURE

To determine the literature that qualifies for abstracting, the Center evaluates the world's scientific and technical literature. Among the sources of consideration are the primary journals of science, research reports, monographs, and proceedings of meetings.

The Center surveys the literature and selects that which is to be processed into a standard format comprising abstracts, bibliographic citations, and index terms.

Typical users of the WRSIC monthly journal and the bibliographic data base are often sources for the abstracted literature. The users may be scientists, engineers, researchers, technicians, managers, planners, and others who represent a variety of water-resources interests in industry, agriculture, education, and government—such as manufacturing and mining companies, universities, research institutes, State and local agencies and institutions, international organizations, and other nations.

THE DATA BASE

The *online bibliographic data base* grows about 10,000 abstracts annually, with the cumulative number of searchable references to the literature reaching 180,000 late in 1985.

The file is searchable by title, author, sponsoring organization, research organization, and subject index word.

The data base is commercially searchable worldwide through DIALOG Information Services, Inc., Palo Alto, California.

In addition, computer tapes may be leased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), allowing commercial data base networks to store and maintain the WRSIC cumulative file of water resources abstracts.

THE JOURNAL OF ABSTRACTS

Each month WRSIC publishes "*Selected Water Resources Abstracts*" (SWRA) with indexes. SWRA groups abstracts by broad subject categories (such as the nature of water and water-resources planning) and indexes articles by subject matter, author, and affiliated institution.

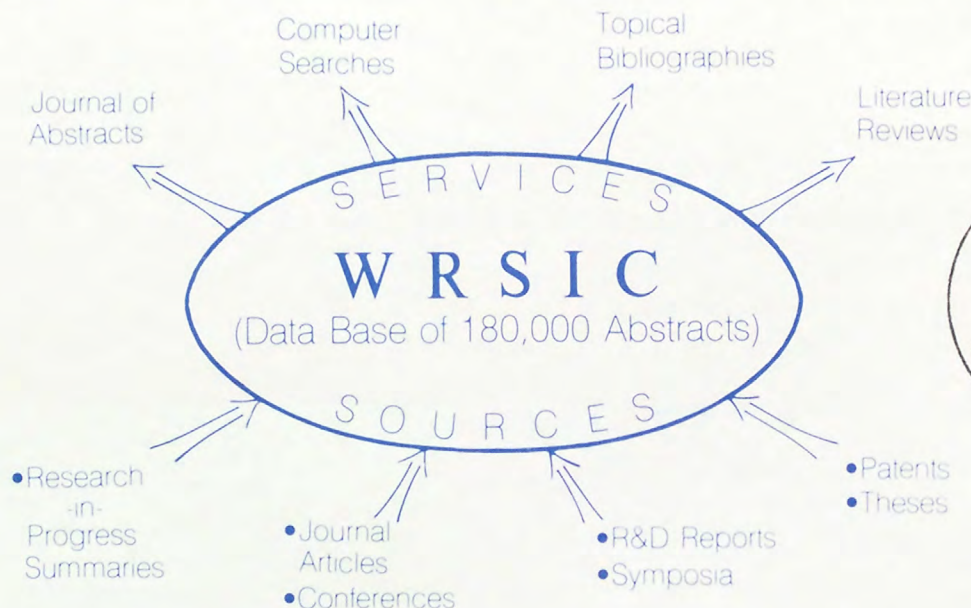
The terms and cross references of the Thesaurus relate to such widely varied activities and interests as the hydrologic cycle, water use and availability, conservation, and the economic, legal, social, engineering, recreational, biological, geographical, ecological, and qualitative aspects of water resources.

The third and most recent edition of the Thesaurus contains about 5,000 terms to improve communications and facilitate the retrieval of water resources information.

LITERATURE REVIEWS

The literature review is a comprehensive state-of-the-art report on a specific water resource subject, prepared by an expert on the subject.

While the review is largely founded on the WRSIC data base, it is more than a computerized compilation of references to relevant literature. The reviewer draws upon personal subject expertise and may consult a multitude of information sources to develop the report—a thoroughgoing summary of the literature and the current status of the issue.



The abstracting journal with annual cumulative indexes is available on microfiche or in print by subscription from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), Springfield, Virginia 22161.

ONLINE RESEARCH-IN-PROGRESS DATA BASE

This data base consists of research project summaries provided by agencies conducting water resources research and reported to the NTIS. The research-in-progress data base is assembled by NTIS. When fully developed it is expected to average about 8,000 water research summaries.

THE THESAURUS

The "*Water Resources Thesaurus*" is a controlled vocabulary for indexing and retrieving water-resources literature. It consists of alphabetical lists of terms used to describe an aspect of water resources research, development, or management.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

The Center prepares topical bibliographies from comprehensive searches of the complete data base of 180,000 citations. The bibliographies are reproduced for multiple use.

DOCUMENT LOCATING

Upon request, the Center provides information on the availability of documents in the water resources field.

For additional information on WRSIC and its data base contact:

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U.S. Geological Survey
425 National Center
Reston, VA 22092