

to the turtle population. There may be an irreversible damage to the turtle population present on the offshore waters. It is also feared that marine fauna that form the live feed of these turtles may also be severely affected due to the spill.

Olive ridley sea turtles, though omnivorous, are predominantly carnivorous particularly in the immature stages, and feed on a wide variety of food items including protochordates (invertebrates) found in shallow marine waters. They also dive to a depth of 500 feet (150 m) to forage on benthic invertebrates. They generally crush and grind the food before intake. Immediately after emerging, hatchlings head for the open sea and swim deep into the sea until they reach the sea current. Thousands of hatchlings

were found entering the sea during the first week of May at the Rushikulya rookery. It has been found that during this period, large-scale mortality of hatchlings occurs, and one in 1000 may survive. It is also feared that the spill may have increased the mortality of hatchlings². However, it has also been reported that there is no oil residue near the nesting site. The oil that leaked is of a non-persistent nature and due to physical and chemical changes it will undergo weathering soon³. Considering these circumstances, the spill may cause little impact on the live feed of turtles and their hatchlings, and to their wellbeing. But, there is no doubt that these endangered species need to be protected from anthropogenic threats on the coast.

1. Anon., *The Hindu*, 4 May 2010, p. 18; <http://www.hindu.com/2010/05/04/stories/2010050463251800.htm>
2. Olive Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Office of the Protected Resources, NOAA Fisheries; www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles/oliveridley.htm
3. White, D., *Geoscientist*, 2005, **15**, 4–11.

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Updating scientific serials catalogue

The Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) was established during 1951–52 with three activities in mind, one of which was Document Supply Service (DSS). Any researcher would for decades need INSDOC's services for the research activities as research is mostly 'prior-art'-based. With DSS in mind, INSDOC painstakingly prepared a National Union Catalogue of Scientific Serials in India (NUCSSI) over a period of two decades and published it as a four-volume compendium in 1988. In the 1990s a CD database was published from the NUCSSI data. It was subsequently updated in the beginning of the new millennium. The database is now web-enabled and is being updated. Even after it is web-enabled, the requirement of constant updation of NUCSSI remains.

Publication of NUCSSI in print, as a CD database or as a web database does not take away the role of an exchange centre like National Institute of Science Communication and Information Re-

sources (NISCAIR; the current *avatar* of INSDOC). Only NISCAIR can control a centralized database like NUCSSI at the National level. All the library associations, the S&T institute administrations should look up to NISCAIR as a facilitator of research information exchange.

It is in this context that I want to draw attention of the scientific community and information professionals that all S&T institutes should have an up-to-date serials catalogue made available to NISCAIR so that NUCSSI web-hosted by NISCAIR remains under permanent updation. NISCAIR's web hosted NUCSSI will then become a centralized database and a 'call centre' for S&T articles facilitating easy access and faster research throughput.

When a user would go to NISCAIR website, he will fill up a document requisition form, whereupon an automated system can go through NUCSSI database web-hosted by NISCAIR and place a document request with a holding institute. A constantly updated web-hosted

NUCSSI would mean 'first-stop success' in document procurement, resulting in faster throughput for DSS. NISCAIR, as originally planned as an INSDOC activity in 1951–52, can continue for now to deliver the same to the requester.

In this context, I would also like to draw attention to the need of a union catalogue of conference proceedings database as there is a great need of articles from these too. And what about an ILL component in all library automation software, whence any loan request is automatically broadcast to select list of institutions so that researchers can be served even better?

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