

Library and Information Management Facility

The Library and Information Management Unit (LIM) ensures that information relevant to ICARDA's mandate is acquired and managed to meet present and future needs of ICARDA and NARS scientists. Literature is collected and managed both in electronic and print forms. The LIM also plays an important role in bridging the existing information gap in access to knowledge and information in most CWANA countries by improving the information flow through networking and partnerships and upgrading NARS information systems.

LIM Environment

Currently, ICARDA library collection includes more than 19000 books, 15000 reprints, 3000 annual reports, and more than 6000 bound volumes of periodicals.

ICARDA library has adopted a new ILMS called "NewGenLib" which allows for automation of all library functions, including acquisitions, cataloguing, serials management, and circulation. The new system allows capturing and harvesting metadata from other sources as well as sharing our metadata with other external sources. It also allows for the attachment of digital objects such as full text in PDF or MS-Word, image files, sound, video clips, etc., to catalog records. This will allow users to view not only the metadata but the full text of presentations, pamphlets, audio recordings, video tapes, contents pages of books, etc. online.

The Virtual Library, which was launched some years ago, provides improved access to ICARDA scientific community through a single interface to various resources and databases. It will soon be merged with the VL of the CGIAR to form a single major information resource to all users. The ICARDA Library collection, enhanced with that of the remaining CGIAR Centers will be stronger with the addition of full-text commercial databases; electronic journals and databases; NARS information, and locally produced databases, which will include full-text, images, sound, and video.

Library and Information Management Services

- Access to internal and international databases via the Intranet and the Internet
- Database searches
- Reference service
- Access to journal and document collections in print and electronic forms
- Table of Contents services for CWANA NARS scientists
- Publication exchange with libraries
- Document delivery services
- Management and administration of databases on ICARDA Commodities
- Management and administration of a virtual library
- Development and implementation of Information Management standards and guidelines
- Consulting services for NARS/NGO's – information systems planning and implementation
- Training in information management and processing