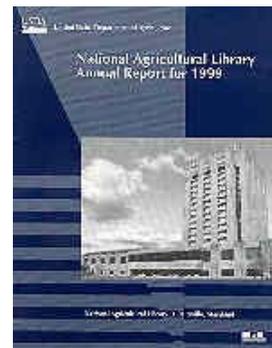


National Agricultural Library Annual Report for 1999

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Beltsville, Maryland, 1999



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Director's Message

“A New Millennium of Service”—that has been our mantra for the last few months as we near the end of phase 1 of our building renovation.

For nearly 2 years, NAL, its customers, and staff have endured the chaos that comes with tackling a much-needed renovation project while remaining open for business. It hasn't been easy and it wasn't always pretty, but with hard work, the patience of our customers, and a sense of humor from us all, we've nearly gotten through it. Our grand reopening event took place on April 12, 2000.

The end result is a beautiful, new public area that allows us to serve our customers better, as well as allows our customers to serve themselves better through dozens of new, on-line customer work stations. Improved, larger spaces for the collection, better work areas for our staff, and an improved building infrastructure also resulted from the renovation. I invite everyone to come and view the new areas. They are quite impressive.

With all of the confusion that comes with a situation like this (lost power, crashing computers, dust, noise, unusual odors, etc.), I'm proud to point out that NAL staff still managed to provide first-rate service to the world agricultural community. The activities highlighted in this annual report attest to this. From improving international cooperation in exchanging agricultural information to developing procedures for full-text access, NAL continues its distinguished service to science and world agriculture. It is my pleasure to be associated with such a dedicated (and flexible) organization.

Pamela Q.J. André

Director

National Agricultural Library



Improving Services



Users in the temporary Public Services Room. (Click photo to enlarge.)

Renovating for a New Millennium of Service

Early in the 1990s, two major studies of the NAL facility were conducted. The first of these, a space survey, determined that the library would run out of space for its collection by the end of the decade. During 1999, NAL underwent a renovation of its first floor, with the immediate goal of improving public services and reorganizing staff space for more efficiency. The long-range goal was to free a floor in the tower that is now staff space and regain it for stack space. At the beginning of the fiscal year, most of the planning was finished, a contract was awarded September 29, 1998, and numerous preparatory moves were made. In October and November 1998, two suites of offices and workspace on the ground floor were remodeled to create a temporary service area, and the reference and document delivery services moved in late November. The employee parking lot, outdoor lighting and sidewalks, and the employee entrance were reconfigured and upgraded to accommodate the public, and the new service area opened on November 24, 1998.

In December 1998 and January 1999, the library completed moving the staff and parts of the collection in preparation for construction. The construction crews set up a staging area in front of NAL in January. Demolition of old offices, workspaces, reading rooms, and the lobby began on January 25 and was completed on March 5. Thereafter, construction progressed through several phases, beginning with plumbing and electrical work and continued with building walls, ceilings, and new floors by the end of the fiscal year. In the last 3 months of 1999, finishing work began, including the installation of paneling in the lobby, lighting, restroom fixtures, and painting.

While construction was progressing, numerous library staff members, organized by task groups, were busy selecting furniture, computer work stations and equipment, audiovisual equipment for meeting rooms, and exhibits and wall displays, as well as completing myriad details related to finishes—materials, textures, colors. Once decisions were made, orders and delivery dates were set for early in 2000.

By the end of 1999, the staff looked forward to completion of the construction in early 2000, with woodworking, carpeting, painting, and glazing remaining to be finished, and to the off-site manufacture and delivery of the new service and guard's desks. Using the theme "A New Millennium of Service," moving into the renovated space, the reopening for service, and a number of ceremonies were planned for early in the year 2000.

Upgrading Utility Systems and Other Renovations



Workers checking out the new cooling tower, completed in FY 1999. (Click photo to enlarge.)

The second of the two studies of the NAL facility involved a comprehensive review of the building components and utilities and identified numerous code, mechanical, electrical, and architectural deficiencies, which were expanded by recent problems. To correct any problems, a long-range plan was developed, and several projects were under way in 1999.

At the beginning of the fiscal year, the 14th floor sprinkler system project was completed. The construction contract ran from August to November 1998 and included installation of the sprinkler system, a new ceiling, and new lighting in some areas. Other lighting and audiovisual equipment were dismantled at the beginning of the project and reinstalled at the end of the project. Concurrently, the library had various areas repainted and recarpeted before the 14th floor was completely reoccupied in December 1998.

The construction phase called the cooling tower replacement project began in early FY 1999. In October and the first week of November 1998, workers prepared the NAL tower roof by removing old pipe from a shaft on the west side. On November 7, the old cooling tower was removed from the roof and the new cooling tower and pipes were lifted to the roof by helicopter. Construction of the system and testing were completed in April 1999.

After testing, the drinking water from fountains in the NAL tower revealed higher levels of lead than standards allow so the system was shut off and a water fountain system upgrade project began in November 1998. The project was divided into two phases: in the first phase, asbestos was removed from adjacent pipes in the various fountain locations and in the second phase, old pipes and fountain fixtures were removed and new pipes and fixtures were installed. The project was completed at the end of the fiscal year and use of the system resumed before the end of 1999. In the interim, staff and customers were supplied with bottled potable water.

In March 1999, the construction phase of the air-handling unit #1 replacement project began. Workers disassembled the old air-handling unit, pipes, and ducts and removed insulation on the penthouse level of the NAL tower. The demolished materials were brought down mostly by crane. Thereafter, the new air-handling unit, ducts, pipes, insulation, and related materials were lifted to the roof by crane and construction began. The new unit was completed and began operation in May, and testing and balancing were completed in June. Some aspects of this replacement project were postponed until the second air-handling unit was replaced.

By the end of FY 1999, the contract for the air-handling unit #2 replacement project had been let, and the project got under way during the remainder of the calendar year. Again, using a crane, the contractor removed the demolished old unit before lifting the new unit and related materials to the NAL tower roof. In conjunction with this project, modifications were made to the cooling tower, the reverse osmosis system for purifying the water in the HVAC system, the relationship to the first air handler, piping, and controls. The project was completed in early 2000.



Lifting part of the new air-handling unit to NAL's roof. (Click photo to enlarge.)

While all of these projects were being performed, planning was also under way for future projects. For example, planning continued for the renovation of one floor in the tower (4th or 5th floor) to convert it from office space to stack space. Planning continued for converting the heating system from oil to a dual oil/gas system, upgrading the lighting system in the stacks, and other upgrades in preparation for an energy savings performance contract. An electrical upgrade project was also being planned to improve the equipment, capacity, and efficiency of the electrical system throughout the building.



The crane for the new air-handling unit #2 project lifts new duct parts to the roof of the NAL tower. (Click photo to enlarge.)

New Contract Provides Additional Staffing Options

In September 1999, NAL implemented a 5-year contract with a firm from Fairfax, Virginia, to provide project-based services in a variety of labor categories, including librarian and computer programming services. This contract allows NAL to request specific projects or support from the contractor as needed, while reducing the administrative efforts needed to put each project in place. Implementation of this contract provides NAL with a valuable tool that can be used to meet a variety of needs: short-term staffing for special projects, interim staffing during long-term absences of Federal staff, special skills required for a particular project or initiative, consistent level of staffing in traditionally high turnover clerical and service positions, and an extra level of service when inhouse resources are not available. By creating additional options for staffing, the contract gives NAL more administrative flexibility and allows for the right type of personnel to be chosen for specific needs. Despite its relative newness, this contract is already being used to support projects in all three divisions of the library. By partnering with an 8A company on this contract, NAL supports USDA's mandate to encourage small and minority-owned businesses, while also providing additional flexibility in meeting its own staffing needs.

Electronic Document Delivery

Electronic receipt of document delivery requests continues to grow, although more slowly than in past years. Electronic requests accounted for 69 percent of all requests received this year and for 84 percent of all document delivery (non on-site use) requests. Electronic delivery of materials rose significantly this year, up 24 percent from FY 1998. Forty-three percent of all materials delivered in FY 1999 were delivered electronically.

CALS Service Transitions to *Current Contents*®

In 1998, as part of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Information Technology Management Initiative, an ARS-wide Research Information Needs Action Team was established to determine the information needs of ARS' research community. Based on the results of a survey directed toward ARS researchers, this team recommended that the present Current Awareness Literature Service (CALs) expand its services and reduce its costs by using *Current Contents*®. In 1999, CALs began offering the ARS community web-based access to *Current Contents Connect*® and mediated access to *Current Contents*® through the more traditional CALs service. This transition resulted in doubling the CALs customer base, while reducing the cost of the service.

AgNIC Fully Under Way

The Agriculture Network Information Center (AgNIC), <http://www.agnic.org>, began its first year working with an elected executive board. During the annual meeting held at NAL, 18 AgNIC Alliance members formed task forces to develop membership, funding opportunities, web design, statistics standards, and a technical requirements document for a new technical infrastructure. The prototype is in development. Over the year, subject coverage expanded from 6 to 23 topics. NAL created a permanent position for the AgNIC coordinator. The coordinator will continue to work on expanding membership and subject coverage of the center.

Technology Update

FY 1999 witnessed numerous advancements in information technology at NAL. A new e-mail solution was implemented, based on Microsoft Exchange and Outlook 98, as was worldwide e-mail access via a standard web browser. Remote access to NAL's computing resources was enhanced with the establishment of dial-up access to NAL's LAN file and print server and the implementation of a toll-free access number for staff. The renovation of the first floor presented an opportunity to expand the NAL network infrastructure. Equipment was purchased to support high-speed uplinks to the network backbone from the new wiring closets in the renovated space on the first floor. Specifications for new network and telephone wiring were developed and arrangements were made for wiring installation. The new backbone equipment installation took place in FY 2000.

In FY 1999, the new BARCNet backbone was installed in the NAL computer room. NAL serves as a critical node on this Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) campus backbone by being the junction point between BARC West and BARC East (including the George Washington Carver Center).

Substantial work was done in FY 1999 to prepare for the Y2K rollover. All hardware and software at NAL were inventoried to verify Y2K compliance. Where noncompliance was found, the equipment and software were either brought into compliance or arrangements were made for them to be retired. The Y2K efforts are expected to continue into FY 2000.

In addition to significantly upgrading established systems, several new servers were procured and brought online in support of various initiatives. The Rural Information Center Database was migrated to an NT server and the Electronic Media Center public NT server was established. A prototype agricultural database classification system was developed and brought online in support of the Agriculture Network Information Center (AgNIC). This system will migrate to an NT server in FY 2000. Unix development and production servers were purchased for the Food Safety Research Information Office and will be set up in FY 2000.

Computer Security

As in many other organizations, computer security has become a major concern at NAL. In FY 1998, NAL contracted for a thorough on-site assessment of our security posture. Areas of specific concern included our network infrastructure, server, and desktop security, existing security policies and procedures, and proposed future directions to correct vulnerabilities and limit security risks. In FY 1999, NAL began putting into practice many of the resulting recommendations, including the appointment of an information systems security officer, the procurement of a firewall, and an executive briefing for staff to heighten security awareness. Implementation of the firewall is expected in FY 2000.

Responding to Agricultural Concerns

NAL Helps Develop New Dietary Guidelines

NAL performed literature searches to assist members of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee who reviewed the 1995 edition of *Nutrition and Your Health: Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. Searches included uses of the Dietary Guidelines and the Food Guide Pyramid, whole grains and disease, folate intake, caloric intake, dairy products and fractures, food safety, and sugar substitutes and body weight. These revised guidelines, released in 2000, form the basis of Federal nutrition policy and assist consumers in making food choices for a healthy diet.

Food Safety Research Information Office Is Established

As a result of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reauthorization Act of 1998, the Food Safety Research Information Office (FSRIO) was established at NAL in March 1999. This office will provide the research community and the general public with information on publicly and privately funded food safety research initiatives. Following needs assessment activities to define stakeholder needs and identify existing resources related to food safety research, a prototype web site was presented to ARS Administrator's Council in September 1999. The site contains information about FSRIO, links to specific food safety research databases, program and planning documents, links to other food safety-related sites, and a "What's New" section. Plans for FY 2000 are to hire someone to head this office, officially launch the web site, and create a new FSRIO database.

NAL Provides Support to the Food Supply Working Group for the Y2K Conversion

Since September 1998, NAL has been performing literature searches in support of the Food Supply Working Group (FSWG) for the Year 2000 (Y2K) Conversion, using four different search strategies, including business journals, newspapers, and world reports; international trade and industry journals; Canadian newspapers; and the ABI Inform database providing information related to economic factors.

Dietary Supplements Information Needs Assessment Completed

NAL's Food and Nutrition Information Center and the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) at the National Institutes of Health assessed the need for information on dietary supplements. Survey results from 102 respondents from major health, nutrition, medical, and botanical organizations in the United States revealed a high degree of agreement for additional sources of information about dietary supplements. The greatest need was expressed for resources that summarize scientific information for consumers and professionals on safety, efficacy, and the role of dietary supplements in disease outcomes and prevention. The methods of providing information ranked most highly were web-based and phone-accessed information, followed by written information available by U. S. mail. An outline of various methods of providing information services and considerations related to these methods was presented to ODS.

AWIC Workshop

To help researchers, educators, veterinarians, facility managers, and others meet the information requirements of the 1985 amendments to the Animal Welfare Act, the Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) provides 1½-day workshops on how to search for alternatives to animal use in research or alternative methods of using animals. The workshop "Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act" includes a history of animal protective legislation in the United States, the concept of "alternatives," the concepts and mechanics of database searching, hands-on experience in database searching, and a discussion of participants' results. In FY 1999, about 65 people attended the three workshops. There has been an increased interest by outside organizations to have an abbreviated version of the workshop conducted at their facilities. In FY 1999, there were 11 shortened versions of the workshop conducted at other venues.

Interactive Training Initiative

In order for those regulated under the Animal Welfare Act to have access to the AWIC workshop "Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act," AWIC staff developed materials for an on-line tutorial. AWIC is receiving financial and other resource support for the project from the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing, the Office for Protection from Research Risks at NIH, the Veterans Administration, and the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. The project will be completed in 2001.

General Accounting Office Requested AWIC Services

AWIC was contacted by the General Accounting Office (GAO), which was evaluating the alternatives search for Department of Defense (DOD) protocols. GAO contracted with AWIC to do alternatives search for 24 protocols. The results were evaluated by a group of outside experts and reported to GAO. The report is *DOD Animal Research. Controls on Animal Use Are Generally Effective, but Improvements Are Needed*. The role of AWIC in providing alternative searches is referenced in the text, scope, and methodologies sections.

AWIC Representative on APHIS, ANIMAL CARE

At the request of the Deputy Administrator of APHIS, Animal Care, Tim Allen served on the development committee to write a policy document on environmental enrichment strategies for nonhuman primates. Other AWIC staff contributed to the editing of the document. The policy was published for public comment in the *Federal Register*, vol. 64, July 15, 1999 as the "Final Report on Environmental Enhancement to Promote the

Psychological Well-Being of Nonhuman Primates,” USDA, APHIS, AC. After 31,000 comments were reviewed, revisions were made to the original. When published in final form, the policy document will be used by licensed or registered facilities that use nonhuman primates.

ON-LINE WATER-RELATED PUBLICATIONS ADDED TO AGRICOLA

NAL’s Technical Services Division and Water Quality Information Center collaborated on a project to ensure that freely available on-line publications covering water and agriculture are identified and described in AGRICOLA. The goal is to make it easier for people to access these publications, which are difficult to locate since they are scattered across many different web sites. Records and linkages to more than 250 electronic resources have been added thus far.

Evaluation of Sustainable Agriculture Information Gaps



From left, Pamela Andre, director; Shirley Edwards, head, Indexing Branch (retired), and Sally Sinn, associate director, Technical Services, receiving the Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural Sciences for AGRICOLA. (Click photo to enlarge.)

The Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN), located at NAL, is the outreach and information arm of the Cooperative State Research Education, and Extension Service Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. SAN and SARE are working on two fronts to evaluate available information in sustainable agriculture, and subsequently to identify gaps in the research and information base. Dr. Marla Jackson was hired by the national SARE office to read and evaluate SARE project reports, with the help of SAN employee Kirsten Saylor. In addition, SAN has contracted with Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) to survey ATTRA’s 15 information specialists and search the sustainable agriculture literature to assess gaps in the area of farmer-ready publications. SAN and SARE staff will consult regularly on these projects over the coming months.

NAL Participates in USDA Millennium Council

NAL’s head of Special Collections serves on the USDA Millennium Council by participating in a wide variety of activities celebrating accomplishments of the past and looking to the future.

Special Collections provided research support for events such as the naming of the Henry A. Wallace Conference Room, located in USDA’s Jamie Whitten Building, the week-long celebration honoring George Washington Carver, and the Secretary’s Hall of Heroes. NAL was a primary source of historic photographs and exhibit materials, in addition to information resources.

Electronic Resources and Publications

Release of the International Bibliographic Information on Dietary Supplements Database

NAL and the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS), National Institutes of Health, launched a new web site to help researchers and the public find information on dietary supplements, called the International

Bibliographic Information on Dietary Supplements (IBIDS) Database. This site, located at http://ods.od.nih.gov/Health_Information/IBIDS.aspx, was launched at a press conference at the National Press Club on January 6, 1999. The IBIDS database now contains over 350,000 citations to literature published from 1986 to the present from a core database built around AGRICOLA, AGRIS International, and MEDLINE.



Susan Fugate (right) head of NAL's Special Collections, makes a presentation to the Beltsville Garden Club. (Click photo to enlarge.)

Child Care Nutrition Resource System Web Site Established

The Child Care Nutrition Resource System (CCNRS) prototype web site was established in September 1999 to assist day-care providers who participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Recipes, resources, and information on serving safe and nutritious meals to children in day-care settings are featured at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/childcare>.

Primate Enrichment Resource Publication Updated

In 1988, NAL and NIH, Office for Protection from Research Risks (OPRR) were directed by Congress to provide information on environmental enrichment for nonhuman primates. Since it has been several years since the first joint publication on the topic was issued, there had been a dramatic increase in the information published on the topic; therefore, the older publication was updated. AWIC received \$5,000 from OPRR for this project. The resulting document *Environmental Enrichment for Nonhuman Primates Resource Guidewas* expanded. It includes U.S. laws and regulations, organizations and web sites, primate centers and animal colonies, relevant listservs, product suppliers, audiovisuals, journals and newsletters, and an updated bibliography on the topic on the web at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/pubs/primates/primate.htm>.

AWIC Issues Four Publications

AWIC produced four publications in FY 1999. As always, the publications are on topics that AWIC is mandated to cover: training resources; alternatives that reduce, replace, or refine animal experimentation; and improved care for laboratory animals and for mammals kept in zoos and aquaria. The titles are as follows: (1) *Selected Web Sites for Biomedical, Pharmaceutical, Veterinary, and Animal Science Resources*, (2) *Information Resources for Livestock and Poultry Handling and Transport—1990–1998*, (3) *Information Resources for Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees. 1985–1999*, and (4) *Environmental Enrichment for Nonhuman Primates Resource Guide. January 1992–February 1999*. These publications are available at http://awic.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=3&tax_level=1&tax_subject=187.

Translation Program With Mexican University

The following AWIC publications were translated into Spanish through a cooperative program with the staff at the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon in Mexico: *Selected Databases for Biomedical, Pharmaceutical, Veterinary, and Animal Science Resources* and *Selected Web Sites for Biomedical, Pharmaceutical, Veterinary, and Animal Science Resources*. The web site publications were coded into HTML

and are available on the AWIC web site. The database document is on the AWIC web site at http://awic.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=3&tax_level=1&tax_subject=187.

A translation of the 2nd edition of *Essentials for Animal Research: A Primer for Research Personnel* by B.T. Bennett, M.J. Brown and J.C. Schofield is in process. It should be received by AWIC in 2000.

AWIC Web Site Activities

In the last year, many changes have occurred on the AWIC web site at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic>. Numerous documents have been added, the site has been restructured, subject areas have been expanded, searchable topics have been added, and links to other sites have been added. In addition to the laboratory animal information, farm animals have been highlighted, and ARS news releases regarding animals are routinely being selected for links. Usage of the whole site has increased dramatically. In October 1998, about 17,000 hits per month were recorded. By September 1999, over 30,000 hits per month were recorded with over 1,743,163 kilobytes being downloaded by users. The totals for the year are 280,856 hits and 13,219,196 kilobytes downloaded.

ENVIRO-NEWS Remains Popular

NAL's Water Quality Information Center continued to manage the popular Internet mailing list *Enviro-News*, which provides timely environmental news to about 500 subscribers. Subscribers receive notices of upcoming conferences and seminars, requests for proposals, calls for papers, announcements of funding and employment opportunities, and information about new web services at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/enviro.html>.

Pfiesteria Web Page Cited

The Water Quality Information Center's *Pfiesteria* web page at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/pfiest.html> was listed as one of five Federal sources of information about *Pfiesteria* in the Environmental Protection Agency's publication *What You Should Know About Pfiesteria piscicida*.

Water Resources Discussion Lists Noted

The electronic publication *Water Resources Discussion Lists* at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/lists.html>, developed by the Water Quality Information Center several years ago and updated continually, was cited as a "comprehensive list of water-related listservers" in an article on water and the Internet that appeared in the journal *Water International*, vol. 24, June 1999.

Electronic Bibliographies on Water Topics

Responding to emerging and high-interest issues, the Water Quality Information Center created bibliographies on aging dams, citizen participation and water quality, drought and water allocation, phytoremediation, risk assessment and communication, and source water protection at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/biblios.html>.

RIC Web Site Recognized

The Rural Information Center (RIC) web site at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric> received a Links2Go Key

Resource Award in the rural development area. The award is based on an analysis of millions of web pages. Nineteen web sites received this award.

RICHS Web Site Recognized

The Rural Information Center Health Service (RICHS) web site at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/richs> (link no longer available) was "accepted into the Healthlinks Directory, one of the most comprehensive on-line directories available specifically for the use of health-care professionals." In other recognition, the RICHS web site was chosen as HMS Beagle's "Web Pick of the Day." The site will be featured on the HMS Beagle homepage and listed on the Beagle's "Favorite Web Sites" page for 30 days, as well as being permanently listed in the Bio Med Link database of biological and medical web sites.

RIC Issued Internet FAQs

RIC staff issued two lists of information about resources on rural housing and small business development available on the Internet and posted them as FAQs on its web site. The "Rural Housing" FAQ provides information on available Federal and private programs to assist in home ownership, rental housing, home improvements, and more. It can be accessed at <http://ric.nal.usda.gov/>. The "Small Business" FAQ provides information on developing a business plan and funding assistance for small business development available

from local and Federal resources. It can be accessed at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/faqs/busnsfaq.htm> (link no longer available-see ric.nal.usda.gov).

Four Revised RIC Publications

RIC issued four revised publications in FY 1999 on subjects of great interest to rural communities, organizations, and citizens. They are: (1) *Federal Funding Sources for Rural Areas: Fiscal Year 2000*. The information in this publication is also loaded as a searchable database at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/funding/federalfund/ff.html>, (2) *A Guide to Funding Resources*, (3) *Financial Management for Local Governments*, and (4) *Managed Care and Rural America: An Annotated Bibliography, Rural Health in Brief*, which is also available electronically at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/ricpubs.htm>.

Support for Small Farms

Staff of the Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC) and the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) participated in USDA's Small Farms Initiative through attendance, participation, and exhibiting at conferences, such as Keep America Growing, where we cooperated with the American Farmland Trust (AFT) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service; the National Small Farm Conference (sponsored by the CSREES National Small Farm Program), St. Louis, Missouri, where we worked and jointly exhibited with ARS; and the National Small Farm Trade Show and Conference, Columbia, Missouri.

The revised and greatly expanded edition of "Sustainable Agriculture: Definitions and Terms" was published with small-scale farmers in mind and was widely circulated at the conferences listed above. It is available in print and electronically at http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/AFSIC_pubs/srb9902.htm. SAN published "Tip Sheets for Small Farms," available at <http://www.sare.org/san/htdocs/pubs>. AFSIC staff also participated in meetings related to the ARS Organic Farming Initiative, working with the Organic Farming Research Foundation on issues affecting small farms.

Sustainable Agriculture Publications

The Sustainable Agriculture Network, with offices located within AFSIC, published the following in 1999, all of which are available in hard copy and electronically at www.sare.org/san/htdocs/pubs

How to Conduct Research on Your Farm or Ranch

Diversify Crops to Boost Profits and Stewardship

Marketing Strategies for Farmers and Ranchers

Tip Sheets for Small Farms.

Seed Trade Catalog Collection Featured



*Dr. Frederick G. Meyer of the U.S. National Arboretum shows a prepublication copy of his new edition of **The Great Herbal of Leonhart Fuchs: De historia stirpium commentarii insignes** to NAL Director Pamela Andre (on left) and Susan Fugate, head, Special Collections. (Click photo to enlarge.)*

NAL's Seed Trade Catalog collection was featured in an article in the July 1999 issue of the *Agricultural Research* magazine, available on the world wide web at www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/jul99/folks0799.htm.

The more than 170,000 seed catalogs in this special library collection—dating as far back as the late 1700s—serve as a scholarly resource for botanists, historians, statisticians, landscape architects, and others and offer a nostalgic glimpse of old-time American farming and gardening. The catalogs describe thousands of trees, shrubs, bulbs, and other plants that farmers and gardeners of yesteryear bought from seed companies, nurseries, and growers. Advertisements in some catalogs display farm and garden implements, such as an "improved" horse-drawn lawnmower and special "horse boots" to keep the animal from "sinking in damp or soft ground."

Library users have combed the catalogs to find out more about the history of a particular nursery implement or gardening tool, or to trace the inadvertent sale—and resulting spread—of plants today regarded as weeds. Begun in 1904, the collection has been enhanced by donations from attics and files of nursery companies and institutions, such as the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, University of California at Berkeley, and the Brooklyn Botanical Garden in New York City.

USDA History Collection Web Site Expanded

NAL continued to provide and improve access to the USDA History Collection, the best single source for information on the history of American agriculture. The third year of this project, considered a model of interagency cooperation, led to improved organization and access to materials within the collection and also allowed NAL to begin to preserve some of the brittle and deteriorating documents. Consisting of more than

800,000 pages (onion skins, mimeographs, news clippings, and original correspondence), 5,000 photographs, 8,000 books and journals, and numerous audiovisual items, this collection is described by researchers as a unique historical resource. During FY 1999, NAL

- provided access to more than 50 on-site researchers and filled 205 requests for copies of individual documents, films, or photographs;
- fielded over 475 inquiries through the web access that previously required extensive staff research and response;
- increased access by processing segments of the collection and adding item descriptions to the USDA History Collection web site;
- preserved information contained in 900 items by creating preservation photocopies;
- completed conservation treatment for 10 items;
- added comprehensive, subject-oriented presentations to the web site on topics, such as Henry Agard Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, 1933–1940; Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, 1945–1948; Charles F. Brannan, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, 1944–1948; Secretary of Agriculture, 1948–1953; Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture, 1953–1961; Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture, 1961–1969; Paul H. Appleby, Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, 1933–1940; Under Secretary of Agriculture, 1940–1944; Mordecai Ezekiel, Assistant Chief Economist for the Federal Farm Board, 1930–1933; Economic Advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture, 1933–1939; Rexford G. Tugwell, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, 1933–1934; Undersecretary of Agriculture, 1934–1936; images and full text of selected documents; references and bibliographies; and links to other resources, such as subject experts, associations, and other manuscript and library collections;
- provided demonstrations and instructional workshops on use of the web site and the collection to USDA staff and administrators;
- requested and received additional funding to continue to provide access and preserve this valuable resource.

The web site URL is <http://www.nal.usda.gov/speccoll/collect/history/index.htm>.

CD-ROM Sampler of Screwworm Eradication Collection Developed

The successful eradication of the New World screwworm is a model of the power of agricultural research and interagency cooperation and is one of America's greatest agricultural achievements. NAL's Screwworm Eradication Collection project, initiated in 1997, continued during FY 1999 to document the events and people who made this story such a success. NAL built the collections and continued to improve access through collection surveys, preservation reformatting, and creation of a [web site](#).

Project Manager Lynn Jones Stewart surveyed the collections and identified key documents, oral histories, and films that illustrate the history of the program that made the eradication possible. This story will be told in a multimedia CD-ROM to be distributed during the fourth quarter of 2000. The sampler will also

demonstrate NAL's ability to improve access to rare historic materials through electronic products.

Significant FY 1999 acquisitions to the collection include original materials of Dr. Edward F. Knipling, one of the key researchers who led the effort to develop screwworm eradication methods.

Other Highlights

AWIC Staff Make Presentations at Two International Meetings

On June 21, Jean Larson presented a paper about the AWIC program to approximately 150 participants at the 10-year anniversary of the ZEBET program. ZEBET (Zentralstelle zur Erfassung und Bewertung von Ersatz und Ergänzungsmethoden zum Tierversuch) is an agency of the German Federal Government that is responsible for the development of a database on validated alternative testing methodologies. The anniversary symposium was held in Berlin, Germany, June 20–21. Participants included researchers, organizations, and information providers from Europe and the United States.

Michael Kreger attended the Third World Congress on Alternatives to Animal Use in the Life Sciences. The congress was held from August 29–September 2 in Bologna, Italy. Kreger was an invited panelist on the topic of resources for finding alternative methodologies. He also gave a presentation on world wide web sources on alternative methods, participated in discussions of potential collaborations on the development of an “alternatives” thesaurus, participated in developing a central information reference point on the world wide web, and participated on the planning committee for the 4th World Congress to be held in Boston in 2002.

AWIC Usage Statistics

In FY 1999, AWIC responded to more than 1,900 reference requests, and distributed over 23,400 publications. Training was provided to about 300 people; 19 presentations reached over 714 people; and 3 exhibits reached about 900 people.

Sharing Experiences With Information Professionals

Water Quality Information Center staff presented the session “Observations on Managing an Internet Mailing List: The *Enviro-News* Experience” at the Agricultural Communicators in Education/National Extension Technology Conference, held in Knoxville, Tennessee, in June.

Paper Helps People Locate Water Information

Staff from the Water Quality Information Center presented the paper “Electronic Sources of Water Resources Information from the National Agricultural Library” at the American Society of Agricultural Engineers annual international meeting, held in Toronto, Canada, in July.

Interagency Agreement with Forest Service

The Rural Information Center prepared a two-volume resource guide for the Forest Service staff at the six national forests in Arizona. *Arizona Resources* comprises local, state, and Federal resources for economic and community development, tourism, historic preservation, environmental and natural resources, and land stewardship.

RIC Responds to Congressional Requests

During FY 1999, the Rural Information Center staff responded to 93 Congressional requests. These requests included identification of funding sources for a rural recreation center, municipal airport improvements, economic assistance for a Native American tribe, a rural correctional facility to hire more correctional officers, construction of a rural dam or water spillway, a food- processing facility, children's after-school programs, waterfront development, homeless shelters, a small Internet business, repair of rural storm damage, aid to new farmers, a public works facility, a veterans' memorial, rural public libraries, and a community visitor center. Besides giving funding sources, the responses supplied information on emergency medical technician training, public safety courses, affordable rural housing, developing a community education center, purchasing firefighting equipment, extending water lines to homes with poor well water, supporting youth programs for first-time offenders, restoring and preserving historic buildings, the Community Supported Agriculture program, and the Welfare to Work program.

Opportunities in Sustainable Agriculture

"Educational and Training Opportunities in Sustainable Agriculture," a directory of farms, institutions, and organizations offering internships, academic programs, or outreach activities that promote ideas and techniques for sustainable agriculture, has been compiled and published annually by AFSIC for the past 11 years. This year, AFSIC cooperated with the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) to avoid duplication of effort and to make more effective use of resources. ATTRA assumed responsibility for all internship or apprenticeship listings, while AFSIC will continue to survey and list academic institutions and organizations involved in sustainable agriculture.

Document Delivery Services Proposes New Fee Schedule

The library is charged with recovering the costs of providing interlibrary loan and document delivery services. After an extensive review, the library decided that increased fees for photographic reproduction and an added fee for material loans were necessary in order to continue to provide cost-effective service. NAL also analyzed user fees charged by other scientific and academic libraries and proposed a revision to the current document delivery fee schedule. Revised fees will not be applied to USDA patrons, Federal entities, or cooperators or institutions with NAL quid pro quo agreements. A proposed rule for the revised fee schedule was published for comment in the *Federal Register* on August 16, 1999. The library has put forward the final rule for this change in fees and expects the rule to be published in the *Federal Register* in the winter of 1999/2000 with implementation of the new costs to be effective in late 2000.

Cooperation Continues With the Egyptian National Agricultural Library

The Document Delivery Services Branch worked closely with Mary Jackson, a consultant from the Association of Research Libraries, in providing information toward the design of a curriculum for document delivery librarians at the Egyptian National Agricultural Library (ENAL). Jackson spent time reviewing NAL's services and processes as well as developing an understanding of document delivery needs unique to the agricultural research community. This was in preparation for providing a week of instruction at ENAL. This effort proved very successful in assisting with establishing standards and policies, identifying tools, and introducing the application of new technologies to the ENAL document delivery service. One of the results of this cooperative effort

will be a letter of agreement between NAL and ENAL that makes NAL a primary document supplier of U.S. imprinted materials.

USDA Celebrates George Washington Carver Week, October 4–8, 1999

Special Collections staff members provided early research about George Washington Carver for event planners. For the National Agricultural Library's contribution to George Washington Carver Week, Special Collections created an exhibit based on the Carver personnel records borrowed from the National Archives and Records Administration. The exhibit also highlighted Carver's relationship with Henry A. Wallace, as well as publications written by Carver, which are located in the library.

NAL Expands National Microfilm Archive

The National Agricultural Library began phase 2 of its project to establish a national microfilm archive for significant national, state, and local agricultural literature. In January, the library obtained microfilm master negatives of the Land Grant Agricultural Publications Microfilming Project of the 1970s and early 1980s from Bell & Howell, and in April, NAL contracted with Imagemax (formerly the Spaulding Company) to obtain the remaining microfilm master negatives from this project. The library has also received and processed the microfilm master negatives from phase 1 of the current United States Agricultural Information Network/National Endowment for the Humanities (USAIN/NEH) microfilming initiative from Auburn University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Penn State University. Receipt of the microfilm from Bell & Howell and from phase 1 of the USAIN/NEH project expands the archive by about 1,150 reels of microfilm master negatives, and the microfilm from Imagemax will add about 1,900 more reels. The next step in the archive expansion will be adding the microfilm master negatives from phase 2 of the USAIN/NEH microfilming initiative in 2000. The archive is housed in preservation quality storage at Iron Mountain-National Underground Storage in Boyers, Pennsylvania.

Table 1. Growth of NAL collections

Collection item	1997	1998	1999
Printed items			
Monographs	20,343	22,825	16,901
Serial volumes	15,114	13,678	11,368
Withdrawn volumes	(2,993)	(11,772)	(5,480)
Net volumes added	32,464	24,731	22,789
Nonprinted items			
Microforms	1,061,240	1,068,235	1,071,337
Audio	430	433	461
Graphic	1,079	1,105	819
Film and video	3,153	3,410	3,529
Electronic information	972	1,316	1,461
Maps	1,493	1,607	1,648
Total items in collections			
Total print volumes	2,267,793	2,292,524	2,315,313
Total nonprint items	<u>1,068,367</u>	<u>1,076,106</u>	<u>1,079,255</u>
Total collection	3,336,160	3,368,630	3,394,568

Manuscripts (linear feet)	18,382	18,491	18,526
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Table 2. Technical Services activities

Activity	1997	1998	1999
Articles indexed by			
NAL	70,942	61,647	58,278
Other	<u>2,947</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>19,108</u>
Total	73,889	74,147	77,306
Abstracts	25,334	27,898	26,653
Titles cataloged by			
NAL	15,778	16,143	15,338
Other	<u>920</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>188</u>
Total	16,698	16,693	15,526
Other cataloging activity			
NACO* headings	1,139	1,005	1,085
CONSER* records	583	489	576
BIBCO* records	300	363	417
Acquisition funds expended			
Serials, including series	\$1,966,459	\$1,941,125	\$2,229,050
Monographs	<u>287,986</u>	<u>308,617</u>	<u>248,771</u>
Total	\$2,254,445	\$2,249,742	\$2,477,821
Titles sent to cataloging			
Monographs	9,620	8,188	7,025
Serials	<u>571</u>	<u>532</u>	<u>804</u>
Total	10,191	8,720	7,829
Serial volumes added	15,114	13,678	11,368

*NACO, CONSER, and BIBCO are components of the international Program for Cooperative Cataloging. The statistics for *NACO, CONSER, and BIBCO are NAL's annual contributions of name authority records, serials cataloging, and monograph cataloging, respectively. NACO = National Coordinated Cataloging Operations, CONSER = Cooperative On-Line Serials Program, and BIBCO = the name of a library-services company.

Table 3. Information Services Activities

Activity	1998	1999
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Reference Requests		
Reference requests processed	32,476	24,990
Requests received electronically	9,408	6,165
Responses delivered electronically	8,323	5,852
Document Delivery Requests		
Received	166,666	159,099
Filled	143,409	131,725
Received electronically	62%	69%
Delivered electronically	34%	43%
Source of Requests		
USDA	59%	61%
Non-USDA	41%	39%
Hits on web sites		
NAL home pages	7,575,401	10,742,087
AgNIC (Agriculture Network Information Center)		
AgNIC central server	2,416,634	3,875,570
AgNIC alliance sites	NA	14,617,539
Total	NA	18,493,109

Table 4. Information Systems Activities

Activity	1998	1999
AGRICOLA		
New records	87,989	80,201
Corrected records	435	786
Deleted records	55	104
Records to AGRIS*	46,186	46,472

***AGRIS is a worldwide bibliographic database maintained by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization.**

NAL Electronic Addresses

Agricultural Network Information Center (being developed by NAL)
 Alternative farming systems
 Animal welfare information
 Availability of specific titles and NAL lending policy

agnic@agnic.org
nalafsic@nal.usda.gov
awic@nal.usda.gov
circinfo@nal.usda.gov

Education Programs Unit, which handles tours and demonstrations of NAL systems

epu@nal.usda.gov

Food and nutrition information

fnic@nal.usda.gov

Gift and exchange information

giftexch@nal.usda.gov

Interlibrary loan or document delivery requests

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/services/ask.php>

NAL's branch at USDA headquarters in Washington, DC

dcrc@nal.usda.gov

News media inquiries on NAL

paffs@nal.usda.gov

Reference services

agref@nal.usda.gov

Rural development and rural health information

ric@nal.usda.gov

Special Collections Section, which handles rare books and collections of research materials of noted agriculturalists

speccoll@nal.usda.gov

Transfer of new agricultural technology from the Federal Government to private enterprise

ttic@nal.usda.gov

Water quality information

wqic@nal.usda.gov

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