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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Lect. - FAO-SIDA Trng Course 20/6/74 Svalöv

1. FAD role - in genetic resources -

Coordination of collection, maintenance, utilization, documentation
global basis -

2. G R - what are they?

Why important now?

Who has what, and where

3. These functions all require information, ~~information~~ ^{communication.}
a system to gather and distribute it.

A. G R - C.I.D.S.

What it is,
what it does -

B. How does it work - where do the data come from?

Institutions - national or international.

Individuals working in these -

Collectors, managers of storage units,
plant quarantine experts, plant breeders,
All these generate (produce) data
about the G-R.

C. At present, there is an informal system -

Use it as a model, and try for improvements -

So that a breeder can ask:

What institution has collections of wheat that
have shown resistance to septoria disease -



3. C. or I want the best G-R of maize to start a program of improvement in Zambia, to raise the amino acid values of maize in that country - what + where are the best varieties to start with -

4. These types of questions, on a global basis, or on an individual basis, require the employment of a computer system to handle the tremendous quantities of data -

The TAXIR system, designed in my laboratory, was built for just such data -

A. The input - organization of data -

Descriptors - descriptor states

examples

Collector

Institution

Accession no.

Genetic data

Breeder data

Resistance data -

Use data -

B. These data placed in data banks -

An individual may have his own data bank.

An institution (res. sta.) has several data banks -

A coordinating unit has all the data banks -

Data banks organized to answer the questions
similar to examples given -

So that all who need to know may have
access