



Nuclear Knowledge Preservation in Croatia

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Since the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA, Vienna, Austria) was founded in 1957 as an autonomous intergovernmental organization, it was authorized for exchange of technical and scientific information on peaceful uses of atomic energy. 35 years ago the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) was established from IAEA as an international bibliographic database in the nuclear field and in nuclear related areas. INIS as an instrument for a comprehensive and systematic dissemination of all information and knowledge becomes a big technological and science information system with 134 Members (114 countries and 20 international organizations). In INIS Membership Arrangements all Members are responsible for the collection, selection, description of information and providing the Agency with the full text of each item of non-conventional literature. Participation of each Member is important because decentralized information management is an operational philosophy of INIS. During all these years status of nuclear power changed significantly in the world. Some developing countries started to develop nuclear power programme and some developed countries showed tendency to decrease use of nuclear power. Anyway, expert knowledge accumulated over decades and the achievements in the field of nuclear science and technology have to be preserved and later transferred to future generations. It became obvious that the INIS is practically a pioneer in the area of nuclear knowledge preservation with well defined goals of knowledge preservation: selection of the most valuable information to convey to the future, ensuring that it remains accessible, readable and understandable and management of technological change. Main components of knowledge preservation are: selection of information for preservation including evaluation and prioritisation by value, use and risk, information capture (purchasing, copy, digitise, web links), describing, classifying, store and access providing. For nuclear knowledge preservation non-conventional literature (NCL - PhD thesis, conference papers, patent documents, laws, scientific and technical reports...) is more important than conventional literature because NCL is not readily available through commercial channels. Almost 30% of the INIS database comes from NCL making this database very interesting and unique. Another segment of nuclear knowledge preservation is capturing tacit knowledge where is important to define what is tacit knowledge, why it should be captured, from whom and how. The Republic of Croatia joined INIS on 29 September 1994. Croatian membership in INIS was established as a decentralized system. Croatia was strongly involved in all activities in knowledge and information management by continuous covering of NCL from nuclear and nuclear related fields. Input submitting was continuous with significant increase of input records. Also, Croatia joined group of INIS Members, which was working on voluntary input in INIS Database contributing and improving quality and quantity of the database. In last two INIS Training Seminars, Croatia showed some initiatives to start with a nuclear knowledge preservation project which will emphasised importance and value of tacit knowledge.

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