TRANSLATION INDEXES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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Describes some of the important translation indexes in science and technology published in India and abroad which are useful for the English speaking scientists. Salient features and drawbacks of World Transindex, Translations Register-Index, BLLD Announcement Bulletin, Aslib Index of Unpublished Translations, National Index of Translations, etc. have been discussed.

INTRODUCTION

Translations are a vital source of information like other primary sources such as patents, research reports, periodicals, standards, etc. because it is the only source available to check duplication of knowledge already in existence but not accessible due to language barrier. As translation of scientific and technical documents is very expensive and time consuming, several networks of translation agencies, holding centres and international clearing houses have been developed in various parts of the world which provide access to the existing translations through their indexes.

TRANSLATION INDEXES

Indexes Published in Foreign Countries

Some of the translation indexes in the field of science and technology which are important for the English speaking world are described below.

1. Translations Register-Index (TR-I)

It is a semi-monthly publication being issued by the National Translations Centre (NTC), Chicago, since 1967. It is the index of unpub-
The index does not provide a source index and subject index for search on specific topics.

3. Aslib Index of Unpublished Translations

Since 1951, Aslib has been maintaining a central card index of English translations from all languages on various subjects, particularly with emphasis on science and technology. It is purely a location tool for unpublished translations which Aslib uses in handling inquiries on translations. At present, the index contains more than 500,000 entries; the rate of additions of new translations is about 10,000 items per year. Information of translations is collected from over 400 sources in the UK and from several overseas organisations.

Bibliographic details of translations of periodical articles are filed alphabetically by the title of the periodical in the original language. Within each periodical title, details of articles are filed chronologically, i.e., by year, volume, number, and pages. The periodical section contains entries for some of the well-known report series and these are filed alphabetically by the report code, and then numerically by the report number, but most reports are filed under the author's name in the author section.

The author section is housed separately from the rest of the index. It includes details of translations which are not periodical articles, patents, or standards. If there is no personal author or editor, then it is entered under the issuing organisation. Some items such as decrees and safety regulations are filed under the country of origin.

Patents and standards are filed by country of origin. Patents are usually straightforward, being numbered chronologically. In the case of patents, sometimes the year of issue is a necessary point of reference. Standards are filed alphabetically by the standards code, then by the number [4].

4. World Transindex

It is published by the International Translations Centre, Delf (the Netherlands) jointly with the Directorate General for Scientific and Technical Information Management of the Commission of the European Communities in Luxemburg and the Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre of the Central National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Paris. The World Transindex was formed in 1978 by merging the following publications [5-8].

i. World Index of Scientific Translations and List of Translations Notified to the International Translations Centre;

ii. Transatom Bulletin;

iii. Bulletin des Traductions

World Transindex announces about 32,000 translations per year from all the source languages into all the target languages. It consists of five sections, i.e., references, source index, author (personal) index, corporate author index, and patentee index. In the references, the translations are arranged according to subject headings based on the COSATI system and within the subject heading according to World Transindex Reference Number. The source and author indexes are cumulated annually.

An important feature of World Transindex is that it includes many translations that are published in the selected article journals including a substantial number published as part of the US Joint Publications Research Service. These are not announced in other translations indexes. The list of periodicals currently translated cover-to-cover is published in its issue number 1 and in the annual index. A microfiche edition of World Transindex is also being considered.

The drawback of this index is that it does not provide a subject index for retrospective search by specific topics.

World Transindex Database

It is a database of World Transindex which is produced by means of the PASCAL system developed by CNRS. Information announced on translations is stored simultaneously in a central database. It permits the production of profile printouts. It is available for on-line access also [8]. Since 1st Sept 1980, this database was made available on-line to users as file 33 of the Information Retrieval Service.
(IRS) in Frescati, Italy. This is accessed from U.K. via the Dialtech Service of the Department of Industry. World Transindex Database holds details of scientific and technical translations collected since 1978 by the International Translations Centre in the Netherlands and CNRS. As the information is on-line, it is easy to provide various approaches to information such as type of documents, target/source languages, publication year, title and subject index terms [13, 14].

5. Journals in Translation

It is a guide to journals containing translations. It is published jointly by the International Translations Centre, Delft, the Netherlands and the British Library Lending Division, Boston Spa (U.K.). This publication lists journals which are translated cover-to-cover, or selectively, together with journals which contain translations of articles selected from multiple sources. It contains nearly 1000 titles, current and ceased and covers all subject fields. In addition to the main alphabetical listing of titles, it provides a KWIC index, an index of original titles and a list of publishers and/or distributing agents.

A compact version of Journals in Translation is available from the Instituto de Informacion y Documentacion en Ciencia y Tecnologia, Joaquin Costa 22, Madrid, Spain [3, 11].

6. Index Translationum

It is an annual bibliography of translated books, published by the UNESCO since 1948. It covers only translated books in all the subjects from various countries of the World. The entries are arranged by the name of countries and within the country, under ten major divisions of Universal Decimal Classification. Under the subject headings, entries are arranged by author and where appropriate, by editor or compiler (for anthologies), in alphabetical order. An alphabetical index of principal authors is provided at the end of the volume [12]. The thirtieth edition of index translationum - 1981 contains 50,428 books that were translated during 1977 in seventy countries [13].

INDEXES PUBLISHED IN INDIA

1) National Index of Translation (NIT)

The NIT is a monthly index of unpublished translations done in India, and being brought out by the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC), New Delhi since January 1981. It lists unpublished English translations of scientific and technical documents. It covers periodicals, monographs/books, patents, standards and specifications, research reports, manuals, proceedings of seminars and symposia etc. published in foreign languages. The entries are arranged under various subject headings derived from Universal Decimal Classification scheme and within each subject heading according to their authors [14]. NIT announced 2500 translated items in 1981. Each entry in the NIT provides information on author, translated title, source language, pages, citation, name of translation agency and translation number.

Specimen Entry of NIT

UDC No. 546.3.9
Author OKADA Y, SANTO T
Translation Agency INSDOC, New Delhi
Translation No. TN - 23177

At present, this publication is providing an author index and permuted subject index as supporting indexes. The inclusion of permuted subject index is the unique feature of this publication. However, this publication is deficient in the following areas:

1) NIT does not provide source index i.e. index of periodicals/publications indexed;
2) Inconsistency in presentation of the title of the periodicals/documents.

2) DESIDOC Transindex

DESIDOC Transindex is the index of translations done at or procured by Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre (DESI-
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DOC), Delhi. At present, it is an annual index of English translations of periodical articles, reports, patents, conference proceedings, standards and specifications, monographs, books, manuals (instructions, operational, repair etc) which are of interest to Defence R&D. This index has been started since 1980.

In this index the translations are arranged under broad subject headings. It provides author, source, subject and translations number indexes for searching information from various approaches. Each entry in the main part of index provides information regarding author, translated title, complete reference, place of availability and translation number.

3) Translation Bulletin

It is a quarterly bulletin published by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay, Bombay. It is an index of English translations done at BARC and covers translations mainly in the field of nuclear science. The arrangement of translations in this index is language-wise. Each entry provides information regarding BARC - translation number, translated title of the articles, author and reference. It does not provide any supporting index such as author, subject, source etc. for search.

4) NAL Technical Translations

It is an index of scientific and technical translation in English in the field of aeronautics done at the National Aeronautical Laboratory, Bangalore. In this index, translations are arranged under standard subject headings based on the NASA thesaurus. Each entry gives the name of the author, the translated title in English, the source of publication of the original article and the NAL translation accession number. It provides author index and language index.

NAL Technical Translations 1980 contains a complete list of 635 technical translations from French, German, Russian, Italian, Japanese, Swedish, Czech, Dutch, Polish and Ukrainian which were undertaken by the NAL upto the end of July 1980.

5) Index to Translations (BHEL)

Index to Translations is published by the Corporate Research and Development Division of BHEL, Hyderabad. This index is a list of current holdings of translations available at various Technical Information Centres of BHEL. The index is organised according to broad groups reflecting the product profile of BHEL and disciplinary areas of interest such as Applied Mechanics, Heat Transfer, Tribology etc. Entries are repeated in more than one group wherever they are of a multidisciplinary character. Each provides information regarding author, translated title, reference and source language. An author index is appended to the bibliographic part of the index. Index to Translations - 1980 lists translations acquired or carried out till April 1980 and contains 833 titles.

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**Appendix - 1**

**Technical Details of National and International Services**

1. **World Transindex**
   - **Coverage**: Periodical literature, patents, standards, reports, books proceedings, etc.
   - **From**: all source languages
   - **Into**: all target languages
   - **On**: all the fields of science and technology
   - **Frequency**: Monthly
   - **Delay**: several months
   - **Issued by**: International Translations Centre, Delft, the Netherlands
   - **Status**: International

2. **Translations Register-Index**
   - **Coverage**: Periodical literature, patents, standards, reports, books proceedings, etc.
   - **From**: all source languages
   - **Into**: English only
   - **On**: all the fields of science and technology
   - **Frequency**: Semi-monthly
   - **Delay**: several months
   - **Issued by**: National Translations Centre (USA)
   - **Status**: National

3. **BLLD Announcement Bulletin**
   - **Coverage**: Periodical literature, patents, standards, reports, books, proceedings, theses, etc.
   - **From**: all source languages
   - **Into**: English only
   - **On**: all the fields of science and technology
   - **Frequency**: Monthly
   - **Delay**: several months
   - **Issued by**: British Library Lending Division Boston Spa (U.K.)
   - **Status**: National

4. **ASLIB Index of Unpublished Translations**
   - **Coverage**: Periodical literature, patents, standards, reports, books, proceedings, etc.
   - **From**: all source languages
   - **Into**: English only
   - **On**: all the fields of science and technology
   - **Frequency**: Not published
   - **Maintained by**: ASLIB, London
   - **Status**: International
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### 5. Index Translationum

- **Coverage**: Books only
- **From**: all source languages
- **Into**: all target languages
- **On**: all subject fields
- **Frequency**: annual
- **Delay**: several years
- **Issued by**: UNESCO, Paris
- **Status**: International

### 6. National Index of Translations (India)

- **Coverage**: Periodical literature, monographs and books, patents, standards and specifications, proceedings, etc.
- **From**: all source languages
- **Into**: English only
- **Frequency**: Monthly
- **Delay**: several months
- **Issued by**: INSDOC, New Delhi
- **Status**: National