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INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION IN THE SUDAN
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
SUDAN INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE ✓

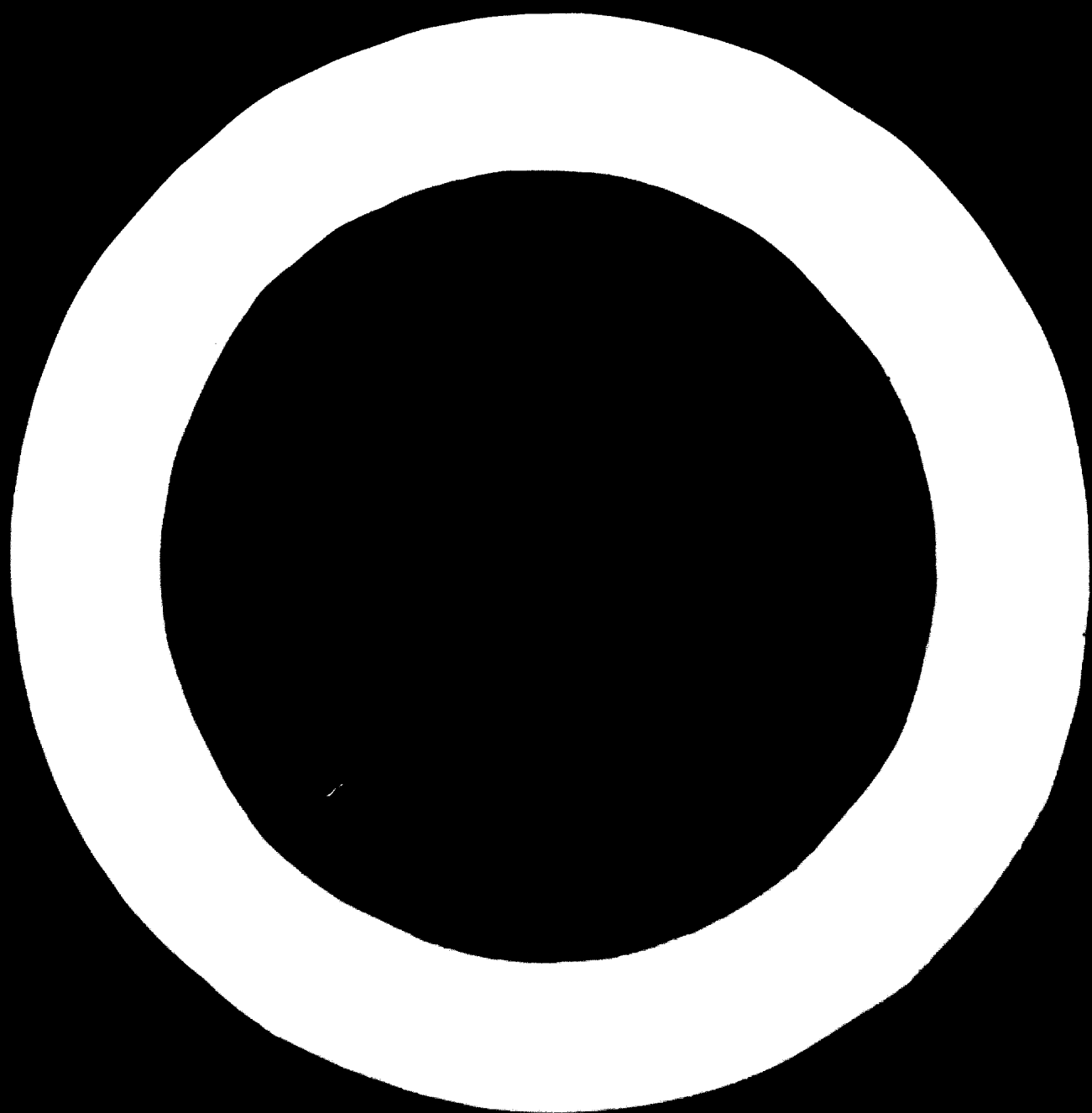
by

Cecile Wesley
Sudan Industrial Research Institute

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We regret that some of the pages in the microfiche copy of this report may not be up to the proper legibility standards, even though the best possible copy was used for preparing the master fiche.



INTRODUCTION

The economy of Sudan was dependent mainly on agriculture. Industry has taken its first step in 1956 with the introduction of Approved Enterprises "concession" act which encouraged investment in industry.

Usually the demand for industrial information corresponds with the degree of industrial development. As industry is still in its early stages of development in the Sudan, there is not yet an established or a flourishing system of industrial information. The existing library services in industrial organizations such as the Food Processing Research Centre, the Industrial Bank, the National Building Research Station, the Productivity Centre are quite inadequate and limited.

THE SUDAN INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, which has changed names to Industrial Consultancy Corporation, is a joint UNIDO and Ministry of Industry project founded in 1965 with the aim of aiding and promoting the development of industry. The Institute's main departments are: Chemical Industries, Food Industries, Metal Industries, Engineering Production, Chemical and Mechanical Testing, Economic Studies, Coordination Departments, and Documentation and Information Section.

The library of this section has a collection of almost 4,000 books classified according to Dewey Decimal Classification, with a classified, subject and author catalogue. It subscribes to about 75 journals, and has complete sets of English, American, German, Indian, Egyptian, ISO and other standards. It also has a good collection of UNIDO and other organization's documents.

For current awareness services a monthly list of new acquisitions is issued and a cumulated up-dated classified catalogue of the library's holdings is periodically published.

There is also a reprographic unit for the photo-reproduction of documents whether in paper or book form. Plans are being made to start and build up a file library.

The documentation and information section is doing well on the first two basic functions of acquiring and organizing information material, but more effort is needed to develop the third basic function, that of dissemination of information. This function, as you know, calls for the deeper insight into the contents of documents by analyzing and synthesizing information materials, current awareness services, and selective dissemination of information.

PROBLEMS:

1. Lack of library and industrial information legislation to establish, support and promote their cause.
2. Lack of national centralized efforts to organize, co-ordinate and upgrade industrial information services
3. Lack of information mindedness on one hand, and lack of feedback to the documentation and information section on the other.
4. Lack of qualified professional personnel resulting from lack of formal instruction at a graduate level for librarians, documentalists, and industrial information officers in the Sudan.

CHALLENGES:

The Sudan has felt the need for national planning of documentation and information facilities. Recently, a National Research Council was established. One of its aims is to establish a national scientific and technical documentation and information service through the help of UNFSCO.

Plans are also being made with the help of UNIDO to develop the Documentation and Information Section of Sudan Industrial Research Institute to serve industry on a national scale. Studies should be made to decide on the functions of each to avoid duplication and to promote co-ordination and co-operation between these two proposed national efforts.

Studies are also needed to establish a publication policy and system to facilitate the flow and transfer of local information within one industrial institution, nationally and internationally. A legal depository law needs to be issued for all published and unpublished reports and studies.

There is also need that the Documentation and Information Section be administratively treated on equal level with other departments of the Institute, and that it recruit industrialists to perform the analytico-synthesis of industrial information and to serve as liaison with industry.

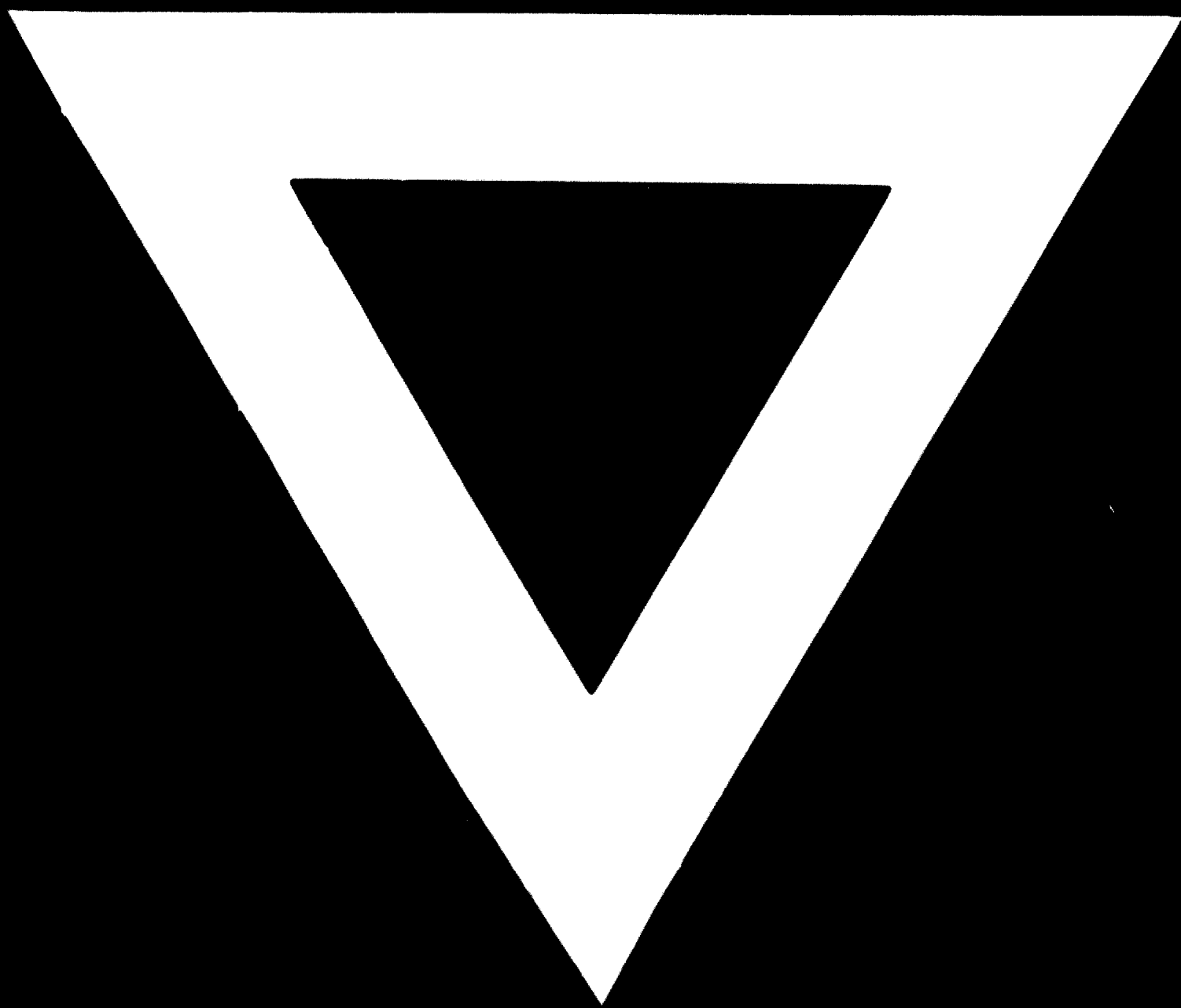
SUGGESTIONS FOR UNIDO AND OTHER LEADING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION:

1. To set up standards for industrial information services, and to guide developing countries, that are establishing such services, as to the basic requirements for reference collection, equipment, services, personnel's size and qualifications.
2. To promote awareness of the role of information in industrial development especially to administrators, top government officials, and information users. Various UNIDO seminars may devote study and discussion of the role of information in solving individual technical problems and in contributing to industrial development.
3. To publish and share their experience in assisting the establishment of national industrial information facilities as in Bulgaria, Iran, and Saudi Arabia, and of regional information centers such as IDCAS.

CONCLUSION:

Developing countries are grateful to international organizations, especially UNIDO for their help in establishing industrial information services, and for assistance in training their staff. May our information services efficiently transfer technical developments from industrially developed countries, assist in local research done to accelerate industrial development, and promote international exchange and cooperation.





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