From the Editors: Considering the importance of scientific and technical information, and that such information in the power field is not organized and carried out on the necessary level, the Editor would like to receive readers' comments on these questions. In submitting articles by K. M. Sadilenko on general questions of scientific and technical information, and M. I. Tokar' on the scientific and technical information system in the field of power and electrification, the Editor asks readers to familiarize themselves with the published material and to forward their comments and proposals to the Editor.

THE ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

K. M. Sadilenko

For every scientist, engineer, designer, and rationalizer to make use of the latest scientific and technical advances quickly and universally, they must obtain reliable and complete scientific and technical information* at the appropriate time.

The rapid rate of scientific and technical advance has resulted in a vast growth in the amount of information. Frequently, inadequate information by experts results in duplication of scientific research and design work, the utilization of out-of-date technologies, and the planning and erection of plant and equipment not in accord with the latest advances. There is an urgent need, therefore, for improving information and setting up in the USSR a scientific and technical information service conforming to the present-day level and rates of scientific and technical advance.

The principal system of scientific information, i.e., activity for the purpose of the collection, the analytical-synthetic treatment, storage, searching, and dissemination, adopted in the USSR and other countries, is as follows: collection of the STI, initial treatment, analytical and synthetic treatment, storage, searching, copying (duplication), and dissemination. Part of the collected information requires only elementary treatment (appraisal, recording, indexing), after which it is deposited in the store. Another part is subjected to analytical-synthetic treatment, the main forms of which are: bibliographic description of the documents, classification (indexing), abstracting, referencing, scientific translation, and the preparation of surveys. Confusion must be avoided between the concept "collection" of STI for building up a store of reference information† and "searching" for STI in the store, the RIS, and library. Dissemination of STI is carried out by distribution and subscription, free sale, distribution on a service basis, etc.

All the scientific information activity throughout the country is carried out by the STI organizations, forming a general State STI system. A divisional principle is adopted for this in the USSR (according to branches of the national economy) in conjunction with territorial divisions.

Coordination and procedural management of the STI services throughout the country, in addition to controlling the use of information in the national economy, are vested in the scientific and technical information and propaganda authority of the State Committee of the Council of Ministers USSR for Science and Technology (GKNT USSR). The overall governmental system of scientific and technical information consists of the All-Union STI services, divisional STI services; the central and divisional offices, STI services for the scientific research and design planning organizations of the branch scientific, technical, and economic information bureaus of enterprises; the STI institutes of the Soviet Republics; interdepartmental territorial scientific and technical information and propaganda centers.

* Abbreviated to STI.
† Abbreviated to RIS.

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The scientific and technical libraries also participate in information work, combining this with other library functions. There are several libraries within the STI services. Scientific-technical information and propaganda and industrial and agricultural establishments play an important part in information.

The **All-Union Information Service**. The main STI organization in the USSR is the All-Union Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (VINITI) under the dual control of the Academy of Sciences USSR and GKNT USSR, participating in procedural management of scientific information and the coordination of scientific research into information techniques. The VINITI systematically supplies information to scientific and engineering-technical workers in the scientific research, design, and planning organizations, universities, and enterprises relating to Soviet and foreign advances in science, engineering, production techniques, and economics; issues information relating to publish information; carries out translations (into and from the Russian language); prepares photocopies and microfilms of articles and books at the request of establishments and individuals; formulates new methods of scientific information organization, mechanization and automation of information processes.

VINITI issues: abstracting journal (RZh), containing abstracts of articles, books, and patents; "Express Information" (EI) on the most current branches of industrial techniques; annual surveys "Itogi nauki" (outstanding advances in the particular branch of science or technique during the past year); a monthly survey "Scientific and technical information."

The Institute conducts courses for improving the qualifications of leading engineering technical and scientific workers and research students.

The Central Scientific-Research Institute of Patent Information and Engineering-Economic Research (TsNIIPi) carries out analyses and summaries of the world patent literature; research into the engineering-economic effect of inventions and discoveries; treatment of patent literature, including microfilming, coordination of patent translation work; organization of information and reference work on USSR patent literature, and propagating industrial and technical advances, expressed in authors' certificates and patents; the development of mechanization in patent information work.