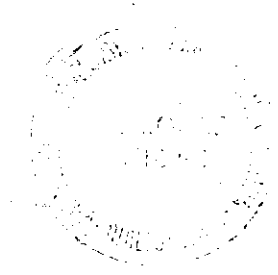


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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Workshop on Techniques for Effective Participation
in the Caribbean Information System
Santo-Domingo, Dominican Republic
11 - 15 October 1982



REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP
ON TECHNIQUES FOR EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION
IN THE CARIBBEAN INFORMATION SYSTEM
(Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 11 - 15 October 1982)



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean

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The Caribbean Information System began its activities in 1979, and at that time the Dominican Republic was invited to participate in the System.

As a means of launching the System, a regional Workshop on Techniques for Participation in the System was held at the Caribbean Documentation Centre in Port-of-Spain in May 1979. The Planning Agencies of CDDC member countries were each invited to send representatives and the Dominican Republic was represented by the Chief of the Documentation Centre of the Secretariado Técnico de la Presidencia.

As a follow-up to this workshop, the Library and Information Training Officer of the System undertook a two-week mission to the Dominican Republic. This was principally a mission to assist the Documentation Centre of the Secretariado Técnico de la Presidencia to establish procedures which would improve its services and to enable it to function as the national focal point of the Caribbean Information System.

Representatives of the Dominican Republic have also attended the other regional workshops which have dealt with various aspects of the Caribbean Information System.

In January, as a result of a request from the Government of the Dominican Republic, the Project Co-ordinator and the Library and Information Training Officer of the System undertook a mission to begin the design of a national information system for the Dominican Republic. The report which was prepared outlined the stages recommended for the co-ordination of the existing libraries and information centres, and for the development of the national information System.

A relevant aspect of development of the socio-economic sector was the training of librarians for participation in the Caribbean Information System. It was therefore agreed during this mission, that a Workshop on Techniques for Participation in the Caribbean Information System would help to improve access to information produced in the region, and would also encourage the co-ordination of the socio-economic sector.

Arrangements for the workshop were made by the Centro de Promoción de Exportaciones (CEDOPEX).

The Opening Session was chaired by Lic. Pablo Tactuck, Jefe del Departamento de Información Commercial. Lic. Tactuck welcomed the mission from CEPAL and also welcomed the participants to CEDOPEX. Lic. Teófilo E. Miranda H., the Executive Director of CEDOPEX then spoke on the value of the system to the Dominican Republic. He encouraged the participants to recognize that the Dominican Republic is a Caribbean country, and that there are significant benefits to be gained from improved relationships with the neighbouring countries. He also said that he considered that increased participation of the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean Information System would enable the planners and policy-makers in the region to know more about the activities of the other countries, and therefore facilitate a deeper relationship between all countries.

In order to relate the activities of the Caribbean Information System and the National Information System, Lic. Marisol Floren, Directora del Archivo General de la Nación, explained the work which had been done so far in an effort to design a co-ordinated national information system. This preliminary stage identified various sectors including the socio-economic, which were to be served by the national information system. The organizations represented at the workshops were therefore those which produced socio-economic information and had libraries, or documentation centres. It was therefore expected that this would assist in the development of this sector.

The Participants were 14 librarians and library paraprofessionals involved in providing information to Government officials or to researchers.

There were:

- 11 from libraries of Government Ministeries, Departments, and quasi-government organizations
- 3 from private organizations

All these organizations are producers and users of socio-economic information, and during the workshop bibliographic records were prepared for some of the documents produced by these organizations with a view to having them input to CARISPLAN.

THE RESOURCE PERSONNEL

The resource personnel were the Library and Information Training Officer of the Caribbean Information System, Ms. Fay Durant and Ms. Rhonda Wilson formerly of the Caribbean Documentation Centre.

EVALUATION

At the end of the last session, participants were requested to complete a questionnaire to help the organizers assess the effectiveness of the workshop for the future development of the Caribbean Information System.

This questionnaire covered:

1. Their background
2. Expectations of the workshop
3. Their understanding of the topics treated
4. Their opinions on the content and organization of the workshop

A. Their backgrounds

- 7 librarians
- 5 senior library assistants (with other professional qualifications)
- 2 research assistants (who have part-time responsibility for developing a library)

- B. - 2 with previous training in indexing and abstracting.

WORKSHOP ON TECHNIQUES FOR EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION
IN THE CARIBBEAN INFORMATION SYSTEM

LIST OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

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