

Improved Methods for Access to Scientific Data Sought by Melvin J. Voigt

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A plan to give scientists of the Arab world better access to current information from other countries is under study in Cairo, United Arab Republic, by Melvin J. Voigt, University Librarian, University of California, San Diego.

Mr. Voigt has accepted a six-week assignment from UNESCO to serve as a consultant on the proposal. The plan would expand the existing scientific documentation center into a regional center serving all Arabic-speaking countries and covering all subject fields. The center would also be concerned with the exchange of publications and the training of librarians and documentalists.

If the plan is feasible) Mr. Voigt will develop a detailed work plan to be carried out over six years, together with estimates of costs involved. The United Arab Republic is proposing to finance the project to the extent of \$2.0 million. Additional assistance would be requested from UNESCO.

One of the greatest problems scientists and scholars have in the Arab countries is access to information on scientific research in other parts of the world. This program is expected to help alleviate this situation.

Mr. Voigt will complete his assignment in Cairo by May 1, when he will return to San Diego. He left on March 11 to attend a meeting of UNESCO's International Advisory Committee on Bibliography, Documentation, and Terminology in Paris and went on to Cairo from there.