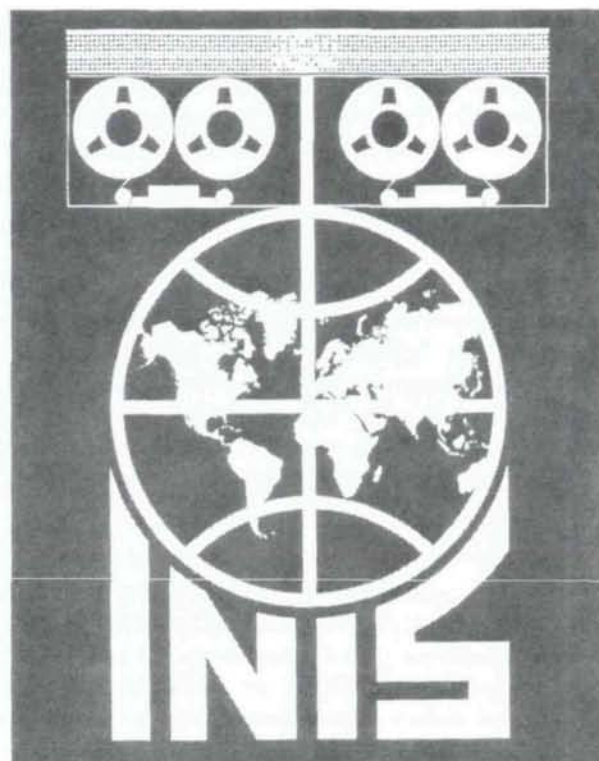


## Covering the world's nuclear literature:

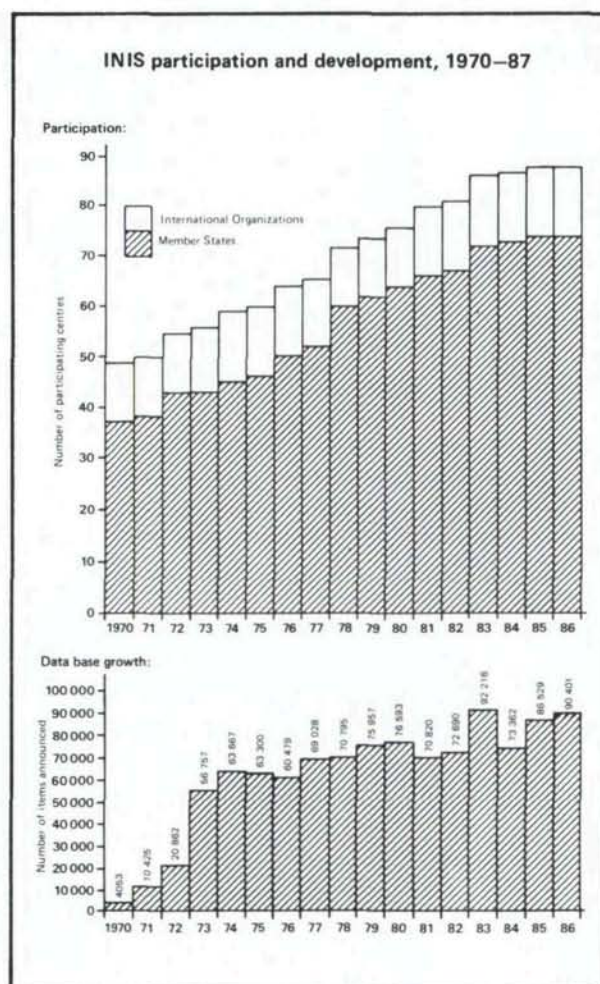


*The International Nuclear Information System (INIS) stands among the major accomplishments of the IAEA. After more than 17 years of operation, it has grown into a healthy, successful, and uniquely comprehensive bibliographic database. (See accompanying tables and graphs.)*

*Since April 1970, the bibliographic reference journal, INIS Atomindex, has been published. It started with relatively few items of information collected from its initial 50 participants and has since grown to 88 members (74 countries and 14 international organizations) and 90 401 records in 1986. The journal published its millionth item in April 1986 — 16 years after its first issue. Since then, another 116 300 references have been added. Sixty-three countries are now regularly submitting items to the system, and 99% of the input is in machine-readable form.*

*A coverage study of INIS has shown that the database covers 89-90% of the world's published nuclear literature.\* It includes documents that are not commercially available — called non-conventional — such as research reports, conference proceedings, and others. These amount to about 200 000 documents and are a valuable source of information.*

\* The study was done by the International Centre for Scientific and Technical Information, a member organization of INIS.



Thirty-seven IAEA Member States and two international organizations today also take advantage of remote on-line access to INIS and a database of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) that the Agency supports called AGRIS. Income derived from this service is approximately equal to the marginal cost of providing it.

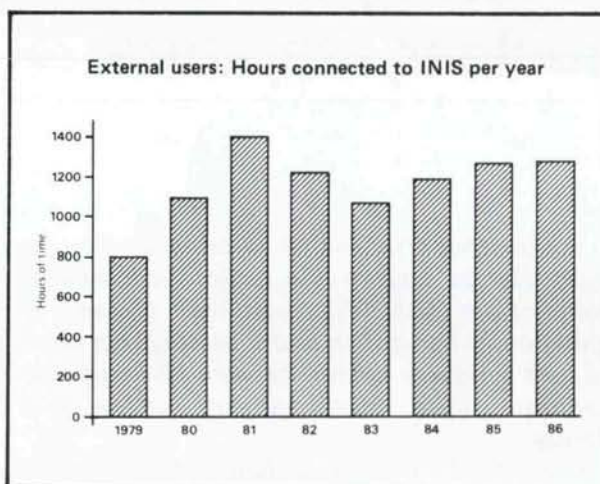
National INIS liaison officers, who meet regularly, reviewed and approved the assessment of the system's main activities and principles, known by the acronym GRINO, for General Review of INIS Operations, at their 14th meeting in 1986. The review itself has closed as a project and most recommendations have been completed.

The INIS section keeps abreast of modern information technologies and strives for universality and mutual benefits among participants. It is investigating a new technology, the compact disk known as CD-ROM, as a possible new product. A prototype retrieval facility, using a microcomputer and CD-ROM for the INIS database, was demonstrated at the 1986 meeting of liaison officers. A major upgrading of equipment has been made to improve clearinghouse services. A replacement microfilm camera and a computer output microfilm machine was procured to produce cumulative indexes and back issues of Atomindex.

Over the first 5 months of 1987, the future of INIS looked up: Through May 1987, 43 001 items had been published in Atomindex. At that pace, the record annual input of 92 113 items achieved in 1983 could soon be history.

Trend of computer program distribution through INIS, 1973-86

Year	No. of programs	% of total distribution
1973	18	3
1974	75	12
1975	57	8
1976	106	14
1977	160	15
1978	175	18
1979	129	15
1980	130	14
1981	221	19
1982	246	22
1983	300	23
1984	230	19
1985	228	19
1986	177	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>2252</b>	<b>18</b>



Further information about INIS appears in the IAEA Bulletin, Vol. 28, No. 4 (1986).

