



Technical Information for Culture Collections Curators in developing Countries

Edited by

Khursheed A. Malik

DSM-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen
Mascheroder Weg 1B. D-3300 Braunschweig
Federal Republic of Germany

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PREFACE

The World Federation for Culture Collection (WFCC) is an international organization committed to promote the activities of culture collections of microorganisms and cell lines. The WFCC is a federation of the International Union of Microbiological societies (IUMS) and a commission of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) with responsibility for the promotion and development of culture collections of microorganisms and cultured cells world wide. It fosters communication between collections, their users and the scientific and industrial community in general.

The WFCC operates through a series of committees. The WFCC Education Committee has published a series of books and prepared educational video tapes. The increasing demands on culture collections for authenticated, reliable biological material and associated information has created a need to conserve the microbial gene pool for future study and has highlighted the need for centres of expertise in culture isolation, maintenance, documentation, identification and taxonomy. To meet the needs of scientists, especially working in the collections in developing countries, the WFCC Education Committee has initiated, with financial support from UNESCO, the publication of Technical Information Sheets (TIS) on various collection related matters. TIS provide guidelines for good practice in culture collections as well as help

scientists in the developing countries who are using microorganisms and cell cultures in their investigations and are usually faced with problems of their safe handling, cultivation, maintenance, conservation, identification, availability, packing and shipping, deposition and ordering of cultures from collections. As a Member of the WFCC Education Committee I have been charged with the responsibility of editing TIS. So far 10 Technical Information Sheets have been published on a few collection related technical matters. In the future it is expected to cover other aspects pertaining to the needs of microbiologists and curators in developing countries. The authors of TIS are international authorities who have described their well practiced methods which can easily be performed. The TIS have been distributed free of charge to the scientists in developing countries. In view of the increasing popularity and demand for TIS, the UNESCO has provided financial support for the reproduction of all TIS collectively in the form of a booklet. This booklet of "Technical Information for Culture Collections Curators in Developing Countries" is a compilation of all published TIS and contains specialized collective information useful for the scientists and curators of culture collections in developing countries. The methods listed in this booklet can be performed in any laboratory or culture collection regardless of size or economic standing. They have been developed to emphasize that high standards of results can be achieved in laboratories with modest resources and without sophisticated equipment.

It is hoped that this booklet will prove valuable so that high standards of scientific service can be achieved in laboratories with modest resources and without sophisticated equipment particularly in the developing countries.

I am thankful to the authors of the WFCC Technical Information Sheets for their time and effort and their willingness in sharing their valuable experiences. This booklet is the result of initiative of Dr. Edgar J. DaSilva for which I am thankful. It has been prepared at the DSM and I am very grateful for the help of Dr. Dieter Claus, Mr. Herbert Milch and other colleagues for useful discussions.

Khursheed A. Malik