

**AUSTRALIAN RURAL RESEARCH IN PROGRESS
(ARRIP) DATABASE**

Bureau of Rural Resources,
Department of Primary Industries & Energy
CSIRO, Information Services Unit

ARRIP is a national database of rural research in progress. It was developed by the Department of Primary Industries and Energy, and CSIRO, in response to a request in June 1982 by the Standing Committee on Priorities for Rural Research in Extension to develop an inventory of rural research. The major aim of this initiative was to publish a Compendium of rural research in order to better co-ordinate research activities throughout Australia. A pilot publication was printed in 1984 with subsequent issues in 1985 and 1986.

In 1986 ARRIP became available on-line through the CSIRO AUSTRALIS information retrieval service. The ARRIP database on AUSTRALIS is operated and maintained by CSIRO under contract to the Bureau of Rural Resources, the Bureau being ultimately responsible for it.

The information contained on ARRIP includes details on individual research project being carried out in Australia, by whom and where, along with contact numbers and some details on objectives, methodology and status. The projects are indexed and classified according to the AGDEX classification system. Consideration is also being given to including additional fields containing resource information. ARRIP therefore aims to keep researchers, research managers and funding bodies better informed of the total publicly-funded rural research scene. It also helps to reduce the possibility of unnecessary duplication of research.

ARRIP currently contains information on more than 5000 publicly-funded rural research projects being undertaken by organisations such as the State Departments of Agriculture, CSIRO, the Universities and Colleges and the BUREaux of the Department of Primary Industries and Energy.

Much of the State information is entered on the ARRIP database via electronic transfer. Recent additions to the database include agricultural engineering, bushfire, forestry and agroforestry, environmental and freshwater fishing information.

ARRIP has been used quite effectively to produce compendia of rural research in progress in specific areas. An excellent example is the 'Australian Fire Research in Progress Register No. 1', published in 1989 by CSIRO and the Australian Forestry Council Standing Committee on Forestry. Production of the Australian Wool Corporation's Wool Research and Development Fund 'Red Book' directly from ARRIP has just been completed.

ARRIP is housed on CSIRO AUSTRALIS, an on-line and CD-ROM based Information Retrieval Service from CSIRO. Access to AUSTRALIS is available anywhere in Australia or overseas, 24 hours a day. There are many other databases on AUSTRALIS, including:

AMRIP - Marine Research in Progress
WATR - Water Research in Progress (Streamline)
ERIP - Energy Research in Progress (Enerlinks)
ROAD - Australian Road Research Board projects
ABOA - Australian Bibliography of Agriculture

All that is required to access ARRIP on AUSTRALIS is a telephone, an acoustic coupler or modem and a microcomputer with a suitable communications program.

Most public or organisational libraries are also able to access the ARRIP database via their computer equipment.

You should then register with the CSIRO AUSTRALIS User Support Team (Phone (03) 418 7307; Fax (03) 419 0459), who will provide you with logon codes, passwords, the telephone number of nearest node to connect you to AUSTRALIS, an AUSTRALIS manual, and an Introductory Guide for New Users. The logon procedures and search commands on Australis are relatively simple and can be mastered quickly. There are also AUSTRALIS courses available, both beginners and advanced, in all major cities.

Should you require any further information about ARRIP please contact Mrs Judith Campbell on (06) 272 5636 or fax (06)272 4747.