

Team Award for Excellence

Arid Lands Information Center Nominated by Heather Severson



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For more than 30 years, the Arid Lands Information Center has provided specialized information services to the University community, the public, government agencies and international development organizations. These services span the full range of library functions and are based on the experience of ALIC in maintaining its own specialized 35,000-item document collection, building an online catalog and developing electronic information sources. Specific services include targeted literature searches of online databases as well as document delivery. Database management

systems are used to create specialized databases, bibliographies and online information resources. Demand for technical assistance to create similar capabilities for other information centers has generated contract activities outside the U.S. in such countries as Chile, Argentina, Mexico, India, Bahrain, Egypt, Kenya, Mauritania, Niger and the Yemen Arab Republic.

To facilitate its information gathering and dissemination capabilities, ALIC produces a variety of publications with worldwide distribution, including the semi-annual Arid

Lands Newsletter, the World Directory of Arid Lands Research Institutions and the conference proceedings, Arid Lands: Today and Tomorrow.

In the past decade, ALIC has become a major producer of quality web sites providing arid lands and agricultural information. This includes both overall site design and original content. Several of these sites have won awards from organizations that review web sites for appearance, ease of use and presentation of information. These sites include the Office of Arid Lands web site offering information on the office and its current projects and annotated links to other arid lands resources on the Internet.

ALIC also created and maintains the web site for the International Arid Lands Consortium and was one of the founding members of, and continues its work with the Agricultural Network Information Center project in partnership with the U.S. National Agricultural Library and other land grant universities.

This work represents a new dimension in the dissemination of information and is designed to be the foremost distributed electronic resource for accessing U.S. agricultural information. ALIC brings to all its projects experience in web design (including original digital graphics), construction, content development and in maintenance and development of other tools for online dissemination of information such as searchable databases.