

§27. Foundation of Fusion Science Archives

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Foundation of Fusion Science Archives in NIFS and fusion archives in general are described here.

Archival activities in NIFS have been continued since 1999 under the nationwide collaboration that includes Nihon Univ., Tohoku Univ., Kyushu Univ., Nagoya Univ., KEK, Sokendai (The graduate University for Advanced Studies) etc. These activities have been presented at the annual meeting of Plasma and Fusion Research and described in the series of annual review of NIFS.

Fusion Science Archives started on January 1, 2005 as the formal organization in NIFS, which reflects the increased understanding of importance of archives thanks to the above mentioned activities. Another factor surrounding NIFS is originated in the increased importance of archival activity on natural and social sciences among the 18 inter-university research institutes consisting of Sokendai.

The organization, being independent of research divisions and centers of NIFS, belongs directly to the deputy director-general and consists of two permanent scientists of NIFS staff and one archivist from a company.

The primary purposes of fusion archives, already well-known, are repeated in the followings: 1) collection and preservation of historical materials on fusion research at universities in Japan to make its organization and history clear, 2) establishing the standards to make the database open to public, 3) editing chronological tables, 4) interviewing senior scientists who played important roles at the early stage of the research, 5) circulating the database through INTERNET, and so on. Because it is becoming more important than before to provide scientists and citizen with database of historical documents for evaluation and accountability of nuclear fusion research, and because we could get lessons on the strategy of research in the future from old archives, archives on nuclear fusion should be further promoted by achieving above-mentioned objectives.

On February 15 the mini-workshop that commemorated the foundation was held at NIFS. About 70 scientists nationwide took part in and three review talks were given by Dr. H. Sugawara, Professor-emeritus of KEK and a board member of directors of Sokendai, Prof. S. Nishio of Nihon University, and Prof. C. Namba of NIFS. These talks covered importance of archives, activities on fusion research at the very beginning phase of Japan, and activities in NIFS so far, respectively. Sokendai has his own projects on archives and has a close relation with activities in NIFS. The workshop was reported in

two local newspapers, being effective to make archives known to citizen.

On January 25, before the foundation, the workshop was held at KEK with the topics of foundation of inter-university research institutes. Dr. H. Obayashi presented archival activities in NIFS focusing on the subjects of WS.

On March 2 and 3 big workshop was held at Hayama-campus of Sokendai. Scientists took part in WS from 18 inter-university research institutes. Those from the institute of social sciences gave us basic knowledge on archives and oral history, which were very useful for all participants. Total number of 7 people participated from the field of fusion archives, and K. Matsuoka introduced the Fusion Archives recently founded and Mrs. K. Kimura presented the archival studies on the early phase of fusion research in Japan. NIFS and KEK, at present, are institutes that have formal organizations of archives among inter-university institutes on natural sciences. Two institutes are expected to play a key role to organize archival networks on natural sciences among inter-university research institutes.

Collection and preservation of historical materials were continued in this fiscal year and ??? materials were newly registered in NIFS archives. Along with these activities interview was conducted with Dr. N. Morino as the interviewee with the subject of participation of industrial society in the fusion research in Japan.

Making a survey of the activity of the next fiscal year we could expect progresses in the followings.

1) The number of staff is to be increased by one. The budget and the area for the office work will be augmented, too. These will enhance our activities more effectively.

2) The category of collaboration research on fusion archives in NIFS had been independent of any research categories. This increased the number of research programs to be six, which was more than usual. Research subjects will be enlarged as follows: criteria of opening database, oral history, history of inter-university institutes, history of confinement devices, and chronological tables.

3) The relation between NIFS archives and Sokendai's archival study is to be strengthened. This is because the 4-year project on the history of inter-university research institutes will start in the next year in Sokendai.

4) US-Japan collaboration is to be started on fusion archives and workshop is to be scheduled in the US.