

**Introduction:**

The Current Awareness Service (CAS) ensures timely delivery of current information to users when needed, ensuring they remain updated with the latest developments. Upon receiving documents in the library, they are promptly reviewed and summarized according to user requirements, facilitating easy access to pertinent information. CAS employs various techniques such as landline service, current periodicals, card files, and audio-visual methods to disseminate information effectively.

**Definition of CAS:**

CAS, as defined by S.R. Ranganathan and B.C. Vickery, aims to promptly inform clientele about emerging ideas in their respective fields without bias towards specific readers or topics. It establishes a system for reviewing publications upon receipt, selecting relevant information, and notifying individuals associated with relevant work.

**Need:**

CAS plays a vital role in keeping users well-informed about the latest developments in their fields, thus saving time and serving as a rapid survey of retrospective literature. It promotes library services, supports users in staying updated amidst growing knowledge, saves time through centralized information scanning, and aids users in scanning literature efficiently.

**Types of CAS:**

CAS encompasses various services including Current Awareness Bulletin, Table of Contents (TOC) List Service, TOC Alerts, List of New Arrivals, Routing of Periodicals, E-mail Alerts from Subscribed Databases, Display of Current Journals, and Newspaper Clipping Service. Each service caters to different user needs and preferences.

**Objective of CAS:**

The primary objectives of CAS are to inform scientists/users about the latest developments in their subject fields, keep clientele well-informed and up-to-date, and fulfill the current demand of users.

**Characteristics:**

Characteristics of CAS include gathering information from various sources such as colleagues, pre-prints, and conferences, scanning current periodicals, and maintaining a record of answers to specific queries. CAS serves as an announcement mechanism designed to meet current information needs effectively.

**Steps in CAS:**

The provision of CAS involves reviewing documents immediately upon receipt, selecting pertinent information, and notifying users about items of interest. This ensures efficient dissemination of relevant information to users in a timely manner.

**Summary:**

While CAS has traditionally been provided manually, modern advancements have led to its mechanization through computerized systems. Current awareness services through computers include E-List, online groups, blogs, RSS, E-Mail, Bulk SMS services, and Community Opt SMS services, ensuring efficient and accessible dissemination of information to users.