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The rhinoceros is a fascinating animal. I say so, and many people agree with me, given that the animal appears in at least 23,000 publications ranging from books to scientific papers to popular stories. In the olden days, before the advent of the Internet, it was a time-consuming and strenuous task to retrieve what was written about the animals. Many hours had to be spent in libraries, many days were taken up by travel to distant places to discover references not available elsewhere. Maybe it was hard work, but

always exciting, because you would never know what amazing facts could be found on the next page that you would read. And even after 50 years looking for rhinos on the printed page, I still find facts and observations which are new or unexpected.

I had chosen the recent species of rhinoceros as a focus of study as a young teenager, even before I took up the study of biology and University. Every Wednesday afternoon I used to go to the Artis Library in Amsterdam, learning much about bibliography, about zoological history, about early travels in distant lands and about general zoology. I wrote notes in an ever-growing stack of notebooks, where possible I collected photocopies of the more important items.

In 2004, when websites had become fashionable, I discussed my collection with the Dutch rhino ecologist Nico van Strien. He asked his son Willem to construct a new framework for a website, which is still serving us well. Of course since that time the number of items has grown exponentially, partly because some less well-known items have become available from the scanning of libraries, partly because every year almost a thousand new publications are written and published. We now also have a small team of dedicated volunteer specialist editors to add items in their field of interest.

It is recognised that for conservationists in the range states access to publications in libraries remains difficult. But everywhere, busy professionals, including zoo curators and keepers, may not have enough time to search for everything that is being done in their field of interest. When you come to work in the morning, you may find the rhinoceros in the enclosure showing some new kind of behaviour, and you wonder if people and other zoos have seen the same thing. Visitors may ask the latest progress in conservation in Namibia or in Sumatra, and where do you find that information? That is when you click on the Rhino Resource Center (RRC). There you will find all the latest published information, easily accessible, readable, and completely free of charge. Updated almost daily. Of course, you may still need to find what you want and read through several papers, but it is a useful and enlightening experience.

There is no limit to what you find on the RRC about a rhinoceros. There also is an extensive picture gallery, now with almost 4500 images, both historical and recent. The RRC sends out a quarterly newsletter listing the latest publications, usually accompanied by news about new books or interesting articles or forthcoming conferences.

If you love the rhinoceros, visit the Rhino Resource Center once a month, and I think you will find much to reward your efforts and pique your curiosity.

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Editor of www.rhinoresourcecenter.com