

EADI

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT
RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTES

ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES INSTITUTS DE
RECHERCHE ET DE FORMATION EN MATIÈRE DE
DÉVELOPPEMENT

Strengthening Cooperation in Documentation for Development

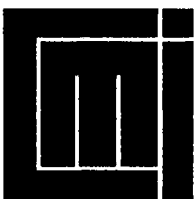
A Seminar on Networking with Special
Emphasis on NGOs

Le Renforcement de la Cooperation en Matiere de Documentation sur le Developpement

Séminaire sur les différents réseaux et en particulier ceux
des organisations non gouvernementales (ONG)
Paris, 3-6 September 1991

European Association of Development
Research and Training Institutes (EADI)
Working Group on Information and Documentation

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Bergen, March 1992

Summary:

Report and papers from the 1991 EADI I & D Working Group seminar. 120 representatives from NGOs international organisations, documentalists and librarians set up task force groups and discussed electronic mail; database for journals; networking of NGOs and document delivery programmes.

Sammendrag:

Møtereferat og papers fra seminar for EADIs arbeidsgruppe for informasjon og dokumentasjon i 1991. 120 representanter fra internasjonale og frivillige organisasjoner, bibliotekarer og dokumentalister diskuterte samarbeidsmuligheter; elektronisk post, database for tidsskrifter og bok-doneringsprogram til institusjoner i utviklingsland.

Indexing terms:

International cooperation
Electronic mail
Data bases
Non-governmental organisations
Book donation
Conference papers

Stikkord:

Internasjonalt samarbeid
Elektronisk post
Databaser
Frivillige organisasjoner
Bok-donasjoner
Konferanserapport

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CONTENTS

Contents	iii
Foreword	v
Programme	2
List of participants	9
List of abbreviations	21
Summary report of plenary sessions	23
Welcome address by Kirsti Hagen Andersen	29
Welcoming speech by Louis Emmerij	31
Keynote address by Martha B. Stone	35
Comments	
Martine Abraham (ENDA)	51
Wouter Veening (ELCI)	55
Birgitta Bergdahl (IFLA)	57
Liisa Fagerlund (ACCIS)	
Accessing United Nations information resources on development activities	59
Terry Gavin (IDRC)	
First general meeting of the informal study group on exchange of development information (OECD)	65
John Schlanger (IPS)	
Information and documentation for development	72
Report on Task Force Groups	
Group 1: Establishment of Bulletin Board/Electronic Mail Network	85
Group 2: Database for journals in EADI member institutes	103
Group 3: Book donation programmes/Exchange programmes	123
Group 4: Mapping of existing North-South and developing countries' NGO networks	163
Annexe A	
European development networks: Experiences in development communication	169
African development networks: Experiences in challenges	175
Library visits	179

TABLE DE MATIERES

Table de matières	iii
Préface	v
Programme	2
Liste de participants	9
Liste d'abréviations	21
Résumé des séances plénières	23
Discours d'ouverture par Kirsti Hagen Andersen	29
Discours de bienvenue par Louis Emmerij	31
Allocution de Martha B. Stone	35
Commentaires de:	
Martine Abrahams (ENDA)	51
Wouter Veening (ELCI)	55
Birgitta Bergdahl (IFLA)	57
Liisa Fagerlund (ACCIS)	
Accessibilité des ressources d'information des Nations Unies sur les activités de développement	59
Terry Gavin (CRDI)	
La première réunion du groupe informel sur l'échange d'information de développement	65
John Schlanger (IPS)	
Information et documentation pour le développement	72
Comptes rendus des groupes spéciaux	
Groupe 1: Etablissement d'un réseau de courrier électronique	85
Groupe 2: Base de données pour les journaux des instituts-membres de l'EADI	103
Groupe 3: Programmes de dons d'ouvrages/programmes d'échanges	123
Groupe 4: Cartographie des réseaux existants des ONG Nord-Sud et dans les PVD	163
Annexe A	
Les réseaux européens de développement: expériences avec communication pour le développement	169
Les réseaux africains de développement: expériences et défis	175
Visites de bibliothèques	179

Foreword

The seminar in Paris in September 1991 was in several ways a breakthrough for the Working Group on Information and Documentation within EADI.

The main intention for having the meeting in France was to attach more francophone participants to the group, and indeed nearly 50% of the participants were French. Excellent simultaneous translation facilities made available by the OECD Development Centre helped us to run the meeting smoothly and without any language barriers. We do hope to see all the French participants also at forthcoming seminars as active members of our group.

The policy of the I&D working group from 1991 is to involve its members in practical work to facilitate the flow of information between documentation centres, to ease the communication links between the North and the South, with the main objective to facilitate the assessment of documentation needs in the developing countries.

In Paris four task force groups were set up and started to work on specific problems. Their work will be ongoing, and their progress will be reported at the next seminar. Their reports from the work in Paris are included in this report.

An important event in Paris was also the link made to many important NGO's and we hope that this was only a starting point for future cooperation.

In planning this seminar report we intended to publish it in both a French and an English version. Due to lack of resources and language capabilities this is not possible. Most of the report is therefore in English, some in both English and French and a little in French only. We do hope that you will tolerate this inconsistency in understanding that the work for EADI is done in addition to our regular work.

Bergen/The Hague/Tilburg
February 1992

Kirsti Hagen Andersen
Convenor

Matty Klatter
Co-convenor

Dirk Hoftijzer
Co-convenor

Préface

Le séminaire, tenu à Paris en septembre 1991, était une percée sur plusieurs niveaux pour le Groupe de Travail sur l'Information et la Documentation au sein de l'EADI.

Une des principales raisons de l'organisation de la réunion en France était l'incitation aux collègues francophones de rejoindre le groupe; en effet, presque 50 % des participants étaient des français. La présence d'excellents moyens de traduction simultanée, fournis par le Centre de Développement de l'OCDE nous a permis de présider la réunion sans difficultés ou barrières de langue. Nous espérons que les participants francophones continueront à participer activement aux futures réunions.

La politique du groupe Information et Documentation a consisté, à partir de 1991, en la stimulation de ses membres à la participation active aux travaux pratiques afin de faciliter les flux d'information entre les centres de documentation, et d'assurer les liens de communication Nord-Sud; ceci avec le but de déterminer les besoins d'information dans les pays en voie de développement.

A Paris, quatre groupes spéciaux ont été établis, qui ont commencé à travailler sur des problèmes spécifiques. Leurs travaux continueront et ils donneront un compte rendu de leur progrès pendant la prochaine réunion. Les comptes rendus de leurs travaux à Paris ont été inclus dans ce rapport-ci.

Un résultat important de la réunion à Paris était également l'établissement de liens avec beaucoup d'ONGs importantes. Nous espérons que ceci n'était qu'un point de départ d'une coopération ultérieure.

Pendant la préparation de ce rapport du séminaire, nous avons prévu de publier ce dernier en version anglaise aussi bien que française. Faute de ressources, ceci n'a malheureusement pas été possible. Ainsi, une grande partie du rapport est en anglais; une autre partie est en version française et anglaise. Une part limitée seulement a été écrite en français. Nous espérons que vous avez de la compréhension pour cet inconvénient; nos activités pour l'EADI ont lieu en dehors de notre travail régulier.

Bergen/La Haye/Tilburg
Février 1992

Kirsti Hagen Andersen
Responsable

Matty Klatter
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Dirk Hoftijzer
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DÉVELOPPEMENT

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN DOCUMENTATION
FOR DEVELOPMENT

A Seminar on Networking with Special Emphasis on NGOs
Paris, 3rd - 6th September 1991

EADI WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION
SEMINAR

Hosted by the OECD Development Centre and
GIS Economie Mondiale, Tiers Monde, Développement (GEMDEV)

LE RENFORCEMENT DE LA COOPERATION EN MATIERE DE DOCUMENTATION
SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT

Séminaire sur les différents réseaux
et en particulier ceux des organisations non gouvernementales (ONG)
Paris, 3 - 6 Septembre 1991

Groupe de Travail de l'EADI sur l'information et la documentation
Séminaire sous l'égide du Centre de Développement de l'OCDE
et du GIS Economie Mondiale, Tiers Monde, Développement (GEMDEV)

Seminar Location/Lieu:

OECD

2, rue Andre Pascal

75016 Paris

PROGRAMME

Co-Convenors/Organisateurs

Kirsti Hagen Andersen

Matty Klatter

Dirk Hoftijzer

Programme

Tuesday, 3rd September

- 9:00 - 10:00 Registration at OECD, 2 rue Andre Pascal, 75016 Paris
- 10:00 - 11:30 Welcome Addresses:
KIRSTI HAGEN ANDERSEN (EADI)
LOUIS EMMERIJ (President, OECD Development Centre)
MONIQUE HUGON (GEMDEV)
Keynote Addresses:
KUMAR RUPESINGHE (HURIDOCs - Human Rights Information and Documentation System)
Documentation for Development: A View from the South
MARTHA STONE (IDRC - Canada)
Documentation for Development: A View from the North
- Coffee
- 11:30 - 13:00 Comments from:

HANS THOOLEN
(IRDN - International Refugee Documentation Network)
MICHAEL POLMAN (INTERDOC - Antenna)
MARTINE ABRAHAM
(ENDA - Environment and Development in the Third World)
WOUTER VEENING
(ELCI - Environmental Liaison Committee International)
DOMINIQUE BABINI
(IDIN - International Development Information Network)
- 13:00 - 15:00 Lunch
- 15:00 - 18:00 Afternoon Session:

Comments from:
BIRGITTA BERGDAHL (IFLA - International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)
- Open Discussion
- LIISA FAGERLUND (ACCIS - UN Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems)
Accessing United Nations Information Resources on Development Activities
TERRY GAVIN (IDRC - International Development Research Centre)
Report on the First Informal Study Group on Exchange of Development Information
- Open Discussion
- 2 Introduction to Task Force Groups

Programme

Mardi, 3 Septembre

- 9.00-10.00 Inscription à l'OCDE, 2, rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris
- 10.00-11.30 Allocutions de bienvenue:
KIRSTI HAGEN ANDERSEN (EADI)
LOUIS EMMERIJ (Président, Centre de Développement de l'OCDE)
MONIQUE HUGON (GEMDEV)
Allocutions d'ouverture:
KUMAR RUPESINGHE (HURIDOCS - Norway)
 La documentation pour le développement: un point de vue du Sud
MARTHA STONE (CRDI - Canada)
 La documentation pour le développement: un point de vue du Nord
- Café
- 11.30-13.00 Présentations de:

HANS THOOLEN (Réseau de documentation sur les Réfugiés)
MICHAEL POLMAN (INTERDOC - Antenna)
MARTINE ABRAHAM
(ENDA - Environnement et Développement dans le Tiers Monde)
WOUTER VEENING (Comité de Liaison International sur l'Environnement
Nairobi, Kenya)
DOMINIQUE BABINI
(IDIN - Réseau International d'Information sur le Développement)
- 13.00-15.00 Déjeuner
- 15.00-18.00 Session de l'après-midi:

Présentations de:
BIRGITTA BERGDAHL (IFLA - Fédération internationale des associations
des bibliothécaires et des bibliothèques)
- Débats
- LIISA FAGERLUND (ACCIS - UN Advisory Committee for the
Coordination of Information Systems)
TERRY GAVIN
(CRDI - Centre de recherches pour le développement international)
- Débats
- Présentations des groupes spéciaux

Wednesday 4th September

- 10:00 - 13:00 Task Force Groups
- Group 1: Establishment of Bulletin Board/Electronic Mail Network with Access to EARN and to GEONET.
Chair: MONICA ALLMAND
Resource Person: MICHAEL POLMAN (Interdoc),
- Group 2: Database for Journals in EADI Member Institutes.
Chair: KIRSTI HAGEN ANDERSEN
(Chr. Michelsen Institute - Norway)
Resource Persons: SIDSEL BLEKEN (NORAD),
ALICE WATSON (OECD Development Centre)
- Group 3: Book Donation Programmes/Exchange Programmes.
Chair: MATTY KLATTER (Institute of Social Studies, The Hague)
Resource Person: BIRGITTA BERGDAHL (IFLA)
- Group 4: Mapping of Existing North-South and Developing Countries' NGO Networks.
Chair: DIRK HOFTIJZER
(EADI-IVO Institute for Development Studies,
University of Tilburg, The Netherlands)
Resource Person: JOANNE COMBES
(OECD Development Centre)
- 13:00 - 15:00 Lunch
- 15:00 - 18:00 Afternoon Session
Group visits to various French institutes, libraries, or the
OECD Development Centre

Thursday 5th September

- 10:00 - 13:00 Task Force Groups (continued)
- 13:00 - 15:00 Lunch
- 15:00 - 18:00 Group visits to various French institutes, libraries, or the
OECD Development Centre

Mercredi, 4 Septembre

- 10.00-13.00 Travaux des groupes spéciaux
- 1er groupe: Etablissement d'un réseau de courrier électronique et d'un tableau d'affichage avec accès à EARN et à GEONET
Présidente: MONICA ALLMAND
Information: MICHAEL POLMAN (INTERDOC)
- 2ème groupe: Bases de données pour les revues des Instituts membres de l'EADI
Présidente: KIRSTI HAGEN ANDERSEN
(Institut Chr. Michelsen - Norvège)
Information: SIDSEL BLEKEN (NORAD)
ALICE WATSON (Centre de Développement de l'OCDE)
- 3ème groupe: Programmes de dons d'ouvrages/Programmes d'échanges
Présidente: MATTY KLATTER (Institut d'études sociales, Pays-Bas)
Information: BIRGITTA BERGDAHL (IFLA)
- 4ème groupe: Cartographie des réseaux ONG existants pour les régions Nord-Sud et les pays en développement
Président: DIRK HOFTIJZER (EADI-IVO Institut d'études sur le développement, Université de Tilburg)
Information: JOANNE COMBES
(Centre de Développement de l'OCDE)
- 13.00-15.00 Déjeuner
- 15.00-18.00 Session de l'après-midi
Visites à des centres de recherches français, à des bibliothèques, ou au Centre de Développement de l'OCDE

Jeudi, 5 Septembre

- 10.00-13.00 Travaux des groupes spéciaux (suite)
- 13.00-15.00 Déjeuner
- 15.00-18.00 Visites à des centres de recherches français, à des bibliothèques, ou au Centre de Développement de l'OCDE

Friday 6th September

10:00 - 13:00 Plenary Session
Opening Lecture
JEAN MEYRIAT (Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques)

Coffee

Report on Task Forces Meetings

13:00 - 15:00 Lunch

15:00 - 18:00 Plenary Session

Report on Task Forces Meetings (continued)
General Discussion, Practical Implications
for Implementation of Task Force Recommendations

Closing Session

JOHN SCHLANGER (IPS, Third World News Agency)
Information and Communication for Development

Vendredi, 6 Septembre

10.00-13.00

Session plénière

Allocution

JEAN MEYRIAT (Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques)

Café

Rapports sur les travaux des groupes spéciaux

13.00-15.00

Déjeuner

15.00-18.00

Session plénière

Rapports sur les travaux des groupes spéciaux (suite)

Débats: Implications pratiques pour mise en oeuvre des mesures préconisées par les groupes spéciaux

Session de clôture

JOHN SCHLANGER (IPS, Agence de presse du Tiers Monde)

Information et communication pour le développement

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ACCIS	Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems/United Nations
AICARDES	Association des Instituts et Centres Arabes de Recherche pour le Développement Economique et Social
BDPA	Bureau de développement pour la production agricole
CEGET-CNRS	Centre d'Etudes de Géographie Tropicale du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
CERETIM	Centre de recherches économiques de la technologie, de l'industrie et de la mondialisation
CIDEGI	Consultant International pour le développement et l'enseignement de la gestion de l'information
CINFO	Centre d'information et d'orientation pour les professions relatives à la coopération au développement et à l'aide humanitaire
CLACSO	Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales
DSE	German Foundation for International Development
ELCI	Environment Liaison Centre International
ENDA	Environment et Développement du Tiers Monde
HURIDOCS	Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems
IAW	Institute of Administrative Sciences
IBISCUS	Réseaux documentaire d'information sur les Pays en développement
IDIN	International Development Information Network
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFLA/ALP	IFLA's Core Programme for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World
IMEMO	Institute of World Economy and International Relations
IPS	Inter Press Service
IRDN	International Refugee Documentation Network
IRENE	International Refugee Electronic Network

ISTED	CDI "Villes en Développement"
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
IVO	Development Research Institute
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NORAGRIC	Norwegian Centre for International Agricultural Development, Agricultural University of Norway
NUFFIC	Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education
OFSE	Austrian Foundation for Development Research
Satis	Global Union for Technologies for Environment and Sustainable Development
SIDA	Swedish International Development Authority
TOOL	Technologie Overdracht Ontwikkelings Landen
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Summary report of plenary sessions
Sommaire des séances plénières

Following welcoming addresses by Kirsti Hagen Andersen (EADI), Louis Emmerij, President of the OECD Development Centre and by Ms Hugon of GIS Economie Mondiale, Tiers-Monde, Developpement (GEMDEV), the first keynote address of the seminar was provided by Kumar Rupesinghe, Chairperson of the Board of the Human Rights Information and Documentation System (HURIDOCS). Entitled "Documentation for development: a view from the South" his paper provided a broad overview of the dramatic recent changes in the world's regional relationships and the consequent need for a redefinition of the Third World. The dichotomy between north and south was no longer simple. The mastery of technology could no longer be seen as the monopoly of the north. Development should not be measured in terms of economic growth but must include human rights, ecological security and political democracy.

There is a growth in information and documentation, both of which are vital to development. However, there is a depletion in information in the Third World, particularly in the university sector which is producing and receiving less documentation. Unfortunately the importance of information to development is increasingly not recognised as inertia and illiteracy grows amongst decision makers.

The challenge remains to get the right information to the right people at the right time. The newer technologies that facilitate information exchange, such as Fax machines and E Mail are now as widely accepted as the telephone. However there is enormous duplication of information and a poor division of labour.

General solutions to the problems might involve the creation of accumulated databases with agreed protocols and the systematisation of the collection of information. However, sight should not be lost of how the needs of the vulnerable are best served. More specifically HURIDOCS currently has 100,000 documents within its network and between 60 and 100 organisations using HURIDOCS standards. These standards involve a simplified AACR to suit the needs of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the development of a standardised format for the recording of human rights violations. Emphasis is placed on both decentralisation and training. It is possible that a producers' cooperative might be created to decide on database development and determine policy directions.

The second keynote speaker, Martha Stone of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) provided a "View from the North", though explained that in reality this meant a "perspective from a development assistance organization, which happens to be situated in the North". When considering documentation for development it must be taken into consideration that during the last two decades the concept of development has changed from socio-economic progress to empowerment. Information practitioners have always known that documentation has a clear role to play in the development process and it is possible to discern a growing awareness of this fact amongst administrators.

However, in order to try and find tangible links between documentation and development the speaker had been involved for the last few years with various assessment and evaluation activities which were described.

Dramatic developments in information technologies and their lack of availability in many Third World countries, results in the gap between the haves and have nots increasing irreparably. At the same time information specialists are frequently not aware of evolving information technologies and their usefulness to decision makers. Information specialists should become part of the decision making fora and skills development must become a priority.

A brief discussion included the point that information managers had a responsibility to make information attractive by using packaging techniques.

The programme continued with Hans Thoolen of the International Refugee Documentation Network (IRDN) who said that too much stress was placed on the importance of documentation and that most time was taken up with storing non used documents. Within IRDN practical training was provided for contributors to the network and approximately 500 copies of a circular providing information on information had been distributed. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) thesaurus and HURIDOCS standard formats were used by network contributors.

Ms Martine Abrahams presented the activities of ENDA (Environment et Développement du Tiers Monde). ENDA was created in 1972 after the first World Conference on the environment; its seat is in Senegal with annexes in various other countries in the South. The activities of ENDA can be described by four key-words: research, action, training and communication. The documentation centre plays a double role as an information producer and as a service to the grassroot organisations ENDA is cooperating with. The collection contains some 13000 titles (of which 280 periodicals). Through the documentation centre, ENDA is participating in several national, regional and global networks. In its work the centre has to make a choice between handling acquisitions (75 % is sent as a gift and was not ordered!) and servicing the target-groups and users. The documentation policies in the framework of development activities need to be redefined. The vertical dimension calls for adapting the contents to the needs of grassroot groups, to narrow the gap between information producers and users and to consider the users as information-producers as well. The horizontal dimension entails facilitating the communication between grassroot organisations in order to develop networks and stimulate cooperation.

Michael Polman of INTERDOC — Antenna continued the 'self-help' theme by describing the aims of INTERDOC as facilitating and promoting information exchange and sharing. Documentation for social change had been an enduring theme since the establishment of INTERDOC in 1984. Workshops and training for grassroots librarians have been prioritised and efforts made to pinpoint the problems of information overload. As did some other speakers Mr Polman pointed out that network gateways are kept open even in repressive societies with the consequence that human rights violations can frequently be reported to the outside world in circumstances when they normally would not be.

Wouter Veening of the Environmental Liaison Committee International (ELCI) began his presentation by saying that an awareness of environmental degradation at the end of the 60s had led to a growth of global groups such as Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth. The Environmental Liaison Centre of ELCI aims to strengthen South NGO's and organise towards sustainable development. Workshops are organised for the 400 full members and a bi-monthly newsletter, Ecoforum is distributed. A central library is maintained in Nairobi.

Dominique Babini, speaking on behalf of the International Development Information Network (IDIN), commented on the current dearth of books in Argentina and requested help from EADI organisations in exploring the development of alternative means of communication. The sudden changes in information needs resulting from natural disasters was also stressed. Grassroots information exchange is of great importance to the development process. Regional IDIN centres are now developed enough to take on more responsibility.

Birgitta Bergdahl of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) explained the work of her organisation in the Third World. IFLA has three medium term goals geared towards empowerment: the education of information specialists; the establishment of library services, particularly in marginal areas and the involvement of libraries with literacy work.

The following discussion touched on the problems connected with the convergence of all forms of media to produce a single coherent component of information and the under utilisation and interpretation of information by decision makers. It was pointed out that decision makers are frequently not aware of the importance of information and as a result consciousness raising becomes a priority. The question then arises of whether information workers retain a neutral position or actively select and package information. The question of who owns information was raised with the example given that deforestation in Brazil is best monitored by satellite, but that the resulting information was owned by the military because it is considered of strategic importance.

Following the discussion Liisa Fagerlund of the UN Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems (ACCIS) described the documents that record the development activities and publications of the UN and its agencies. Terry Gavin of IDRC described the work of an informal study group comprising representatives from OECD Development Centre, ACCIS, IDRC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), US AID, the World Health Organisation and the UN Centre for Economic and Social Information. It was intended that a cooperative database of development activities be developed using CD ROM technology.

Vendredi matin 6 septembre

Dirk Hoftijzer (EADI-IVO Development Research Institute, University of Tilburg, The Netherlands) ouvre la séance plénière en français et annonce l'allocution de Monsieur Jean Meyriat de la Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques, représentant des membres fondateurs de la Bibliographie internationale des sciences sociales, membre actif de diverses organisations de documentation et auteur d'un "Manuel pour les sciences de documentation en sciences sociales" ciblé sur les pays en développement.

Monsieur Meyriat propose de prime abord une réflexion sur un thème "banal":

- Coopération, formes de coopération entre ceux qui participent à cette tâche.

Il met l'accent sur l'importance du travail de documentation et d'information pour le développement et affirme que cette notion est de mieux en mieux acceptée. "L'information est le fondement de la vie de toute société et ensuite de son développement" d'où l'importance de la *communication des connaissances*. La connaissance consiste en informations reçues et informations données et si l'information est pertinente, elle permet d'agir sur une société, donc, elle doit être des plus récente. *L'information est à la base de toute décision rationnelle.*

Il faut cependant prendre conscience des limites de cette information. Aucune de nos institutions ne peut répondre seule à un besoin croissant, et ce n'est qu'au cours des dernières décennies qu'on s'est rendu compte que seules les bonnes volontés ne suffisent plus:

- Il faut un haut degré de "professionalisation"
- On ne peut se passer de la technique
- Il faut une sorte d'institutionnalisation

Exemple de l'importance du cadre national: La politique du développement découle de la politique nationale, donc des ressources nationales d'information. La prise de conscience de ce phénomène est de plus en plus claire et nous savons que l'information est une composante essentielle.

Un deuxième thème de réflexion est la nécessité du *travail en réseau*. Les ressources d'information sont d'une ampleur illimitée et tous les efforts tendent à faire apparaître la complémentarité de ces ressources ce qui permet une meilleure efficacité.

Le progrès des techniques nous offre des moyens extraordinaires pour rendre possible ce travail coopératif: les télécommunications, satellites, communications à distance, systèmes informatiques, micro-ordinateurs ... Et comme les pays en développement ont peu de ressources matérielles, donc pas de gaspillage possible, l'efficacité doit être maximale.

La coopération porte sur beaucoup de matières:

- Echange d'informations
- Informations sur l'information
- Echanges de publications, mise en commun des fonds documentaires
- Partage de la description des documents: indexation, catalogage ou par exemple l'OCDE avec la diffusion du Macrothesaurus

- Interrogations réciproques des bases de données pouvant aboutir à une base de connaissances informelle à un réseau

Lorsque ces réseaux sont constitués, ce sont des outils de développement. Au niveau technique, le besoin d'échanges oblige une normalisation et une rationalisation des procédures ce qui exige un effort particulier, d'où une amélioration des produits. C'est un développement, un progrès.

Au niveau du facteur humain, la coopération se joue sur le plan professionnel, établir des relations humaines et renforcer un travail collectif ce qui produit un effet multiplicateur: favorise la diffusion, le progrès d'une culture documentaire nécessaire à sensibiliser les opinions, permet de rendre de meilleurs services aux utilisateurs, d'où l'importance du rôle intermédiaire du documentaliste.

Inter Press Service (IPS), l'agence de presse du Tiers Monde, était représenté par M. John Schlanger. L'IPS est une organisation sans but lucratif, fondée en 1964, qui a pour but de gérer un système de communication international afin de procurer de l'information d'une manière plus diversifiée. Approximativement 160.000 mots sont écrits par jour dans 13 langues, en couvrant 87 pays. La concentration du marché mondial d'information a résulté en une concentration du contrôle de la communication internationale. L'IPS essaye de contribuer à la réduction de la disparité au niveau de l'accès à l'information. La coopération avec les ONGs va en s'améliorant; l'IPS s'adresse de plus en plus souvent aux réseaux des ONGs. Néanmoins, quelques ONGs ont des problèmes conceptuels au niveau de l'adaptation à un monde qui change très vite. En plus, il y existe un manque permanent de moyens financiers. Il est vraisemblable qu'une intégration se développera entre les réseaux des média et ceux de l'information.

Clôture de la session plénière et du séminaire

Dirk Hoftijzer remercie les rapporteurs des groupes spéciaux et les différents orateurs pour leurs interventions. *Construire des ponts entre les différents mondes de l'information pourrait servir de conclusion à ce séminaire qualifié de fructueux.* Les séances plénières ont donné de nouveaux défis.

Il remercie le Centre de Développement de l'OCDE pour son hospitalité et son soutien. Remerciements également à tous les interlocuteurs, les orateurs, les rapporteurs et les participants. Il ajoute qu'il a été beaucoup question de "réseaux" mais que ce sont les "individus" qui sont d'une importance cruciale.

La prochaine réunion de l'EADI se tiendra à Tilburg, Hollande, en septembre 1992. Le thème abordé sera:

- Les recherches et les politiques de développement: l'impact de l'information.

En conclusion, il salue les 53 francophones (nombre record), et espère que cela stimulera la coopération anglophone et francophone.

Rapporteurs: Maureen Mahoney, IDS, Brighton
René Barbey, IUED, Geneva
Jacqueline Burkhalter, KODIS, Switzerland

WELCOME ADDRESS -

by Kirsti Hagen Andersen, Convenor EADI I&D Working Group

Dear friends and colleagues

It is in itself quite an event that 120 documentalists, librarians and representatives for international and non-governmental organizations from Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Arab countries come together to discuss cooperation and networking.

The setting for this seminar is perfect - in the international atmosphere of this OECD main building; with all facilities needed to give a perfect frame around our work for the next few days.

On behalf of all of us I want to thank our two host institutes : the OECD Development Centre and the Groupement d'Interet Scientifique Economic Mondiale Tiers-Monde, Developpement - GEMDEV, for making it possible to come to Paris for this year's meeting.

To be able to arrange these EADI Information and Documentation Group seminars it is quite essential to have host institutes to take care of all the practical details. It is a lot of work and resources, which this time the OECD Development Centre and the GEMDEV are giving us. We are very grateful for your help, and I would like to direct our thanks to the President of the OECD Development Centre - Louis Emmerij - and to Catherine Choquet from GEMDEV.

Paris is a beautiful city - but we are certainly not here for sightseeing, which you will soon discover. The motive behind having a seminar in France was in fact to increase the Francophone percentage of participants in our group, and we hope that this seminar will inspire many of you to become members of EADI and of our group. The number of participants here is certainly very encouraging.

For those of you who are attending one of our seminars for the first time, I would like to say only a few words about EADI and about the activities of the working group on Information and Documentation.

EADI - The European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes is an international non-governmental organisation, independent and non-profit making which was founded in 1975.

Its purpose is to stimulate exchange of information between researchers concerned with development issues; to promote interdisciplinary studies on specific themes and to encourage cooperation between researchers and institute members; not only within Europe but also from Africa, Asia the Arab countries and Latin America.

The membership of EADI covers today 185 institutional, 22 associate and 259 individual members in 24 European countries.

EADI comprises of 24 working groups. and this is where the main activities occur. Each working group operates independently, but every third year at EADI's General conference all members and working groups meet.

The Working Group on Information and Documentation arrange one seminar a year, concentrating on different important topics of relevance to development documentation. Over the past years we have arranged special meetings on issues like databases for small special libraries in Norway and at IDS in Brighton, on Thesauri in the field of development studies in Geneva; and on Documentation and library cooperation with Third World Countries in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia. At the EADI general conferences every third year there are very limited time for Working Group activities so the programme during these meetings has been of a more general character to show the variety of the working group activities and to draw the interest of new members into our group. This year, as you all know, the topic we will concentrate on is devoted to networking with special emphasis on non-governmental organizations.

When talking about development information and networking this always relates to our cooperating partners in the developing countries- to the researchers and to the documentalists in these countries. EADI is part of the ICCDA framework - the Interregional Coordination Committee of Development Associations. It is therefore of special importance to us that representatives from EADI's sister organizations are present - from CLACSO in Latin America; from CODESRIA in Africa, from ADIPA in Asia and from AICARDES in the Arab countries. I would like to welcome these participants especially and also thank the OECD Development Centre who is making their participation possible. In fact we have during the past few days had meetings within this framework on the International Development Information Network (IDIN), and it is with proudness we today are able to present the latest product of IDIN: The Directory of Development Research and Training Institutes in Europe, produced by EADI in cooperation with the OECD Development Centre.

I will also especially welcome our many lecturers and resource persons who are especially invited, and who during the next days will share their knowledge with us to give us starting points for fruitful discussions.

And then - last but not least - I will welcome all of you - the participants - who are going to fill the frame we are giving you with contents the next few days.

Welcoming speech by Louis Emmerij,
President of the OECD Development Centre at the Seminar of EADI
on 3-6 September 1991 at the Development Centre.

As a former President of EADI you will understand that this institution, and its working groups, have remained close to my heart, and the Information and Documentation Working Group in particular is a very active group indeed.

A former Rector of the Institute of Social Studies, I know well the need for, and the importance of, good information centres. As President of the OECD Development Centre, which is the bridge between the industrialised Member countries of the Organisation and the countries of the developing world, I have always encouraged research in the field of international economic relations and development, but also the continuation of a very active information and documentation unit within our External Co-operation Programme. For all these reasons I am happy to extend a warm welcome to you today.

I am agreeably surprised by the number of participants at this seminar, even more so because it is a meeting without any papers. Have you seen any papers? I saw a provisional agenda, I saw a long provisional list of participants, but no papers, and I said to myself, how can you gather 120-130 people together without any papers? The explanation is that documentalists and librarians manipulate so much paper in their everyday work, that when they meet together, they like to do so in a more relaxed way, and especially without papers! More seriously, gatherings such as the one today are rare examples of when you do manage to meet together, and it shows the importance and value you and your institutions place on information and documentation gathering. I would like to thank here GEMDEV, our co-sponsor in hosting this meeting. This is a group that assembles and disseminates the work done in France on world economics and on development.

I myself am a firm believer in the crucial importance of a strong and up-to-date documentation base. I have always backed up the Development Centre's efforts in this domain. It is not a glorious kind of job, it is not spectacular, but it is more than half the

battle for any institution to have a complete library and an excellent documentation unit. And, once again, let me say that I have always supported the work which my friend and colleague, Giulio Fossi, has been doing with you on behalf of the Development Centre. I believe there should be more decentralisation, a subject to which I will return a little later, but I am behind you in this work. This brings me now to the presence here of representatives of our four sister associations in the other regions: CLACSO in Latin America, ADIPA in Asia, AICARDES in the Middle East and CODESRIA in Africa, and so I would also like to express a warm welcome to those of you who come from Kuala Lumpur, Buenos Aires, Dakar and Tunis.

Coming back now to the question of decentralisation, I think the Development Centre's role in the field of documentation and IDIN — International Development Information Network — should indeed be decentralised towards the regions. This is already happening, but the process should be speeded up. I think the era of centralised imperialism, as our Russian colleagues can also say now, is definitely over. The Development Centre should not be taking up space which should be attributed to the centres situated in the regions themselves. There is a price to be paid for democracy and self-reliance and that is hard work, and it may be that the Development Centre has done a little too much, but we have done it caringly and with pleasure. However, it is necessary to find a new balance between the role of the Development Centre and the role of the sister associations, and I include EADI in this.

Let me say here a word about the wonderful support we have obtained from others in this work. Firstly, we have all received a great deal of support from IDRC, and I am happy to welcome Martha Stone who has been its driving force. And even a driving force must pay a price, because she will be giving one of today's Keynote Addresses — a view from the North. Secondly, the Italian Government has recognised the value of the IDIN concept, and the importance of strengthening social science research in the Third World and in Europe, and has for this reason given substantial financial support to the Development Centre to increase its action with the IDIN partners.

Now a final word on substance. The international economic relations and development field is moving rapidly. It is moving fast in the South, and fast in the East. In fact, the only

place where it is relatively immobile is in the West. I am very interested in the changes currently taking place in terms of governance and in terms of development policies in Latin America, and now also in Africa, not to speak of Asia — including India with Manmohan Singh, the former Executive Director of the South Commission, now Minister of Finance in that country. I find the changes in these regions very impressive indeed. The changes in Eastern Europe are the subject of much discussion, perhaps a little too much. There is not enough interest in the equally impressive changes in the South, changes that are absolutely fantastic and fundamental. And, as I said before, it is in the OECD countries that there is relative immobility faced with the very rapid changes occurring in the East and in the South.

The North is presently in a very self-congratulatory mood, with triumphant capitalism having won the victory of the day. But this is not the end of the story, and I foresee a long road ahead. The North talks about governance, good governance; I talk about **international good governance**. What is international good governance? And what concrete institutions do we have to promote such international good governance?

We have the Group of 7. This is a self-appointed group of countries that meets once a year and hands down its congratulations or blame on the rest of the world. Another example is the United Nations which is too easily manipulated and which cannot keep pace with the changes that I have just mentioned in the East and South, and with the advent of a global economy, of global markets and global enterprises in the face of which national governance even the most powerful, is becoming more and more impotent.

The question of international governance is thus becoming of the essence, and I hope that your work can be adapted to keep up with the ensuing changes that must come.

Let me conclude by assuring you of two things:

The first is that even if your work is not always in the limelight, and even if it is not always spectacular, it is of fundamental importance to the research and training activities going on all over the world. No institution working on research and policy-oriented questions can operate efficiently without the collaboration and assistance of those of you who work in

the backrooms and in the libraries to ensure that our infrastructure remains relevant and up-to-date. The second thing I wanted to say, in conclusion, is that it is only through your intensified international co-operation, in sitting together around tables as you are doing today, and by adopting the new technologies for storage and retrieval of information that you will be able, and enable your colleagues, to face the challenge of this rapidly changing interdependence.

So let me finish by thanking you all for being here today and by thanking the organisers for continuing the work of the most dynamic group of EADI. I hope the days ahead will be very interesting and informative ones, and that you will finish in good time so that you may enjoy Paris a little because, after all, that is also one of the reasons why you came here in such numbers.

Thank you very much.

**DOCUMENTATION FOR DEVELOPMENT:
A VIEW FROM THE NORTH**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Presented at the

**EADI WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION
AND DOCUMENTATION SEMINAR**

on

**STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN DOCUMENTATION
FOR DEVELOPMENT**

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by

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DOCUMENTATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: A VIEW FROM THE NORTH

Some months ago, when I was advised of the subject of my address today, I had mixed feelings about the way in which I should approach such an important and complex topic. I looked forward to the prospect of sharing with you some of my views about the role and the impact of documentation on the process of development, for it is a subject to which I have given a great deal of thought. At the same time, I was somewhat concerned about my ability to speak to this issue from the perspective of the North. Underlining this concern is my belief that development or socio-economic progress has been made more difficult because the northern perspective has influenced unduly the decisions and agendas for development.

To appease my concern, I have elected to change the title somewhat, from "a view from the North" to the "perspective from a development assistance organization", which happens to be situated in the north. I believe that this perspective or view may indeed be more appropriate, for the organization in question is the International Development Research Centre, which for more than twenty years has actively supported and facilitated the creation of documentation and information activities. I have been fortunate enough to have been associated with many of these activities, and I believe that I can comment upon some essential factors related to the subject of documentation and development.

If I now turn my attention to the first part of the title of my address, I believe that a few words are required to situate the concept of "documentation for development". During the past two decades, the term "development" has evolved from the concept of socio-economic progress to that of empowerment. For development to be realized, people must be empowered to access the systems within a society and be empowered to make personal choices about their own destiny. This means that those who wish

to be in a position to have input into the global agenda setting on socio-economic or geo-political issues, must be so empowered. This for me is the essence of the development process.

Does the field of documentation have any importance, or role to play in this process? The answer is clearly, yes. In the final days of negotiating with IDRC a very important project concerned with strengthening the capacity of the University of Ibadan in Nigeria to support a regional centre in information science, the Vice-Chancellor stated that during the past few years, he has come to change his firmly held position that "information is important to the development process" to that of "any level of development is impossible without information and equity of access to that information".

I would also like to focus some attention on the concept of documentation. For the purpose of this presentation, I am considering documentation in its broadest sense. I shall not limit my comments to the art or science of information analysis, rather, my definition will include those processes required to acquire, manipulate, organize, repackage, and disseminate information to a pre-defined target audience. Included in these processes are the mechanisms required to determine and evaluate if the information needs of the targeted group have been met by the systems established. This definition is not only broad, but it is also multi-faceted, for it is not possible to consider these processes without considering the physical, human, and financial resources required for system and service implementation.

For the information practitioner in the field of socio-economic development, the strong linkages between documentation and development have always been known. The literature itself,

as we know, attests to this. What has changed recently is that these linkages are now recognized by those who are responsible for the formulation and execution of policies which determine the level of development or the degree of empowerment. I refer again to the most important revelation by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan.

I mentioned earlier that the Division for which I have responsibility has been active in supporting the design, development, and implementation of information and documentation systems for more than twenty years, indeed from the very beginning of IDRC. Also, I believe the record speaks for itself, and that there is concrete evidence that important information infrastructures have been created. However, during the last few years, I have come to believe that some critical questions have yet to be answered, and important information has to be collected to determine the degree to which the creation of these information/documentation structures indeed impact or have a positive effect on the process of development. Thus, for at least the last four years, I have been attempting, through various assessment and evaluation activities and initiatives to find tangible evidence to support the assumption that documentation and development are inexorably linked.

For example, I wanted a better understanding about how decision-makers, policy-makers, and those who controlled resources made their decisions. Upon what information did they base their policy decisions, and if they did understand the process of information gathering, what did they consider to be the most important sources of information. I was also interested in their perspective of their role in the "information chain", both in disseminating and receiving information.

East and Southern Africa was the first region in which a study to address these questions was undertaken. Four years ago, most of the effort was directed to sensitizing and informing the policy-makers of what exactly was being asked of them. For yes, while it was true that they knew of the existence of libraries and documentation centres, often under their administrative responsibility, the concept of information and its access as a critical component in the planning and policy formulation process was novel, and in some instances, not easily accepted. However, even then, when concrete examples were given, such as "the status of a five-year agricultural plan", and "what were the elements which were required to develop that plan", and indeed "what were the factors which caused the plan not to be successfully implemented", there developed an appreciation of the role information could and should play in the development process. At that time, it is interesting to note, the linkage was not yet made between this realization of the importance of information to their decision-making and the existence of the information and documentation services. One may question the responsibility of the information specialist in facilitating this linkage. Fortunately, in this particular example, this realization was to come in time.

But the environment is changing rapidly. For in only four years, requests are currently being received to study and undertake research into the most appropriate mechanisms to ensure that there is equity of access to information required to prepare a dynamic and responsive development agenda. Inherent in these requests are the need to understand how information is transferred, internalized, and acted upon, as well as the need to establish the appropriate physical and human infrastructure required to ensure that information is acquired, organized, and disseminated. What is of equal interest is that these requests,

although small in number, are from all geographic regions which have socio-economic development as their principal agenda item.

When change is observed, one looks for reasons for the change. In trying to understand the new mind-set regarding the importance of documentation in policy formulation and the development process, it is important to look at some of the priority areas on the global development agenda. Specifically, some of the tools which are now available to address the development problems facing us today - i.e. crippling trade deficits, the continuing debt crisis, the management, or lack thereof, of natural resources and the difficult balance between preservation and use of the environment. Technology and its utilization is clearly one of the most critical tools which must be transferred, modified and used to address these amongst other development problems; and understandably, I wish to focus upon the area of information technologies.

There is little doubt that the rapid advancement in the field of information technologies has had a major impact on the change in perception of the role of information or documentation on development. Within the last decade, we have witnessed the advent of technologies which, when properly applied, ensure equity of access to information by those who need it, and once having that information, they can make choices about their own development agenda. We are witnessing for the first time in many regions of the world the individual determining what information she or he wants, and their being a part of the decision-making as to from where the information is to be acquired, and how it is to be used. We are also seeing at the level of the individual, opportunities to complete the information-loop which ensures that the providers of the information receive feed-back as to whether the information responded to or met the pre-identified need.

We all have examples of how documentation is more accurately packaged, targeted and used effectively as a result of technologies such as computer-based messaging systems; CD-ROM and WORM; Local and Wide Area Networks; artificial intelligence or more specifically, expert systems; machine-assisted translation; packet radio/satellite transmission; and as we meet, more technologies are evolving and are being refined. I, for example, am looking forward to witness the impact of a fairly new information technology "virtually reality" and its application to "model simulation". These are indeed exciting times, and as I have stated, those who are responsible for setting the development agenda are acutely aware of the impact these technologies will and are having on development. What is also clear is that if these technologies are not available to those who wish to be full participants in the global development setting agenda, then the disparity and gap between the haves and have-nots will surely increase - and increase at such a rate that "catching-up" will be virtually impossible.

What is not so clear is that the information specialists, those who have responsibility for identifying and responding to information needs, appreciate the full ramifications of the present and evolving information technologies. While it is true that many of the information services and documentation centres make important use of these various technologies, it is not equally true that the specialists enter into meaningful dialogue with those who control the resources and make the policy decisions about the role of these technologies on socio-economic development and empowerment. I am convinced that if the information specialists and documentalists do not themselves become members of the decision-making fora on issues such as the tools required for development, then the gap between understanding the role of information or documentation on

development and understanding the structures required to support that role will become wider; and unfortunately the ability to reduce this gap will become more and more difficult.

The human resource component of the documentation infrastructure is the most important, for it is the documentalist, the information specialist or the information resource manager who must function as a conduit between the target audience and the information source. It is incumbent upon the specialist to have a good understanding of the environment within which the target audience exists and works. This understanding must be matched with an in-depth knowledge of and the skill to use the tools required to process and disseminate the required information. Because of this requirement, it is my strong belief that human resource capacity building or training must be high on the agenda if one is to seriously address the issue of documentation and development. Equal attention must be placed on long-term training, where the focus is on training of trainers in the new aspects of information and documentation sciences; and on short-term training, which is more focused and directed at a specific set of tasks and activities.

I am pleased to note that the first type of capacity building is becoming more evident in those regions of the world where the cadre of information specialists is very weak. For example, in Latin America, there is the unique program at the University of Simon Bolivar. This program is based upon a concept which could serve as a model world-wide. The Andean region is rich with information and documentation practitioners who are managing exciting information programs, focused on specific sectors and using novel approaches to networking and resource sharing. Rather than building a large and expensive bureaucratic university infrastructure, a complex program has

been developed to draw upon the knowledge and experience of these practising information scientists. The benefit has been at least two-fold, for in addition to establishing a much needed program in the field of information science, the students are being presented with a theoretical framework, within which the real world issues and problems can be meaningfully placed. It is encouraging to know that when these student graduate, they will be better prepared to participate in the decision-making forum on information needs, sources, and utilization.

One can see the same development taking place in West Africa, where the University of Ibadan has just completed the first year of the post-graduate program of the African Regional Centre in Information Science, (ARCIS). Although this program was very long in its implementation, as a regional program it is extremely important to the African continent. For, while there is not a lack of library schools, and therefore professional librarians, the concept of information science and documentation is relatively new. However, today at ARCIS, one can see students who possess graduate degrees in fields such as biochemistry, agriculture science, economics, political science, etc. They have chosen to take further graduate studies in information science because they recognize the critical importance of information in the development process and they are committed to the socio-economic development of their region. They are aggressively acquiring the knowledge and the skills to ensure that they are able to credibly influence the decision and policy-makers in using and acting upon accurate, timely, and relevant information. If my expectations are met regarding the success of these two programs, then I am convinced that my concerns about the information specialists not being considered important to the development process will slowly disappear. As mentioned, earlier, these are exciting times!

It must also be underscored that more focused training, or short-termed training is also important. To achieve the objectives to which I have referred, it is often necessary to go into an established information or documentation service and identify the activities which should be undertaken to ensure that the outputs are relevant to the decision and policy-making process within an organization. This could be in the more traditional area of "marketing of services", or in the use of the rapidly changing field of information technologies. It is clear that such services must be built into the program of "continuing education". If this is not the case, then the users may indeed become more aware than the information specialists of the value of information and the tools necessary to acquire, process, and use this information. It is this reverse role which often causes the information specialist to be out of the decision and policy-making processes critical to a development agenda.

Up to this point, I have attempted to present a thesis which states that information specialists have for some time understood the critical importance of documentation to development. In addition, for reasons which have also been discussed, policy-makers and resource allocators are becoming clearly aware of the role of information and its access to the development process. However, if this is to be accepted as true, then, there must be established tangible criteria by which the relevance of documentation for development can be measured. It is not sufficient to just say that it is relevant or that we believe it to be so. This is not an easy undertaking, for one can find in the literature documented attempts to prove the impact of information on decision-making. Crudely stated, it is very difficult to answer the "so-what" question regarding the utilization of information by those who are accountable for managing the processes for development.

It may be useful to give an example of an activity, which my Division is about to help develop and support, and which if successful, should contribute to the establishment of "indicators for relevance". It is important to note that for us, the work is just beginning, and thus, it should be evident that we yet do not have all of the answers.

The Division of Health Sciences in IDRC is currently supporting a major program in community health in Uganda. The project is being managed by the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Makerere, but it is linked to the Ministry of Health through its Extension Program. In the early days of the project negotiation, it was recognized that access to information was important, but primarily from the perspective of the needs of the medical researchers and professors based at the University. Thus, it was believed that the existing library services provided by the University and Medical Libraries would be sufficient to serve their information needs. Very quickly, however, it became clear that the information needs of the health policy-makers and resource allocators, and the information needs of the extension workers could not be met by the traditional library services. The sources of information were inappropriate, the organization and packaging of the information were not relevant to the problem-solving tasks of the targeted audience, and there was not an understanding of the role of information in the process of policy formulation for a National Health Plan for Uganda.

The Information Sciences Division was requested, perhaps at too late a stage, to support the establishment of an appropriate documentation centre which would be a key component in the delivery of a community health program to the country. (I need not underscore the critical importance of the health sector in Uganda today). While I looked forward to participating in this

very important project, because I believed that there was the potential to clearly demonstrate the importance of documentation to a stated national development priority, I did believe, however, that something should be added to this initiative. Suppose it were possible to demonstrate through this proposed activity that the presence of a dynamic documentation service was essential to the success of the development agenda for health in Uganda, then in the future decision and policy-makers would take it as a given that information and the necessary information infrastructure would be included in the formulation of any development agenda, at any level - local, national, regional, or global.

Thus as a research component of this fairly classic documentation service, we are now trying to attach "beacons" or "signals" to some of the key elements of the project. Then after the information service has been implemented and operational for some time, an evaluation will be undertaken to determine the degree to which the availability of the information has had an impact on or been relevant to the development of a health policy for Uganda. The concept of "beacons" is important, for it is necessary to identify and define those critical elements within the information system which will be examined at the time of the evaluation. We also must be able to answer the question as to which activities and outputs are essential for relevance to the development process.

Within the Information Sciences Division, we are at the point of identifying and defining these, and this exercise represents a most exciting challenge. I strongly believe, however, that if we are not able to undertake this type of evaluation, where the indicators are selected at the time of the development of the project, then it will become more and more

difficult to prove concretely the strong and critical linkage between documentation and development.

In my discussions with the convenors of this seminar, I was told that a panel of experts would discuss their respective information systems and services and hopefully use some of my comments as a spring board for presenting their views. I hope that what I have said this morning provides a basis for such a discussion, and I look forward to hearing their presentations.

Finally, in summary, what I have tried to present, without too many specific examples, for they will come later, is my belief that:

- * documentation and development are inexorably linked, and the information practitioners have long known this to be true;
- * that we are now seeing strong evidence that the decision and policy-makers and resource allocators have begun to understand the critical importance of information to the development-setting agenda;
- * that the users of information are moving quickly ahead of the information specialists and documentalists in understanding the critical importance of information technology on empowerment and the development agenda;
- * that a serious gap exists between understanding that concept and understanding the need for a strong information and documentation infrastructure to

ensure that information can play that important function;

- * that the responsibility to close that gap lies with the information specialists themselves, and that part of the solution lies in training, both formal and short-term;

- * that without a strong and regular evaluation/assessment component of an information system or documentation service, it will be difficult to sustain the credibility necessary to move aggressively forward in forging the links between documentation and development.

Le renforcement de la coopération en matière de documentation sur le développement : l'expérience d'Enda Tiers monde

ENDA : *Environnement et Développement du Tiers Monde* est une organisation internationale créée à la suite de la 1ère Conférence sur l'environnement tenue à Stockholm en 1972. Le siège de l'organisation est situé à Dakar, Sénégal avec des antennes établies dans d'autres pays du Tiers Monde : Zimbabwe, Colombie, Bolivie, Saint Domingue, Maurice, Maroc, Tunisie.

Une délégation Enda-Europe existe à Paris pour jouer le rôle d'intermédiaire entre le siège et les différents partenaires en Europe.

Enda mène des actions à la fois en milieu urbain et rural. Les mots-clés qui définissent globalement les activités d'Enda sont : Recherche-Action-Formation-Communication.

Des équipes ont été constituées pour assurer les différentes activités d'Enda, la communication est présente dans la plupart de ces activités. Cependant il existe un service de Coordination de la communication qui cherche à englober les activités purement de communication. Nous tâcherons de vous présenter particulièrement trois équipes, ceci afin de donner une idée plus claire de ce qui peut se faire à l'intérieur de certaines équipes.

Tout d'abord l'équipe **Information-Press** : en dehors de la couverture des manifestations liées aux domaines d'intérêt d'Enda une équipe de journalistes assure deux types d'actions qui se déroulent généralement sur le terrain et font l'objet d'articles diffusés par la suite dans la presse nationale, régionale, internationale ou dans des revues spécialisées.

- 1) présenter les activités d'Enda sur le terrain
- 2) mener des enquêtes, faire des reportages chez d'autres partenaires travaillant dans les domaines de développement et diffuser les résultats à travers un réseau d'organismes ayant les mêmes préoccupations.

L'équipe **Audiovisuel** est composée de journalistes et techniciens qui produisent des matériels audiovisuels à la demande des autres équipes d'Enda et rendent des services à un public composé de :

- groupements villageois;
- animateurs urbains et ruraux;
- associations sportives et culturelles;
- participants à des séminaires;
- écoles

Les supports utilisés sont divers et variés. On y trouve des :

- supports écrits tels que : boîte à images, bandes dessinées, romans-photos;
- supports audiovisuels tels que : diaporama (ensemble de diapositives et bande sonore) ; diafiche (ensemble de 12 à 24 diapositives sur un thème spécifique accompagnées d'un livret explicatif) ; vidéo ; film 16 mm.

Ces supports sont destinés à la formation, à l'animation ou à l'information des publics pré-cités. L'équipe joue aussi le rôle de distributeur dans toute l'Afrique de l'ouest de films produits par le CRDI, l'UNICEF et l'UNCHS.

L'équipe de la **documentation** qui joue aussi le double rôle de producteurs de travaux documentaires et de service, par :

- 1) la réalisation de travaux documentaires le plus souvent à la demande mais aussi précédant celle-ci, pour les équipes et collaborateurs d'Enda;
- 2) l'accueil d'un public, composé de chercheurs, étudiants, enseignants, agents de développement etc..., à la recherche d'expériences faites sur le terrain.

Le centre apporte également des réponses à des demandes d'informations par courrier émanant d'organismes situés dans les pays voisins.

Le centre de documentation possède un fonds de 13 000 documents dont

- le quart est produit par Enda;
- 280 titres de périodiques;
- 4000 microfiches.

Depuis deux ans une partie du fonds a été informatisée à l'aide du logiciel Alexandria fonctionnant sur Macintosh.

L'objectif du centre de documentation est d'établir un contact direct avec les groupes de base -comme peuvent le faire d'autres équipes- afin de mieux répondre à leurs besoins et de mettre en place un service questions-réponses direct. Actuellement ce service transite par les équipes évoluant sur le terrain, il s'agit de questions dont les réponses se trouvent au centre de documentation. Dans ces cas les documentalistes font des recherches et transmettent les résultats à l'animateur de l'équipe.

Par ailleurs, à travers le centre de documentation, Enda participe à de nombreux réseaux sur le plan national, sous-régional et international :

Sur le plan national

Il existe au Sénégal un ensemble de cinq réseaux documentaires destinés à créer des liens entre les organismes qui travaillent dans les mêmes domaines, et de mettre en place une base de données nationale qui rassemblera l'ensemble des données existant sur le territoire :

- RIDES : Réseau des Institutions Documentaires de l'Enseignement Supérieur
- Réseau des pouvoirs Publics
- Réseau Recherche
- REDAS : Réseau de la Direction de l'Architecture et de l'Urbanisme du Sénégal
- RESAGRIS : Réseau de Documentation Agricole du Sénégal dont Enda est membre

Sur le plan sous-régional

- Enda est membre du RESADOC (Réseau Sahélien de Documentation et d'information scientifique et technique) situé à Bamako, et a adopté son thesaurus pour le traitement des documents. Enda essaie de participer à

l'enrichissement de la base de données du Resadoc en envoyant des bordereaux sur des thèmes tels que l'agriculture, l'élevage

- Une relation d'échanges de documents et d'information s'est établie entre Enda et Inades-Documentation à Abidjan.

- Enda a coorganisé avec l'IRED et Panos deux séminaires en 1988 et 1990 à Ouahigouya au Burkina Faso, sur la communication à la base. Ces manifestations avaient pour objectif de constituer un réseau régional d'actions communes entre partenaires du développement.

A la suite de ces deux rencontres, un projet de Société Africaine de Diffusion et de Ventes de publications produites par des organisations de développement a été proposé et un atelier s'est tenu récemment au Niger (juin 1991) pour étudier les modalités de sa mise en place.

- Le centre de documentation est membre du réseau sous régional de documentalistes Satis, dont la coordination est assurée par APICA au Cameroun.

Sur le plan international

- Depuis quelques années, le centre de documentation d'Enda développe des relations d'échanges avec Ibiscus (Système d'information sur les pays en développement).

- Le Ministère français de la Coopération a intégré Enda dans son projet de "Réseaux documentaires pour le développement", ce qui permet notamment à l'organisation de développer des relations avec les centres culturels français du Sénégal et de pouvoir réaliser des travaux en relation avec les réseaux nationaux sénégalais.

- Enda est membre du réseau Satis (Union mondiale pour les technologies au service de l'environnement et du développement durable) et a adopté le plan de classement Satis dès sa création. Ce réseau constitué de près de 150 membres permet à ces derniers d'échanger des informations.

Permettez-moi d'ajouter quelques mots sur l'organisation internationale Satis qui depuis sa création en 1982 était installée aux Pays Bas et vient d'être transférée à Dakar. Elle bénéficie actuellement d'un appui logistique d'Enda dans sa phase de transfert. Il s'agit ici d'un exemple concret de coopération à l'intérieur d'un réseau. Satis a facilité l'accès d'Enda au courrier électronique à travers Geonet, ceci permettra aussi à Enda d'intégrer un autre type de réseau à plus grande échelle.

Quelques remarques

La surinformation est un phénomène courant dans les centres de documentation du Tiers monde et cela concerne aussi Enda. En dehors des publications d'Enda, le centre de documentation reçoit un nombre impressionnant de documents gratuits non sollicités. Actuellement les dons atteignent près de 75% des acquisitions, les échanges représentent environ 20% et le taux d'achat reste à 5%.

Ce qui signifie que la plupart des documents acquis n'ont pas été choisis et ceux qui le sont, sont en nombre insuffisant.

- Le temps imparti au traitement des documents non sollicités est trop important pour permettre au personnel de se consacrer à des activités plus diversifiées, d'innover, et surtout de se rapprocher de la base qui reste l'un des principaux partenaires. En conséquence les documents traités et enregistrés dans la base de données ne correspondent pas toujours aux vrais besoins.

Alors que faire ?

- Il est important que les documentalistes participent aux activités sur le terrain afin qu'ils soient mieux intégrés au renforcement de la coopération avec les groupes de base dans le cadre d'une politique documentaire. Il faudrait leur donner les possibilités de faire des propositions à la base à partir des constats qui auront été faits sur le terrain et ne pas les limiter à répondre aux questions. Il faut qu'un véritable dialogue entre ceux qui cherchent l'information et ceux qui la possèdent soit établi.

- Le succès enregistré par le centre de documentation d'Enda se manifeste essentiellement par la réaction du public -dont l'effectif a atteint près de 700 utilisateurs externes en 1990 et promet de doubler en 1991 puisqu'en août on en compte déjà 572- qui a réclamé cette année un accès plus fréquent au centre, ce que nous avons fait. Le choix a été difficile, et peut paraître en contradiction avec un besoin réel de personnel et un manque cruel de temps. Cette décision ne fait que rendre plus difficile le traitement du volume documentaire arrivant régulièrement.

Fallait-il alors garder un public insatisfait ou consacrer plus de temps au traitement des documents ?

En conclusion il est important de souligner que la politique documentaire pour le développement qui a été menée jusqu'ici a besoin d'être redéfinie car elle ne semble pas appropriée.

Au plan vertical, il est nécessaire d'adapter le contenu de l'information aux besoins des communautés de base, de rapprocher les sources d'information des destinataires et de considérer aussi ces derniers comme des producteurs d'information.

Au plan horizontal, il faut surtout favoriser la communication entre groupes de base pour développer les réseaux et renforcer par la même occasion la coopération que nous souhaitons tous.

Dakar, le 30 août 1991

Martine Abraham

EADI Seminar, Paris, 3-6 September 1991

Summary introduction/comments Wouter J. Veening (General Policy Coordinator Netherlands Committee for the International Union for Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources/Former Vice Chairman of the Environment Liaison Centre International, Nairobi).

1. Overview international environmental networks

1948 foundation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and natural Resources (IUCN), out of which came in 1961 the World Wildlife Fund, now called the Worldwide Fund for Nature, with the same abbreviation (WWF). Out of the growing awareness in 1960s that the world's ecosystems as such became more and more threatened grew organizations and networks such as Greenpeace and Friends-of-the-Earth, more activist and campaign-oriented than IUCN and WWF.

After the first UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, the existing NGOs felt that an NGO counterpart of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and a support structure for NGOs in the south was needed. This led in 1974 to the establishment of the Environment Liaison Centre (ELC), headquartered in Nairobi, like UNEP. In 19... ELC became the Environment Liaison Centre *International* (ELCI), to emphasize the need of having also *regional* networks, and to its name was added: "global Coalition for Environment and Development". This signals the inspiration from the work of the World Commission on Environment and Development, the so-called Brundtland Commission, and its report of 1987, *Our Common Future*. Around 8000 NGOs worldwide are reached by the bi-monthly ECO-FORUM with news about NGOs, NGO activities and background articles. The occasional, 4 page ECO-PROBE gives information and campaign positions on issues like export of hazardous waste, climate change, food irradiation, Antarctica. ELCI has a library in Nairobi with books, magazines and newspaper clippings, which serves mainly a local and regional function. ELCI organizes training workshops for NGOs in the South on how to set up an office, keep the books, put out a newsletter, organize courses on sustainable agriculture and energy.

Contrary to Greenpeace, which focuses on a limited number of campaign issues and which survives on its electronic communication system to carry out its campaigns, ELCI as a general NGO support organization, is only beginning to set up its electronic communication systems (Greenpeace is a member of ELCI, which now has over 400 members, mostly in the south).

2. Relevance of (documented) information for effective NGO activities

From the perspective of an international lobby-ist, information has to be condensed and timed so as to make it relevant for an increasingly complex and high-paced decisionmaking process. Information which reaches widely-read international newspapers like the Financial Times or the International Herald Tribune, have most impact. Books, documents are not ready by most policy makers anymore.

There is a great need for brokers between documentation systems and the Financial Times!!

Séminaire de l'AEID, Paris 3-6 septembre 1991

Brève introduction/commentaires par Wouter J. Veenig (Coordinateur de Politique Générale du Comité pour l'Union Internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature et des Ressources Naturelles/ancien Vice-Président du Centre International de Liaison pour l'Environnement)

1. Vue d'ensemble sur les réseaux internationaux sur l'environnement

En 1948 fondation de l'Union Internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature et des Ressources Naturelles (UICN), dont est sorti en 1961 le World Wildlife Fund, maintenant appelé Fonds Mondial pour la Nature, avec les mêmes initiales (WWF en anglais). La conscience croissante dans les années 60 que les écosystèmes du monde en tant que tels sont de plus en plus menacés a fait croître des organisations et réseaux tels que Greenpeace et Amis de la Terre, plus militantes et tournées vers les campagnes d'opinion que les l'UICN et le WWF.

Après la première Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement Humain à Stockholm en 1972, les organisations non-gouvernementales (ONG) d'alors ont ressenti le besoin d'un ONG correspondant au Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement (PNUE) et d'une structure d'appui pour les ONG dans le sud. Ceci a amené à la création en 1974 du Centre de Liaison pour l'Environnement (CLE), avec siège à Nairobi comme le PNUE. Le CLE en 19... est devenu le Centre *International* de Liaison pour l'Environnement (CILE), pour souligner le besoin d'avoir aussi des réseaux *régionaux*, et on a ajouté à son nom: "Coalition Globale pour l'Environnement et le Développement". Ceci signale l'inspiration provenant du travail de la Commission Mondiale pour l'Environnement et le Développement, aussi appelée Commission Brundtland et son rapport de 1987 Notre Futur Commun. Environ 8000 ONG dans le monde entier reçoivent le bi-mensuel ECO-FORUM avec des nouvelles sur les ONG et leurs activités et aussi des articles de fond. De temps à autre, l'ECO-PROBE de 4 pages donne des informations et des positions de campagne sur des questions telles que les exportations de déchets toxiques, les changements de climat, l'irradiation de la nourriture, l'Antarctique. Le CILE a une bibliothèque à Nairobi avec des livres, des revues et des coupures de presse, qui a principalement une fonction locale et régionale. Le CILE organise des ateliers de formation pour les ONG du sud sur comment établir un bureau, tenir des comptes, publier un bulletin d'information et organiser des cours en agriculture et énergie soutenables.

Contrairement à Greenpeace, qui concentre ses campagnes sur un nombre limité de questions et qui s'appuie sur son système de communication électronique pour mener à bien ses campagnes, le CILE en tant qu'organisation d'appui général aux ONG commence juste à établir ses systèmes de communication électronique (Greenpeace est membre du CILE, qui a maintenant environ 400 membres, la plupart dans le sud).

2. Pertinence de l'information (documentée) pour des activités efficaces des ONG

Du point de vue d'un lobby international, il faut condenser l'information et l'échelonner dans le temps de manière à la rendre pertinente pour un processus de prise de décision à complexité et la rapidité croissantes. L'information qui atteint des journaux internationaux à large audience tels que le Financial Times ou l'International Herald Tribune est celle qui a le plus grand impact. Les décideurs ne lisent plus de livres et documents.

Il y a grand besoin de courtiers entre les systèmes de documentation et le Financial Times!

IFLA'S CORE PROGRAMME FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LIBRARIANSHIP IN THE THIRD WORLD (ALP)-A look into the Medium Term Programme 1992-1996

By Birgitta Bergdahl, ALP Core Programme Director

BACKGROUND

The *purpose* of IFLA's Core Programme for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World is apparent from its name - it is to further the library profession, library institutions and library and information services in the less developed countries.

The *objectives* of ALP are to promote the progressive improvement of library and information services in the developing countries, so as to enable them to play an active role in national development. Special emphasis will be placed on the creation of conditions likely to contribute towards national initiatives and systematic progress towards self-sufficiency.

The main *orientation* of the programme is to support librarians in the developing countries in their efforts to improve library and information services.

WORK PLAN AND GOALS

Major problem areas for ALP have already been identified, and some strategies have been formulated to address them. Projects and other activities will gradually be developed in accordance with these strategies. But the scope of activity will be limited by existing resources - by what IFLA as a professional organization can do and of course also by the availability of external funding. IFLA's Regional Offices in Bangkok, Dakar and Sao Paolo and the three Regional Standing Committees will be the cornerstones of the ALP infrastructure. More than twenty different projects and other activities have already been recommended by the Regional Advisory Committees and some of these have started or can start soon. The goals of the work plan are:

To assist library staff, library schools and library associations in education and training programmes

There is an almost endless need of education and training in the developing countries. ALP will concentrate above all on continuing education and in areas where the need is the greatest. New technology and preservation are current fields of interest. But there is a great need for basic training also for instance for those who work with library and information services in rural areas and have no library education. Scholarships are needed both for people who need training in specific aspects of librarianship and for people who need to complete a basic library education.

This is thus a wide programme area which should be developed gradually. Activities which are planned already now is a series of work shops in Africa in micro-computer application, and in Asia ALP will fund a number of scholarships for librarians from the least developed countries to attend the Asian Institute of Technology. The joint PAC/ALP Seminar in Africa mentioned earlier will also bring up training needs. A very good idea has been developed in Asia and Oceania which the programme will support financially - in service training - "attachments" for junior or senior staff under 40 years of age in libraries which have a state of the art knowledge in special areas. This signifies a very important contribution to the programme from libraries in the region. This idea might be developed also in Latin America.

There is a need for better knowledge about professional competence in the regions. As it is today the library and information resources in the Third World are often less well known than those in the industrialized countries - foreign experts are used because of lack of knowledge about national competence. Therefore, ALP will contribute to the construction of referral databases or databanks with information about libraries, librarians and library education in the developing countries.

A publications programme will be started. Library schools all over the world need to give their students access to literature in relevant languages. A first translation job has started for the Francophone countries. There is also a manifest need to improve access to library literature, through subventions, perhaps via the regional offices. The Regional Newsletters are important vehicles for IFLA information and should be given strong support. A bi-lingual African library journal is in a preparatory stage.

To promote the establishment and development of library and information services to the public with particular attention to the needs of rural and urban marginal areas

The situation and thus also the priorities are different in the three regions in this programme sphere. In Latin America there exist some very well developed public library systems but there is also a very great interest and need to complement these with alternative library and information systems to reach new groups of users in urban marginal areas and in remote border areas, and to meet the needs of minority cultures. Projects and training activities will be developed to meet these needs. A seminar on library services to the visually handicapped for the whole region will be planned in co-operation with the Section of Libraries Serving the Blind.

Development of library and information services in remote rural areas but also in urban marginal areas are in focus in the MTP for Africa. Projects concerning so called community information centres will be supported. In this field co-operation will take place with other IFLA bodies but also with COMLA and UNESCO and others. There are demands for a conference which could describe the state of the art of these developments and draw up guidelines for future work.

In Asia this programme area will mainly be developed through a series of educational activities. The first event will take place in the fall.

To encourage a greater involvement and identifications of libraries with literacy work

Literacy work was identified as a programme area of great importance. A double approach will be used which implies encouraging some pilot projects which represent different aspects of the complex issue, and initiating research and development. Two pilot projects will aim at librarians, one a continuation of the African IFLA-UNESCO seminar to develop librarians' knowledge and understanding of illiteracy as a basis for reading promotion activities, and one in Thailand and Laos where librarians will work with writers, illustrators and publishers to produce childrens' books. Libraries are in focus in two other project proposals, one investigating libraries as resource centres which can acquire, register, make known and to a certain extent produce appropriate material for new readers, and the other one concerns the efforts to reach minority cultures, especially women and children with reading material and information services.

I would like to conclude by underlining that the success of ALP depends on human beings. The ambitious goals of the programme can only be achieved in co-operation by many forces. The International Focal Point will support this co-operation and be a knowledge centre.

The Programme is described in a special brochure **The ALP Programme: IFLA's Core Programme for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World** which is available from IFLA's Head Quarters, c/o Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Prins Willem Alexanderhof 5, The Hague, The Netherlands. The brochure is available in English, French and Spanish.

Accessing United Nations Information Resources on Development Activities

Liisa Fagerlund, Information Officer
United Nations Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of
Information Systems (ACCIS)

Presentation to EADI Working Group on Information and Documentation,
STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN DOCUMENTATION FOR DEVELOPMENT, A Seminar on
Networking with Special Emphasis on NGOs, Paris, 3rd-6th September 1991

Role of ACCIS in providing access to information

ACCIS (Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems) is an inter-agency body of the United Nations. ACCIS membership comprises all the organizations of the United Nations system. Each organizations designates a Focal Point, who is responsible for maintaining the flow of information about information systems between that organization and ACCIS. The goals of ACCIS are to facilitate access to information resources of the United Nations system by member states and organizations of the system; and to improve the information infrastructure of the United Nations system. Improvement of the information infrastructure often involves the formation of technical panels composed of specialists from various agencies to focus on a particular problem such as information security and electronic records management.

Of special interest to the EADI Working Group on Information and Documentation, however, is the first mandate, that of facilitating access to United Nations information. This goal is achieved primarily through the compilation and publication of directories and guides to United Nations information.

Register of Development Activities

One of the most significant of ACCIS publications is an annual publication now in its fourth year, the *Register of Development Activities (RDA)*. The *RDA* provides an overview by country of development activities of all United Nations system organizations. The activities are presented by sectors (e.g. natural resources, education) in the sequence established by the ACC Programme Classification. Descriptive data (reporting organization, identifier code, the organization's title of the activity, funding source, activity type, executing agencies, reported years) and financial data are given for each activity. The *RDA* includes a detailed subject index and identifies United Nations contacts for information referral. It is intended for use by development planners and researchers within Member States and the United Nations system.

Books in Print of the United Nations System

All United Nations organizations publish extensively in their areas of specialization and all issue lists of publications with instructions for ordering. What has been lacking is a comprehensive source for locating and identifying the publications of all United Nations organizations.

ACCIS is preparing a United Nations Books in Print (*UNBIP*) which will include publications of all United Nations organizations in one source. Most of the information is obtained from catalogues of the various organizations or from their publications computer system. *UNBIP* will identify publications and provide information on where to go to order them; provide International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN) when available, and give sales numbers, or other locator numbers. *UNBIP* will list publications by broad subject category with an organization and alphabetical title listing of individual titles as well as serial titles. Titles will be given in English if there is an English edition, with citations for other language editions; where there is no English edition, the listing will be in the language of the publication, usually French or Spanish.

Accessing United Nations Information Resources on Development Activities

UNBIP will debut in early 1992 and appear on a bi-annual basis, that is the original publication will be up-dated every two years. *Books in Print of the United Nations system* will be announced in the *ACCIS Newsletter* when it is available from the sales and distribution offices of the United Nations in Geneva and New York. The price has not been determined. ACCIS will send an announcement of its availability to members of the EADI Working Group on Information and Documentation.

Other ACCIS publications of potential interest to EADI members

The *Directory of United Nations Databases and Information Services (DUNDIS)* includes over 800 entries which provide pointers to databases and information services such as libraries, information networks and reference centres in organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system. As a pointer system, it provides contact points for further information, including on-line hosts with their addresses.

The *Directory of United Nations Serial Publications* includes over 4,000 current and ceased serial publications of organizations of the United Nations system. ACCIS would like to thank the members of EADI who completed the recent survey on usage of this Directory. A new edition is in progress.

Selected Collections of United Nations System Publications is a country guide to depository libraries and selected libraries and information centres of the United Nations system. This is intended to guide potential users to locations in their own country where they may be able to find United Nations system publications.

ACCIS also produces *Guides to United Nations Information Resources* (Food and Agriculture, Environment, International Trade and Development Finance, Health). All ACCIS publications are available from United Nations Publications Sales Offices in New York and Geneva. Machine readable copies are also available. *DUNDIS* is accessible through the ECHO on-line facility of the European Community.

ACCIS Newsletter

The *ACCIS Newsletter* is distributed bi-monthly free-of-charge to some 2,000 readers in United Nations organizations and member states. It contains articles under the following headings: ACCIS news; United Nations systems; Information technology; New publications; and Events. To subscribe, send a request with your name, title and address by post or by electronic mail (EARN/BITNET): WALKER@UNICC. A list of ACCIS publications is also available on request.

L'accès aux sources d'information de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
sur les activités de développement

Liisa Fagerlund, fonctionnaire de l'information,
Comité consultatif de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour
la coordination des systèmes d'information (ACCIS)

Communication au Groupe de travail de l'Association européenne des instituts de recherche et de formation en matière de développement sur l'information et la documentation, présentée lors du Séminaire "Renforcement de la coopération en matière de documentation sur le développement", consacré aux différents réseaux et en particulier ceux des organisations non gouvernementales (Paris, 3-6 septembre 1991)

Le rôle du Comité consultatif pour la coordination des systèmes d'information (ACCIS) en ce qui concerne l'accès à l'information

L'ACCIS est un organe interinstitutions des Nations Unies auquel participent tous les organismes du système. Chaque organisme désigne un point de contact chargé de communiquer au Comité des données sur les systèmes d'information. Les objectifs du Comité sont de faciliter l'accès des Etats membres et des organismes du système aux sources d'information des Nations Unies et d'améliorer l'infrastructure du système dans le domaine de l'information. La réalisation de ce second objectif implique fréquemment la création de groupes techniques composés de spécialistes venant des divers organismes et chargés d'examiner un problème donné, comme par exemple la sécurité en matière d'information et la gestion électronique des dossiers.

Le Groupe de travail sur l'information et la documentation sera toutefois davantage intéressé par les questions en rapport avec le premier objectif, c'est-à-dire favoriser l'accès aux informations du système des Nations Unies, ce qui se fait principalement par la compilation et la publication de répertoires et de guides.

Le Register of Development Activities (Registre des activités en matière de développement)

Le Register of Development Activities est l'une des principales publications de l'ACCIS. Publié tous les ans depuis quatre ans, il présente une vue générale par pays des activités de développement de l'ensemble des organismes des Nations Unies. Ces activités sont regroupées par secteur (par exemple, ressources naturelles, éducation,...) dans l'ordre correspondant à la classification des programmes du CAC et s'accompagnent d'informations aussi bien descriptives (organisme chargé de l'établissement des rapports, code d'identification, intitulé de l'activité, source de financement, type d'activité, agents d'exécution, années pour lesquelles des rapports ont été publiés) que financières. Le Register comprend un index thématique détaillé et une liste de contacts pour l'obtention d'informations complémentaires.

ACCIS/91/5
GE.91-03249/5832B

Il est destiné aux responsables de la planification du développement et aux chercheurs en matière de développement dans les Etats membres comme dans les différents organismes du système.

Ouvrages publiés par le système des Nations Unies

Les divers organismes des Nations Unies publient de très nombreux ouvrages dans leurs domaines de spécialisation et des listes de publication accompagnées d'indications sur la façon de les obtenir. Il n'existe toutefois pas de source unique permettant de trouver et d'identifier les publications de l'ensemble des organismes.

L'ACCIS prépare donc un catalogue qui s'intitulera "United Nations Books in Print" et qui regroupera des publications de tous les organismes des Nations Unies, essentiellement à partir de leurs catalogues ou de leur système informatique respectifs. Ce nouveau répertoire donnera le titre de la publication, indiquera comment se la procurer, et précisera le numéro international normalisé des livres (ISBN), s'il existe, ainsi que le numéro de vente ou tout autre numéro permettant d'identifier l'ouvrage. Les publications seront classées par grande catégorie, par organisme, par ordre alphabétique de titre et par ordre alphabétique de série. Le titre sera donné en anglais, avec mention des éditions publiées dans d'autres langues; s'il n'existe pas d'édition en anglais, le titre sera donné dans la langue de publication, généralement le français ou l'espagnol.

Le premier numéro de ce catalogue paraîtra au début de 1992 et sera ensuite mis à jour tous les deux ans. Sa parution sera annoncée dans ACCIS Newsletter dès qu'il sera disponible aux bureaux de vente et de distribution de l'ONU à Genève et à New York. Son prix n'est pas encore fixé. L'ACCIS informera directement les membres du Groupe de travail sur l'information et la documentation de sa parution.

Autres publications de l'ACCIS pouvant présenter de l'intérêt pour les membres de l'Association européenne des instituts de recherche et de formation en matière de développement

Le Directory of United Nations Databases and Information Services comprend plus de 800 entrées fournissant des informations sur des bases de données et des services d'information tels que bibliothèques, réseaux d'information et centres de référence des organismes et des institutions spécialisées du système des Nations Unies. Il indique les personnes à contacter pour obtenir de plus amples informations, y compris par l'intermédiaire de réseaux informatiques.

Le Directory of United Nations Serial Publications contient plus de 4 000 titres de publications en série - qui pour certaines ne sont plus publiées - d'organismes du système des Nations Unies. L'ACCIS tient à remercier les membres de l'Association européenne qui ont récemment mené à bien une enquête sur l'utilisation qui était faite de ce répertoire, dont une nouvelle édition est en cours de préparation.

Selected Collections of United Nations System Publications est un guide par pays des bibliothèques dépositaires, de certaines autres bibliothèques et de centres d'information des Nations Unies. Il est destiné à permettre aux utilisateurs potentiels de trouver dans leur propre pays les publications des Nations Unies.

L'ACCIS publie également (en anglais) des guides sur les sources d'information des Nations Unies dans les domaines de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, de l'environnement, du commerce international, du financement du développement et de la santé. On peut se procurer toutes les publications de l'ACCIS aux bureaux des ventes des publications de l'ONU à New York et à Genève. Il existe également des versions lisibles par machine. Par ailleurs, le Directory of United Nations Databases and Information Services est accessible en direct par le biais du système ECHO des Communautés européennes.

ACCIS Newsletter

L'ACCIS Newsletter est distribuée gratuitement tous les deux mois à quelque 2 000 personnes dans les différents organismes des Nations Unies et dans les Etats Membres. Elle contient les rubriques suivantes : ACCIS News; United Nations systems; Information technology; New Publications et Events. Pour la recevoir, veuillez adresser votre demande par écrit en précisant vos nom, fonctions et adresse; il est également possible d'envoyer sa demande par courrier électronique (EARN/BITNET) à l'adresse WALKER at UNICC. La liste des publications de l'ACCIS est disponible sur simple demande.

**First General Meeting of the Informal Study Group
on Exchange of Development Information**

Report

Draft	27-6-91
Revised	11-7-91
Distribution	19-7-91

**Hosted by the OECD Development Centre
at the Académie Diplomatique Internationale
in Paris, 19th-21st June 1991**

Executive Summary

1. The participants in this First General Meeting of the Informal Study Group on Exchange of Development Information¹, representing intergovernmental organisations, bilateral donors, non-governmental organisations and research institutes², discussed approaches and instruments aimed at **improving the exchange of information on development activities**³. The meeting was held against a background of continuing pressure on the level of financial resources available for development activities. It was generally acknowledged that **improved co-operation** between development aid donors is urgently needed to **prevent duplication** of donor efforts and the wastage of available resources.
2. The participants in the meeting recognised that facilitating the exchange of information could lead to an improvement of the ability of donors to execute development activities more effectively.
3. The participants supported the introduction of a **Common Exchange Format for Development Activity Information (CEFDA)**⁴.

¹ This first General Meeting, hosted by the OECD Development Centre at the Académie Diplomatique Internationale, was preceded by three meetings of a preparatory Study Group on the Exchange of Development Information, held in Paris at the OECD Development Centre on 6th-7th June 1989, 15th-16th February 1990, and 2nd-3rd October 1990. All four meetings were chaired by Mr. Maury D. Brown from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Reports from the preceding meetings are available from the Rapporteur: Mr. Terry Gavin, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), P.O. Box 8500, Ottawa, Canada K1G 3HG, Fax: (1-613)-238-7230. Rapporteur for the First General Meeting was Mr. Henny Helmich, External Co-operation of the OECD Development Centre, 94, rue Chardon Lagache, 75016 Paris, France. Fax: (33-1)-4524-7943.

² For a full list of participants and organisations see Annex A to the main report.

³ The agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex B to the main report.

⁴ The definition of development activities used in this report is "...those activities of a development co-operation character that seek to mobilize or increase the potential and capacities of countries to promote economic and social development and welfare, including the transfer of resources to developing countries or regions in a tangible or intangible form." United Nations, General Assembly. Resolution 35/81 of 5 December, 1980.

4. The proposed CEFDA considered by the meeting consists of a common record structure, in the form of a minimum list of data fields required to identify and describe a development activity, and guidelines as to the content of each field (the field description)⁵. The format is designed for retrieval of information (descriptive data elements, e.g. by subject, geographical area, and organisation). It is not designed for the management of financial flows, comparative analysis or the keeping of statistics.
5. The CEFDA facilitates the sharing of development activity information between organisations. The expected benefits through this information sharing are:
 - A. **The cost of information exchange activities for each agency could be decreased.** Presently, when agencies share information, the cost of data collection, interpretation (both linguistic and intellectual) and verification is very high. This high cost is compounded because different standards and concepts exist not only between countries but also within each organisation. Different interpretation of exchanged data generally leads to inconsistencies, impeding the effective use of information from other users in or outside an agency.
 - B. **Management information systems could be improved.** Each agency could use the CEFDA to introduce its own activity information systems, or to improve the co-ordination of various existing databases within its organisation. Agencies which are just embarking on the establishment of information systems could use the CEFDA as a useful format for the basis of their systems.
 - C. **Agencies could strengthen their learning and planning capabilities.** Because of the improvement of the availability of information on past, current and planned development activities, experiences of agencies might be exchanged more easily. This would also be beneficial to each agency's planning capacity, while reviewing the "lessons learned" with past and on-going activities.

⁵ Di Lauro, Anne., Consultant, Proposed Common Exchange Format for Development Activity Information, Study prepared for the First General Meeting of the Informal Study Group on Exchange of Development Information, Paris 19th-21st June 1991 (Annex C to the main report). The CEFDA as presented by Di Lauro will be modified following comments of the participants at the meeting.

- D. **Duplication between agencies could be avoided.** Through the availability and accessibility of information on past, on-going and future activities, agencies might avoid duplication of initiatives and activities.
 - E. **Costs of evaluation of activities could be reduced, and evaluations could become more effective.** Agencies might compare development experience from within their own organisations with evaluation programmes of other organisations. Through the collective experience of various development actors, similar evaluation programmes would be based on a much broader practice.
 - F. **Time/cost for planning-missions could be reduced.** Through the availability of current development activity information, development organisations could considerably reduce the time and cost of feasibility missions. By avoiding duplication of planning missions, agencies could use scarce resources for these tasks to undertake activities in other areas.
 - G. **Agencies could identify more opportunities for co-funded programmes.** Agencies could quickly learn of other development activities in similar areas. Thus, co-funding partners could be found and duplication could be avoided.
 - H. **Agencies could improve their accountability.** Through the available data, agencies might be able to make their record of achievement much more visible towards taxpayers, contributors, and their constituencies.
6. The participants further called for a compilation of a **Directory of Existing Development Activity Databases**. This Database Directory will contain descriptions of those existing databases in development agencies ready to participate in information exchange using the CEFDA. These descriptions would contain technical information on: the type of data available from those databases (activities information, research in progress, statistical data, evaluation reports, etc.), the format for data storage used, address, information about the 'contact point' in the agency, and the terms on which the agency is prepared to share information from this database.
7. The participants at the meeting studied various approaches to the strengthening of information exchange. With the availability of a CEFDA and a Directory of Existing Databases, the basic instruments would be in place to exchange information between agencies. These exchanges would

establish a 'network' of relations which would be improved over a period of time with increasing experience in co-operation. Through this improved exchange, the participants expected that the existing databases would be strengthened and would include more relevant and up-to-date information.

8. Finally, the participants discussed the feasibility of creating a **Central Development Project Database**, with the CEFDA data elements, in place of this network of bilateral exchange relations. The basic argument for discussing such an undertaking is that a central database would **replace the manifold bilateral relationships** (in which an information-providing agency would have to supply information repeatedly) with a one-to-one relationship of information providing agencies with the database management unit. This central database would make all information available to all collaborating agencies periodically on **Compact Disc-Read Only Memory (CD-ROM)**. With this approach, the establishment of a Central Database would provide **important economies of scale**.
9. The **DAC Secretariat and UN-ACCIS representatives** offered to provide their development activity databases in the common exchange format for inclusion in the central database, once conversion and reformatting issues in the CEFDA have been resolved. The DAC's Credit Reporting System (CRS) and the UN-ACCIS Registry of Development Activity Databases would provide access to most on-going bilateral donor and UN multilateral development activities.
10. The participants supported the **creation of a prototype CD-ROM** which would contain collections of development activity information, such as the DAC-CRS and UN-ACCIS Registry databases, in the CEFDA format from participating organisations.
11. The participants at the meeting unanimously agreed to set up a **Co-ordinating Unit** with the following **main⁶ tasks**:
 - A. The elaboration of a final proposal for a CEFDA.
 - B. The collection of information using the CEFDA from all participating agencies and the transcription into a format for CD-ROM distribution.
 - C. The creation of a Directory of Development Activity Databases, and the maintenance of the Register of Information Providing Agencies.

⁶ A full descriptive list of tasks of the Co-ordinating Unit is provided in the main report.

- D. A quarterly newsletter to network participants.
- E. The investigation of the feasibility of establishing a more comprehensive Central Database with expanded data elements beyond the CEFDA definition.
12. A proposal that the **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)** in Canada would host the Co-ordinating Unit for an initial period of **18 months** was unanimously welcomed by the participants.
13. **IDRC agreed to host the Co-ordinating Unit** for an **interim period** of two months and offered to extend that period to 18 months, provided that sufficient revenue commitments were obtained from the meeting's participants during the interim period⁷. The participants agreed to meet again, after the 18 months initial period, to review the progress which had been made.
14. IDRC estimated that **US\$ 250,000** in revenue commitments would be necessary to perform the co-ordinating unit tasks for an **18 month** period.
15. A number of **revenue-generating mechanisms**, such as subscriptions or memberships, were explored as a means to support the Co-ordinating Unit functions.
16. The Steering Group of the Informal Study Group determined that **organisational commitments** in the form of US\$ 5,000 or US\$ 10,000 memberships subscriptions⁸ would be required to fully fund the co-ordinating unit for the next 18 months.
17. The **result** of the First General Meeting is the establishment of a mechanism of donor co-operation, which represents more than simply an information-sharing agreement. The mechanism established is a **major step forward in the support of significant donor co-ordination**. It will contribute to improved efficiency in the use of resources, the quality of design of development activities and increased accountability of development co-operation. The General Meeting has succeeded in bringing together a group of committed persons interested in sharing information on development activities. This group is the guarantee that this major step forward in donor co-ordination will provide tangible results.

⁷ A budget and a timetable is annexed to the main report as Annex G.

⁸ Subscription levels would be dependent on full or partial services required by each organisation from the Co-ordinating Unit.

JOHN SCHLANGER

CLOSING ADDRESS TO THE ANUAL MEETING OF WORKING GROUP
ON INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF THE EADI.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen participants of this annual meeting:

When I was asked to provide the closing address to this meeting, I was very reluctant to accept it. Not only because I am relatively new at IPS and did not feel like I was the adequate person to do it, but mainly because I share the statement of the invitation that says: "usually the worlds of institutional documentation and information activities and the information processing activities of News Agencies are far apart". So, why me, and not someone of your own branche of activities?

From my past activities in the last 13 years, as the coordinator of the Latin American Desk of a modest Dutch developing agency called NOVIB, I moved in the beginning of this year to IPS, to try to develop a program for the NGOs within the Agency. By all means not an easy task, for the same reason stated in the invitation letter. So, please bear in mind that I speak on basis of some experience within a NGO-donor agency and very short experience within a News Agency.

Now that you know a little bit about myself, you can blame the organisation committee for inviting an outsider to make some sweeping-statements based on ignorance of your activities, and then blame me to have accepted it. That is because I do not intend to present any solutions to problems, but mainly to exchange some doubts I have.

Assuming that not everyone of the attendants of this meeting knows what IPS is, let me make a small commercial, and introduce it to you.

Inter Press Service (IPS) is a communication Service organised as an international non-profit cooperative of journalists, predominantly from the Third World, acting through 16 associated and subsidiary organisations, staffed by some 380 people personnel.

IPS, founded in 1964, was originally conceived as a news agency, but has gradually diversified its activities and is today a communications-system for development, with one of the largest telecommunications structure in the media world.

IPS has recently been accepted as a member of ECOSOC (Economic and Social Committee of the United Nations), consultative status, first category.

As a communication system, IPS has three major branches:

1.- IPS Third World News Agency produces an independent international feature service specialised in reporting processes and issues of development in the Third World.

The agency's international telecommunications centre is in Rome (Italy). The regional offices and desks are in:

- Harare, Zimbabwe, for Africa
- Manila, Philippines for Asia
- Kingston, Jamaica, for the Caribbean
- San Jose, Costa Rica, for Latin America
- New York, USA, for North America and UN headquarters
- Amsterdam, Netherlands, for Europe.

The IPS-network presently covers 87 countries. Close to 900 media and non-media organisations receive IPS information services worldwide. IPS offers a daily news and feature service focusing on issues for, of and about the people of the South, distributed in 13 different languages: Arabic, Portuguese, Spanish, Nepalese, English, German, French, Hungarian, Norwegian, Swedish, Dutch, Finnish and Swahili. IPS is the only international news agency providing news in Swahili. In addition, IPS offers special weekly, monthly and bi-monthly development bulletins at regional, interregional and international levels, on major issues such as agriculture, churches, energy, environment, population, women, children. The daily output is about 160.000 words.

The agency also exchanges news with 41 Third World and Non- Aligned news agencies or offers them news dissemination facilities. 14 news agencies from the North, including Eastern-Europe, are linked to the IPS wires.

2.- IPS TELECOMMUNICATIONS specialises in the transfer of technology to improve Third World communication and information structures, while avoiding the creation of new forms of technological dependence.

IPS Telecommunications functions as an intermediary between the know-how of the North and the specific needs of the South in the fields of technology transfer, projects for the upgrading of telecommunications in the Third World, for the installation of new systems and the training of local technicians.

For example, IPS Telecommunications assisted in the computerisation of the Mexican news agency NOTIMEX, of the headquarters of the Latin American and the Caribbean National Information Systems Network (ASIN) and is involved in the training and computerisation of some major African News agencies.

IPS Telecommunications provides facilities to the Group of 77 for the links among its chapters and links among several Ministries of Foreign Affairs and their embassies worldwide.

3.- IPS Projects executes programmes for training, information exchange and the establishment of alternative networks. IPS Projects uses grant support to involve "new actors" (like women, rural population, children, NGOs) in international flows of information, to train journalists in different news values and to generate new flows of information with a focus on specific development issues.

In this framework, IPS Projects created in 1978 the (now independent) Women's Features Service (WFS), an autonomous Third World network of women journalists, and launched a global network for reporting on the church's role in development. One major project, executed by IPS on behalf of UNDP, is the Technological Information Pilot System (TIPS), and international network for exchange of scientific, technical, and commercial information among developing countries, now serving more than 3.000 users in 9 Third World countries. IPS is currently carrying out some 40 projects, many of which involve training seminars, in-house training and in-field placements of Third World journalists.

More and more, IPS is increasing it's cooperation with the NGOs, using their capacity of producing information, and giving them back information of the IPS-news system. IPS news is now available to all NGOs that dispose of E-mail facilities, and IPS features may be used in their publications.

Well, now I would like to tell you what IPS feels about information, communication and documentation, as seen from a media-organisation: It is clear that without participation there can be no development, no real democracy, no defence of Human Rights. It is also clear that there can be no participation without better information and better channels of communication. And finally, it is clear that the increasing dominance of commercial criteria in the media is posing a growing threat to the cultural integrity of peoples around the world.

For IPS - and I suppose for the largest part of the organisations here represented - it is a major challenge to tackle these problems. One way to do this is through the main theme of this seminar, namely by "Strengthening Co-operation in Documentation for Development".

Well now, sometimes I ask myself what this: documentation, information and communication for development, and then again linked to the so called Third World. The first thing that comes into my mind is that there is a lot of documentation, a lot of information and a lot of communications, but what is the link to development, especially in the North South relationships?

There is an old Brazilian saying that says: a pound of feathers only fly if there is a bird in it! I think this is the essence of the problem of information, communication for development: how to get the bird into all the feathers, so that it can fly.

This challenge was put into words by Prince Claus of the Netherlands in his opening address to the SID - Society for International Development - conference held in Amsterdam, last may " there is a need to infuse international cooperation with a new sense of urgency and purpose; the need to build effective institutions at different levels and to ensure that they are able to work; and the need for new ways of looking into problems which incorporate a real concern for values which have for too long been neglected or even ignored."

In the last decades, the development of the international flow of communications and information has, as we know, left the Third World practically marginalised. We should only bear in mind the role of CNN in the coverage of the Gulf war and the crisis in the Soviet Union to understand that the rate of concentration in this area shows a clear trend towards control by a few mega-concerns, whose trading is shifting more and more to production of information for global markets.

The United Nations charter stressed from the very beginning its concern with freedom of expression as a pillar of all freedoms. Already in 1957 a Unesco report pointed out that there was a disparity in communication all over the world, and defined "information famine" as a gross imbalance in communication capacity between the rich and the poor countries.

The communication capacities of most developing regions — especially Africa, but also Asia and Latin America — continued to remain inadequate for the last three decades and form a serious obstacle to their effort to combat conditions of deprivation. Negotiations of the international transfer of technology and assistance programmes have persistently failed to contribute to the solution to the problem of "information famine".

Inter Press Service does not aim to resolve this problem at all levels. Instead, it aims at the opening of some doors of the telecommunication and information systems to Third World countries, offering the possibilities to Third World journalists to participate in an international system of information, sending and receiving news, features and information from the South to the South, but including also the flow of information from the South to the North and vice-versa.

IPS (Inter Press Service) major concern was and is to promote a flow of information in which the Third World plays a central role.

Not only by facilitating exchange of information and telecommunication within the South, but also disseminating news, issues and features concerning important themes of development, as seen from the Third World by journalists of the Third World. Furthermore, IPS has — by means of the project-department — diversified to develop programmes for telecommunication and information oriented to Third World people.

For IPS, the concept of "global village" is earmarked by this strange reality in which a few decide upon what all the people should be informed of. The telecommunications problems of Africa are even of such a level that to send news from Eastern to Western Africa, the news have to pass through European communications centers. No direct communication is available. In Asia and Latin America this situation is less dramatic, but then, the main problem is that communication capacity is defined by a concentrated control of communication means.

The "new actors" and the "small users" are the ones that form the largest community of information receivers. In fact, they are the majority of the citizens of the world, whose daily life is affected in various ways: they watch foreign TV-programs, they use international telephone lines, they listen to foreign music and they read international news.

Can NGOs, active in the field of communication, information and documentation for development play a role in changing the tide of this process? Can they do anything in favour of the "small users" or the "new actors"?

A few weeks ago I have attended a seminar of 40 of the most important development NGOs of Latin America. Each and every one of them is automatized to an extent that would make many European NGOs feel jealous. They are able to communicate on the basis of recent technology, electronic mail networks, access to huge databases from universities, international institutes, etc. according to the most modern standards of communication. Nevertheless, they all recognised that all this possibilities are under-utilised, because: they do not have suitable

channels to spread their information. Grass-roots organisations do not have computerised sources, smaller local NOGs either.

- the quantity of information being produced, causes a problem of overload of information for which there is no use, adding to the overload of official documents from governments and international institutions.

- NGOs of all types have developed a kind of an own language, not understandable for outsiders.

- the speed and volume at which information, communication and therefore documentation takes place today is such that - even using the most advanced techniques available - we should ask ourselves who can absorb all of it.

- The contacts with similar organisations of the North for reasons of exchange and training are very limited.

In practice, it is mainly so that information, documentation and communication remains accessible to a relatively limited number of persons within the NGOs themselves, and is only seldom used for broader goals.

Does this also apply for the NGOs attending this meeting? Furthermore, what use could a News Agency like IPS - with a pretention of giving a little bit of voice to the Third World - have to cooperation with organisations like the ones represented here, in the world of the CNNs, the Reuters, the APs?

It would be preposterous to pretend that I have the answers to these questions. As I told you, I came here not with answers but with doubts I wanted to share. To some of the the problems NGOs are facing in the field of communications as I have just pointed out, there is even a bigger problem, that has to do with a growing crisis within the development NGOs themselves, especially in the field of information, communication, documentation.

This crisis is partly due to finding a new identity within the new political context we are facing with increasing speed, and partly because there is a growing problem of funding for this sector.

On the one hand, we face a fundamental problem which has to do with democratisation of information, and the positioning of the NGOs in this struggle in times where the geo-political map of Europe is getting more and more similar to the one of 100 years ago within a context of expanding economic liberalism. It is, at least for people of my generation, almost surrealistic to turn on my TV-set on CNN and watch the debates of the Soviet parliament live, with simultaneous translations, 24 hours a day, not to mention what we saw the last two years in Germany, Rumania, etc. May be one could even state that in that sense there is a democratisation of information and communication, if we would not take into consideration the power of the gatekeepers that decide what we see and what we don't see, that decide for us who are the good guys and who are the bad guys.

For NGOs like ours this poses very complex questions. It is, in my view, of extreme significance that, in the context of the profound transformations we are undergoing in the international scenario, in the moment that the hegemonic nations of the world commemorate the establishment of a new - supposedly definitive - international order, we here can share a feeling of inconformity with the disorder and the inhumanity produced by the development model that responds only to the interest of a few, in the North as well as in the South.

NGOs in our field of activities, most of them involved in the area of Human Rights, development, communication, refugees, environment, etc, have to look for an answer within this new situation in which they - who have operated with quite a degree of autonomy up to the last few years, are now, like most NGOs incorporated to the speeches and programmes of governments, bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies, not to mention trans-national enterprises. Can a new identity be found there where autonomy may decrease?

The other major problem we face is that development assistance budgets more and more neglect the sector of information, communication, documentation and culture. The reasons are various, some have already been mentioned. Certainly, these are politically sensible sectors, and they are sectors in which it is notoriously difficult to measure the return of "investments. The planning ministries of developing countries also do not give much priority to this sector, in their demand for bi- and multilateral funding.

The governments of the South are also reluctant to propose initiatives on these fields because of the failure of the Unesco debate on the need for a New Information and Communication Order. There are many sound and pragmatic proposals in the report of the MacBride Commission, yet the clash between governments wanting a greater voice for the South, and the Northern media establishment viewing this as a threat to press-freedom was such that the issue of the NIIO now appears one that is so controversial that it better be avoided. So much the better for CNN.

The multi-lateral system has continued to show concern about the need to communicate development issues better but this is a concern too much geared toward one-way messages, that is, toward information, which is a vertical process, rather than the two-way option a horizontal process of communication that would lead to a dialogue and understanding each others points of view within a more democratic debate.

As far as private donor-agencies are concerned, we all now that funding for communication, information, research, and documentation is hardly available, even though they may recognise that the fashionable concept of sustainable development involves each and everyone of these activities.

May be you all have the experience that whenever these elements are brought into discussion people think one is only arguing for more financial support and prefers to discuss the use of available funding for these activities rather than going into a discussion of re-examination of policies.

Will our financing in the future also become more and more dependant of sponsors, like sport and culture? Would it not be bitter to think that our electronic mail messages are made possible by Adidas, that the publication of the result of this meeting is due to a contribution of Rank Xerox, or that we would reach a point in which Human Rights organisations are sponsored by the weapon industry?

So, we come back to the main questions we have to face, namely those of democracy and autonomy. For an NGO, the degree of it's autonomy is directly related to it's capacity of pursuing and bringing into practice - in the North as well as in the South - their priorities, evaluation criteria, choice of the people it wants to serve and social values that do not need to be the same ones that are now being imposed by the dominating development model.

Within this framework, the NGOs of different kinds of activities - and very much so ours - can substantiate their role in society trying to change government strategies towards defending the interests of the large marginalised people, in North and South.

We must, because democracy demands it, recognise our diversity, and find a new identity that will define itself by the service that can be delivered to the social groups in South and North that can empower themselves by the use of it. Information is power, communication is power, participation is power and one can not do without the other. The NGO-programme of IPs is being set up with this idea in mind, and welcomes any suggestion of your side to diminish the distance between documentation and information centres and a News agency like ours.

Ladies and gentlemen,
The fact that we have no answers to our dilemmas right now do not release us from the responsibility of looking for them. It is common opinion that the eighties have been a lost decade for development cooperation. I belong to the group that says that for NGOs this has been exactly the contrary: NGOs have proliferated, grown, consolidated, and are now important actors in their societies. In many situations, NGOs were and still are the only ones that set up alternative systems of information, communication, research and documentation. We should always keep in mind our responsibility towards them, and therefore to go on looking for answers to the problems we are now being confronted with.

Likewise Prince Claus of the Netherlands closed his speech at the SID conference, I would, with him, say: It is not necessary to cherish expectations or to succeed in order to persevere.

Thank you very much.

Paris, september 1991.

Task Force Group 1:

Establishment of Bulletin Board/Electronic Mail Network with Access

Chair: Monica Allmand

Resource person: Michael Polman (Interdoc)

Strengthening cooperation in documentation for development -
A Seminar on Networking with Special Emphasis on NGOs
Paris 3-6 September 1991

GROUP 1 - Establishment of Bulletin Board/Electronic Mail network with access to EARN and GEONET

The potential constitution of an electronic mail and bulletin board for the activities of the EADI Working Group on Information and Documentation was discussed.

Networking will make the contribution to the delivery of information services in the 1990s, in the same way that computerised databases made in the 1980s.

The complexity of interplay between people and their organisations will increase. As networking increases the difficulty of defining user population and user needs will also increase.

We have information services, electronic mail and bulletin boards with different characteristics and it is necessary to investigate the possibilities of integrating these potentialities for the development community.

Even though most of the participants of the group were on a certain extent using Electronic Mail it was considered interesting to have some explanations on the technological needs and the mapping of available networks to be used as carriers.

Both Electronic Mail and Bulletin Board services were considered of interest for the EADI Information and Documentation Working Group. Both carriers EARN and GEONET were proposed as feasible for linking institutions.

A serie of tasks were proposed to be developed in short term that should be evaluated during the next EADI meeting. A cooperative working group and a coordinator were considered necessary to be established.

The institutions already having Electronic Mail could start immediately exchanging information and delivering services. This could be followed by a promotion among other members of the EADI Working Group, for example EARN and GEONET, according to the characteristics of each institution. The start with a small group of individuals, as an informal experimental group, was recommended.

It was noticed that both individual and institutional users were willing to participate in the electronic EADI network.

Considering the importance of keeping contact with institutions existing in the South, as well as countries in transition, it was proposed to find out a way of strengthening this linking.

Some problems on the use of Electronic Mail and Bulletin Boards were discussed, like excess of information, choice of routing of messages and use of servers. For that reason it was considered important to keep some support from the services themselves and from other organizations having already experience in electronic communication among institutions. Such as ANTENNA.

There were some discussions on the need of facilitating the relations between information and documentation professionals and the computer services within the institutions.

The promotion of use of electronic mail among researchers was considered also of great importance.

Some possibilities of contents of the transmissions were discussed, like education and training facilities, databases contents and information on available information. It was considered important to start with experimental exchanges to see how feasible it is.

It was suggested that the report made by John Lindsay, Kingston Polytechnic, UK and presented to the EADI Working Group Meeting in 1985 could be updated for future discussions.

PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It was agreed to establish a Working Group with the participants of the Task Group 1, as well as other members of the EADI Working Group already using electronic mail, with the objective of starting exchange of information among them on an experimental basis.

2. There was agreement that Klaus Wiesner from GTZ would be responsible together with Tinka Ewoldt-Leicher from IVO and Michael Polman from ANTENNA for the following actions:

- . keeping this group active so as to bring conclusions to the next EADI meeting in 1992
- . making the link with IDIN members: ADIPA, AICARDES, CLACSO and CODESRIA
- . finding out a better way of linking the members already using electronic mail, as well as producing a list to be distributed with an explanation of better routing of messages
- . finding out the required conditions and mechanisms to participate in EARN and GEONET, to present this to other EADI members, together with its implied costs and financing
- . starting a Bulletin Board where it is considered more convenient (EARN or GEONET for example) with subjects of permanent interest for the participants, like news on MicroISIS among others

3. The group will also support the updating of the IDIN database on institutions, via electronic mail

4. A list of various possibilities of information that may be transmitted will be prepared to promote exchanges on

experimental basis

5. It was proposed that it was necessary to design a mechanism to keep interested institutions not yet having electronic mail , informed in a printed way

6. It was suggested that IDRC, within its support to IDIN members, may consider that electronic mail is an important tool for communication among ICCDA associations in the South and among EADI institutions

Networking developments

Update of BL/EADI report for discussion

John Lindsay

1. Introduction

The comments in my 1988¹ update and the original material in the 1985² and 1987³ reports remain substantially correct at the level of description of users, of institutions and the domain of information. There has however been an area of development which has moved at such a pace that the comments are now out of date. I do not think though that the bulk of organisations are making significant use of this technology yet, though a repeat survey would be necessary to find out. Even if they are, the information about information (meta information) is not available in any organised form to take advantage of the developments, and so my original recommendations remain valid.

The area of change is in "networking", referring here to the specifically technical linking of computers via public telecommunications or other electronic media, rather than the range of possible meanings of networking elaborated in my other UNESCO report⁴. In particular this paper is concerned with the provision of value added network services.

2. LANs & WANs

Local area networks refers to the linking together of computers and peripherals within a room or building such that no interfaces other than among those machines is required, and no external organisation or agency is involved. There is an extensive literature and wide range of software available. It is not the intention of this note to cover any of the issues involved here at all.

Wide area networks refers to networks extending beyond one room or building where another agency is required, usually to handle the data transfers, but different organisations will be involved only if they share a higher level organisation to give them a formalisable relationship. Again this note is not concerned with the technical issues involved in this form of networking.

3. PSTN & PSS

The PTTs remain the major method by which organisations are able to communicate, though liberalisation of markets has made some little progress. The issues of privatisation, liberalisation and market structure are important to this note, but the policy issues in Europe are outside the influence in large part of the organisations to whom this note is addressed⁵.

In the "developing countries" institutions involved might well be able to influence telecommunications policy, and EADI institutions might well be influential in forming aid related policies on telecommunications, but this paper does not intend to deal with the policy issues per se for developing countries.⁶

In general the PTTs have limited themselves to maintaining the most primitive voice network and have been slow to take up the opportunity of other media (cellular radio, microwave, satellite) or upgrade their networks to handle above 9600bd data transfer or rewire with optical fibre (FDDI standards). In some cases other organisations might break the PTT monopoly by wiring, for example railway lines, or non-hardwired networks via microwave or satellite, and providing alternatives, but have not yet reached significant market penetrations.

In developing countries the opportunities to upgrade telecommunications provides a rich vein for development related activities. This too is outside the scope of this paper.

4. What are VANS for?

Beyond the normal levels of office automation or distributed databases which one organisation might consider a proper part of designing an information system, what significance will these value added network services have? There are broadly five categories:

electronic mail is simply the communication of messages to one or many readers over a broad geographical area. I don't intend to provide an introduction to email services or software here⁷.

Bulletin Boards are an elaboration of email services such that messages may be posted to a bulletin board so they may be read by a wider range of readers than the list of recipients of email messages. Again I don't intend discussing bulletin boards here.⁸

File transfer is usually the most important component of using a network in information systems design. The basics involve the transmission of a file, either as a simple ASCII flat file, or with complex embedded formatting data (from structured databases to geographic information on spatially related data to desktop publishing formatted text), such that it will appear on the receiving machine exactly as it appeared on the transmitter.

Clearly a reliable way of achieving file transfer is via a frisbeenet (putting data on disk and sending it through the post) or sneakernet (don't even trust the post - carry the disk!), but although those media of transmission were discussed in my UNESCO 1987⁹, the intention of this paper is to move us beyond that stage.

Terminal emulation means being able to use one machine as a terminal (ie to emulate being a terminal) onto another machine which might physically be located elsewhere in the world.¹⁰

External database access was the original starting point of the 1985 UNESCO research. The paper described in some detail the databases which might wish to be accessed. Meta information in the domain addressed by that and this paper has not improved so the points I made there still stand. For ten issues a newsletter, **Development Information**, attempted to keep subscribers informed of developments on a quarterly basis, but resources did not allow for this to continue. In some sense this paper is an attempt to update what would have been done there.

Developments in optical storage technology have also cut down the need for electronic access while increasing the complexity of the information market. CD-ROM and CDI are now widely enough known that no further discussion is necessary here except to say networking the disk drivers is feasible, though there is little experience yet in the organisational complexities.

Meta information remains scanty. There are directories (or publishers' lists) but nothing yet of holdings inventories, catalogues or union lists.

5. VANS

I have used the generic term value added network services (VANS) to describe a combination of information, network, processors

and services such that the facilities described in 4 above are provided to user organisations. Different organisations will have remits for providing different parts of the cycle, and different organisations will have control over widely different geographic areas and institutional activity. The order that follows is therefore somewhat haphazard. Often reference is made to organisations without explaining them; refer to my earlier reports which are essential reading to make sense of what follows.

EARN is the European Academic Research Network. Set up in 1987 with IBM funding for two years, its greatest achievement is that it is. There is not space here to give an account of its history, but it means that access is available from any registered academic computer to any registered academic computer across Europe (which since 1990 means much of Eastern Europe as well), except Britain, for which there is only store and forward message handling¹¹

There is an annual conference of networkers on EARN called RARE/EARN Joint Networking Conference: the next one is in Blois, France in May 1991 which involves a relation with RARE (Reseaux Associes pour la Recherche Europeenne) a working group of which I have suggested the EADI network should become.¹²

Access means you have to know about your own institution, how your institution fits into the national scheme of things, and meta information. If you simply want to access another machine, a library catalogue, send an electronic mail message, investigate a bulletin board, build a maillist, then nothing is as simple as it should be. The COSINE project is funding work in the setting up of information servers, but the architecture they have chosen is certain to make things more difficult.¹³ There is no alternative to a group of Nellies such as the one built up in Britain. The concluding section of this paper will take this point further..

JANET (the British Joint Academic Network) was described in detail in my 1987 and 1988 papers. Progress has been made, particularly in access to OPACS (a particular type of database - usually the library catalogue), 58 of which are currently accessible. A server, JANET.NEWS is available once you have access to JANET. If you don't know how to start, there is a JANET starter card, and a comprehensive British Library report.¹⁴

Progress has also been made on NISS, and its bulletin board, and on Humbul, but there is no specific service relating to

development issues. It is not for want of trying, but for resources. It remains the case that for the new researcher or information provider there is no alternative to "sitting with nellie". Most regrettable is that the Library of the IDS, the most important development related documentation centre is available only via PSTN. The detailed documentation centres referred to in my earlier reports have all failed to become OPACS, a salutary lesson each one of them.

There has been discussion and experimentation on information servers (the NISP project for example) and on x500 implementations. There have also been experiments on front ends to OPACS using techniques involving hypercard.

Some progress has also been made on getting access to JANET for institutions not strictly academic, but none which might fall within the umbrella of IDCC have shown initiative.

GOSIP is the planned government open systems interconnection project. It is insufficiently developed for us yet to be clear what advantages it will provide the development community. The more cynical of us might be tempted to say that a government open system is a contradiction. However there exists an CEC framework¹⁵ for intergovernmental networking. The availability of project data for bilateral and multilateral funded projects and access to government experts seems the most likely uses. However the FCO, ODA, TRRL, BRE or other possible lead institutions in the development area do not appear to be active.

But it might be in the area of implementation of open standards, to which I'll return later, that the leadership of CEC governments proves significant.

SCANNET was the Nordic attempt to link databases and networks. The growth of EARN removed the networking issue, the publication of Nordic Databases removed the main catalogue. It however has solved none of the information retrieval problems I addressed in my earlier papers. The Newsletter appears twice a year is means that information on networking in the region is available.¹⁶

The latest issue of the newsletter mentions the Intelligent Access to Nordic Information Systems (IANI). Hopefully one of our correspondents in Scandanavia will be able to do some development work in this area.

France, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Spain, all have contributing organisations to EARN and undoubtedly other contributors to the network world about which I ought to know. But I don't. More work needs doing here. I'm fairly confident that were any of the aid related organisations described in my 1985, 87 and 88 papers involved I'd probably know about it.

Surfnets is the Dutch value added network providing the range of services which Janet provides in Britain. It is engaged in a collaborative venture with PICA (the Dutch Project for Integrated Catalogue Automation) to provide via X.25 an open library network based on OSI. It is involved in RARE. I have suggested the the Dutch Development Group form a link with Surfnets and explore possible collaboration.

UN networks have undergone some development as have the databases. In general though there is no access to national institutions which are not part directly of the UN. Developments are described in the ACCIS newsletter. More work is required in popularising this information and in implementing gateways, but this is probably counter the UN philosophy. UNESCO's PGI has been involved in setting up networks in Africa and the Caribbean¹⁷, though I haven't had sufficient involvement to tell whether they are networks in the sense I'm talking here.

EuroKom is a network service provided under the umbrella of the ESPRIT project for EEC member country research institutions. It has provided some of the framework of what such an information service might look like, but is also a pointer to the dangers of such centralisation.

It is aimed at the research community, but it is up to the research community to make use of it. For high energy physics, CERN, the European Space Agency, and so forth, the driving forces in EARN/RARE, and for people setting up consortia for ESPRIT projects, the dynamic is present to get over the hurdles of trying to make it all work.

However once you've done that there is the possibility for access to so much information, so many bulletin boards, so many people to email with, so much potential, that it needs a very sharp purpose - finding a collaborator - or a very large budget - isn't amusing to see everything that's here - to maintain an interest. Certainly to date there is nothing targetted at the development community.

Describing the CEC networking projects is difficult as I mentioned under EARN, but mention should be made of ECHO as another example of a VAIS, and within that, Page Bleu, a database of CEC funded projects under the Lome Convention which is accessible via ECHO¹⁸

Telecom Gold is the service provided by British Telecom to handle the range of services being considered here. It has made almost no penetration. BT publishes a periodic Information Exchange newsletter free of charge describing their activities. One such with potential is the Electronic Yellow Pages yet its horrendous initial interface and information retrieval capacity was a warning to go carefully

LANet is a network set up under Telecom Gold by the Library Association in order that public libraries might have the sorts of facilities that academic libraries get from JANET. The LANet- JANET gateway is far from transparent and shows some of the points I'll raise at the end of this paper. The service has been up for too short a time for much to have been learned or for VAIS (value added information services) to have developed. A column in the Library Association Record is a means of finding out what is going on. To the best of my knowledge the IIS, ASLIB and other institutions mentioned in my earlier reports have no independent service. A subcommittee of the BCS to consider the issue has not met. IDCC is taking no initiative, as most of its active members have access to JANET. The British Council is playing no role in JANET, GOSIP, LANet or the IDCC.

Geonet/ Poptel is the first of the private sector, NGO services to have made a mark. It consists of a network server on which one takes a subscription; thereafter email, bulletin boards and database services are available either as an IP (information provider) or as a subscriber. They are working on a full text retrieval package (FTX) called Nigél, which they think will be more usable than those commercially available (and won't involve the outlay and expertise needed to set one up on your own host machine. The NGO community is in active involvement.¹⁹ Gateways to other networks such as JANET are hardly transparent. (Rather more like getting into Albania!)

Applelink is the service provided by Apple for Macintosh users. It is a commercial activity intended (presumably) to generate a profit. In addition by providing a service for Macintoshes it doesn't need to limit itself to conforming with the lowest levels of OSI. However it hasn't get achieved the market

penetration in the development field for any VAIS to have emerged.

UUCP is the equivalent for Unix users. However as the process of learning Unix is that you lose the capacity to converse in any other language, only gurus will be interested. Gateways to other networks may be knitted in barbed wire. In Britain the University of Kent at Canterbury provides one, but with draconian pricing policy.

Bitnet is the US equivalent of JANET, but as my other papers did not discuss US and Japanese development networks, I'll remain consistent. This will apply also to CIX, BIX, Compuserve although they are available outside the US (being electronic networks of course). I don't currently know of any development VAIS available.

Commercial networks are in a category of their own. They are set up by organisations to satisfy their own requirements. The biggest player is GEISCO. Banks have SWIFT, airlines theirs for bookings, ICL has its own, etc. Many of these will be available in developing countries, but are unlikely to be available to the development community²⁰. There is no evidence that practitioners from these institutions are involved in the issues considered by the development community, who, they suspect, all escaped from 1968 unscathed.

6. Interfaces

Hopefully by now I've made clear enough the complexity of the issues being considered. On a simple model there are twenty two interfaces between you trying to find something out and the source of the information (providing you know that source.

There is your keyboard, the disk operating system software of your machine, the communications software, the applications software, the gateway from your machine to the rest of the world, the gateway from your paddock to the rest of the world, the host machine's gateway from rest of the world (all the communications from the gate of your paddock to the gate of his or her paddock is handled by OSI and you are unlikely to need to know much about it!); and here things will get complicated according to whether you are attempting terminal emulation logon, or simply want to interrogate an OPAC.

In theory all should be governed by standards, but this is capitalism and we are in favour of the freedom of markets. And all this is just about the communications, nothing about the meta information.

Keeping up to date isn't easy: it isn't surprising that the general conclusion is that it is all too difficult and we'll just stick to the old way of doing things. UK Online, Information World Review

7. Standards

In a paper of this length I cannot deal with the standards issues - all I intend is to indicate the area of activity and that neither developing countries nor the development community are involved in the process. That the standards are driven by the US Department of Defense, by the US, European and Japanese information technology industries, seems self evident. They are therefore unlikely to have had the development issues in the front of their minds.²¹

OSI is the set of standards for open systems interconnection in order that computers and telecommunication networks may communicate with one another.

x.25 is the network protocol which produces the most important standard, that under which IXI will operate.

x400 describes the set of standards necessary to handle the messaging interconnections for the range of networks I'm describing here to provide the services needed with any sort of reliability.

x500 provides the standards for directory addressing so that messages may end up where the sender expected them to go. Projects are still at the development phase. Brunel University and University College London have prototypes.²²

EDI is electronic data interchange, a generic term for a range of standards which will involve all the commercial operations normally employed in business - order, despatch note, invoice etc. It is unlikely that these will have development implications in the short term, but there are two areas which will see likely significance: 1) multinational companies engaging in third world production requiring EDI and 2) companies in parts of third world countries wanting to gain an advantage. There is little penetration even in Europe so far, and evidence indicates

information communicated electronically will increase. This will prove important particularly in GIS.

SQL (Standard Query Language), Unix and a variety of other components are more part of the design of particular information systems than value added information services, so I'll presume that readers will know about them from elsewhere. However there are three areas of particular importance from the domain specialisms which will influence VAIS that they require further discussion.

The first is libraries where the UNIMARC standard for bibliographic interchange (ISO 2709)²⁵. In the development field it is interesting that the OECD project to produce IDIN²⁶ has meant that software, protocols and database design has all been standardised for the ICCDA community. Standardisation to this level however produces a couple of extremely important problems for information systems designers. Firstly it is unlikely that the library in any institution will be the driver of the automation process, so it is much more likely that the library will have to follow the lead of another department (usually Finance) will the result that either these standards will not be capable of being used or that islands of automation will develop. Secondly the definition of standards to this level of detail removes the capacity for local definition to satisfy local requirements. The trade-off is that much less training is needed to get a basic system off the ground. It remains to be seen how these perform. I argued against the original proposal and am always prepared to be proven wrong.

The second is geographic information systems, where the work of the British Government in Northern Ireland has produced *get bit right²⁷. The availability to receive data from remote sensing satellites, and to define spatial and demographic data makes this field important for the planning and management of developing countries.²⁸

The third is EFTPOS which takes the banking network and EDI a stage further and involves the transfer of funds electronically. There is as yet little standardisation material beyond the EDI level and I have seen no reports of developing countries issues yet.²⁹

8. Pricing, charging, costing and funding

The old way of doing things costs money. The new way of doing things costs money too, but there comes a cut over point where suddenly the old is no longer available or costs more than the new. Cataloguing the library has made that switch. Letters in

the post not yet. (Almost, depending on who you communicate with, how often and how many.)

In part people have forgotten how to make explicit the complexity of the systems they understand already - take for example the mailing of an envelope - model everything which has to be in place and working for delivery. Note what you get for your 20p. That is in part why the electronic is still so complicated: two hundred years of institution building isn't there yet.

Yet if the colonial world of the nineteenth century was complicated, this one is much more so. Building the development community isn't helped though by taking a naive or unrealistic attitude to money. Every information service costs money to run. Every bit of data costs money to capture, store, process, retrieve and communicate. Developing a mechanism for accurately costing these operations is essential, but does not preclude the answers to questions about pricing: the relation between production; charging: who is to pay what for how much; and funding: the process whereby the difference between cost, price and charge may be reconciled.

In the world of VANS there is the cost of the information provision: its capture, storage; the cost of communication; by broadband, narrowband, by broadcasting or narrowcasting; the cost of procession, the transmission of information from one medium to another or one software package to another or one machine to another; there is the cost of the services which inform the information. In every organisation these activities are related to the goals and the budgets: this three legged stool called designing an information system.

9. Alternatives to telecommunicating networks

There remain alternatives to telecommunication networks and VANS.

Electronic networks remain the playpen of the enthusiastic. Frisbeenet and sneakernet, the post office, meetings, libraries, and so forth. Yet when we accept that all these too cost money, and the the spatial and temporal distribution of information is changed by the technical capacity of the machinery at our disposal we cannot write the new technologies out of the design cycle.

¹Lindsay, John. BL report & EADI update

²Lindsay, John UNESCO

³Lindsay, John. BL proper

⁴Lindsay, John. Databases and networks for development.

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- ⁵see my Riding on the backs of others *get citation for the methodological issues involved in trying to build networks in the development planning area
- ⁶The BCS DCG is intending to hold its July 1991 colloquium on the topic of international network services. Interested readers should contact the Secretary. My position paper for the meeting is available.
- ⁷Readers who require a basic introduction to email should consider a work such as *
- ⁸If you want more basic information * is a start.
- ⁹my UNESCO again
- ¹⁰Again it is not the intention of this paper to discuss the technical issues. Readers fro whom VT100 is a mystery might read *
- ¹¹For a potted description/ history of EARN see *
- ¹²There are a variety of other CEC projects under the aegis of various Director Generalities such as ION (Interlibrary OSI Networking involving UK, France and Netherlands). See also the section on Eurokom.
- ¹³This is a separate point from the development of the EUREKA COSINE IXI project initiated in June 1990 which might well prove to have enormous implications. More of that anon I suspect
- ¹⁴Stone, Peter. *
- ¹⁵CEC Govts thing - get citation *
- ¹⁶available from SCANNET, c/o Tekniska högskolans bibliotek, Otnäsvägen 9, SF-02150 ESBO, Finland
- ¹⁷get citations
- ¹⁸If you want to check whether the points I made under JANET have sunk in just try working out what you need to know to be able to search Page Bleu. If in doubt, a monthly list is published in Courier, the magazine of the CEC DG8. If you don't know how to track down Courier go and ask a librarian.
- ¹⁹Further information for Soft Solutions in Britain, 25 Downham Rd., London N1. They have corresponding agencies in * other countries.
- ²⁰though the Riding on the backs of others design method I elaborated at the Sussex conference remains valid.
- ²¹I feel technically insufficiently competent to develop this argument. See for example the Ovum Report OSI * get citation for a discussion of the European market issues. Omnicom video programmes at six tapes each deal with OSI and MHS (for £900 each) but from an American voicepoint and in great technical detail. However in comparison with sending staff for training in the West these might be useful for organisations implementing networks.
- ²²There are too many issues arising here for this paper to deal with. How developing country institutions might make use of these developments requires a more detailed discussion.
- ²³Readers interested in the technical details should read *get from Anne. Digital has produced a video and booklet which gives a basic explanation
- ²⁴see * get from Anne
- ²⁵Networking of libraries is possibly more developed than any other area. The set of standards developed long before computers or electronic networks, such as Dewey, UDC, AACR2 are all too complex for anyone other than a trained librarian to know about. A horrifying probability is that VAIS will become just as complicated! For a broad discussion of the issues see Hopkinson * get citation
- ²⁶get citation from Alan's paper
- ²⁷get citation from Ceppe
- ²⁸This area is too vast to develop here. The BCS DCG has already organised a colloquium on the topic. See *get citation and in particular my paper on the GIS policy issues.

²⁹To keep up to date on the European issues, the IES newsletter from * get citation.

Task Force Group 2:

Database for Journals in EADI Member Institutes

Chair: Kirsti Hagen Andersen (Chr. Michelsen Institute - Norway)

Resource person: Sidsel Bleken (NORAD),
Alice Watson (OECD Development Centre)

Report Group 2

Many of the EADI member institutes invest much money in their journal collections. We have learned that decision makers do not read books or documents; they probably do not read journal articles either. Thus, the primary groups that most of us serve are researchers and students. Everything from news bulletins to serious research journals are important sources of information for them.

As we also learned during the conference, one of the major problems we face is the effective flow of information. We are more or less drowning in the flood of incoming documents, but at the same time, many of us lack the resources to purchase all of this information. Much of the valuable information required by our users is published in journals.

The purpose of setting up this task force group was to discuss the possibilities of sharing the important information in the journal collections of our institutes. In our discussion, we were particularly concerned with journals published in developing countries. We think it is important to improve both the knowledge of and the availability of these periodicals.

One reason that researchers tend to ask for the well-known European and American journals might be that neither they, nor we as documentalists, are aware of the material published in the South. We touched upon the problem of the irregularity of these journals which is due to a lack of resources for printing and distributing the journals, rather than a lack of manuscripts. Even if it is not the main purpose of our task force group, it may be possible to assist our colleagues in reducing this problem. For example, when researchers at an institute write an article for a Third World journal, the institute could offer to buy a certain number of copies of that issue. In this way, the journal could be published in a more timely fashion.

The need for a database of journals concerned with developing countries and development problems was expressed by most of the members in the task force group. Journals are often difficult to identify in more general databases, which normally lack both thematical and geographical indexes. One of our hopes is that with future co-operation between EADI and the ISDS, this situation can be improved.

As an example of already existing union catalogues created by using data from the ISDS, we had a demonstration of the French national union catalogue which is now available through the telecom system direct online access and as a CD-ROM. We all agreed on the importance of preventing duplication of the work already done by others. The most important source for information on journals is the database of the International Serials Data System located in Paris. S. Santiago from ISDS gave us an introduction to this System which has recorded more than 500,000 serial titles from 193 countries.

The coverage of journals published in developing countries varies depending on if there is a national centre and the quality of the centre. To avoid duplicate work, it is necessary to know what already exists. M. Pouyliou from the Centre for Study of Tropical Geography volunteered to conduct a survey through students at his institute. A questionnaire was drafted with questions on journals holdings, and whether or not they were already recorded in internal databases. We also included a question on the willingness of institutes to participate in a network of databases on journals.

La plupart des instituts membres de l'EADI investissent beaucoup d'argent pour leurs collections de journaux. Nous savons que les décideurs ne lisent pas de documents ou de livres. Ils ne lisent probablement pas beaucoup d'articles de journaux non plus.

Nos principaux utilisateurs sont des chercheurs et des étudiants. Ceux-ci lisent tout ce qui est publié, cela va de la lettre d'information aux journaux de recherche qui sont des sources d'informations importantes pour eux.

Un des problèmes auquel nous avons à faire face est un grand flot d'informations. Nous sommes tous plus ou moins noyés dans les documents qui nous submergent et en même temps il y a pour certains d'entre nous un manque de ressources pour acheter tout ce dont nous aurions besoin pour satisfaire nos utilisateurs. Un bon nombre d'informations intéressantes sont publiées dans les périodiques.

La proposition de mettre sur pied ce groupe spécial avait pour but d'examiner les possibilités d'échanges d'informations importantes contenues dans les collections de journaux de nos instituts.

Dans notre travail nous sommes particulièrement concernés par les journaux publiés dans les PED. Nous pensons qu'il est important d'améliorer à la fois le repérage et la localisation de ces périodiques.

C'est une des raisons pour laquelle nos chercheurs ont tendance à demander les périodiques européens qu'ils connaissent bien et qu'il se peut que ni eux ni nous en tant que documentalistes soyons informés de ce qui se publie dans les pays du Sud.

Nous touchons là le problème de l'irrégularité de publication de ces journaux du plus à un manque de ressources pour l'impression qu'à un manque de manuscrits. Même si ce n'est pas le but essentiel de notre groupe spécial nous pouvons peut-être aider nos collègues à le résoudre.

Quand un chercheur écrit un article pour son institut dans un journal du Sud, l'institut avant sa sortie peut le vendre à l'avance, et ainsi le journal pourra être publié plus tôt.

Les membres du groupe spécial travail ont exprimés le besoin d'une base de données de périodiques couvrant les PED et les problèmes de développement. Les périodiques sont parfois difficile à identifier dans une base de données plus large qui normalement manque d'index aussi bien thématiques que géographiques.

Une de nos attentes pour cette coopération future entre l'EADI et le CIEPS (Centre International d'Enregistrement des Publications en Série) est que cette situation s'améliore.

Un exemple de catalogue collectif national utilisant le système ISDS nous a été présenté: Le CCN français qui est accessible en ligne par les télécommunications ainsi que sur CD ROM.

Nous trouvons très important de ne pas refaire le travail déjà fait par d'autres.

La plus importante source d'informations sur les journaux est la base de données du Système International de Données sur les Publications en Série (ISDS) du CIEPS, organisation

internationale située à Paris dont sa présidente madame Santiago nous a présenté le système. Cette base comprend plus de 500 000 titres de périodiques provenant de 193 pays.

La couverture des PED en ce qui concerne les journaux est variable et dépend s'il y a un centre national dans chaque pays et de la qualité de ces centres.

Afin d'éviter de travailler en double emploi M. Poulliau du CSTG s'est porté volontaire pour faire une enquête par ses étudiants pour rechercher l'ensemble des catalogues collectifs existants.

Un questionnaire a été établi à cet effet avec des questions sur les conditions de possession des journaux et s'ils sont déjà enregistrés dans des bases de données internes, ainsi qu'une question sur le consentement à une participation à un réseau de bases de données de périodiques.

Database for journals in EADI member institutes

Many of the EADI member institutes invest much money in their journals collection. The subject for this Task force group is possibilities for sharing the valuable information of this collections. To ensure fruitful discussions and hopefully also some practical results, we find it important that participants in the Task force group are well prepared before the meeting.

As a background for the discussions in the group, it would be useful if you to the meeting could bring lists of journals holdings in your institute. Many libraries are now automated, and information on the program and the format used for registration of journals would be useful. Information on already existing databases for journals would also be valuable. That can help us avoid duplication of work, and maybe we also can learn from experiences done by others.

The main point in the group will be the discussions on the contents and the organization of the database.

What should be the purpose of the database?

- A source for bibliographic information on journals
- A source for exchange of bibliographic information
- A union catalogue of holdings in the member institutes
- A database serving the member institutes only
- A database serving libraries in the developing countries

What should the database contain?

- What is regarded as journals
- Only bibliographic information on journals or holdings as well
- All journal holdings in institutes willing to participate
- Only journals published in developing countries
- Regional or thematic databases
- Only current subscriptions or all holdings

How should the database be organized?

- Centralized database in one member institute
- Decentralized - in what form
- Possibilities for publishing catalogues
- Focal point responsible for the organization of the database

Program and format

- Common format, various programs
 - Which fields should the format contain
 - Possibilities for exchange of information
- All using the same program and format

Commitments from participating institutes

- Only supply of information on journals in the library
- Supply of copies of articles or lending of journals
 - Free of charge or against payment
 - Only for participating institutes
 - For libraries in developing countries

Database for journals in EADI member institutes

Existing databases in the Nordic countries

NORDIC DATABASES

NOSP

In the Nordic countries cooperation in this field between the libraries has existed for many years. NOSP (Nordisk samkatalog for periodika = Nordic union catalogue for periodicals) is a union catalogue of serials in ca 400 Nordic research libraries. The catalogue is prepared by merging the records from the International Serials Data System (ISDS) and other files for serials, and location and holdings data reported by contributing Nordic libraries. The information included is: Key title and ISSN, variant forms of title, publisher and place of publication, start data and by ceased publication end data. Reference is made to former title(s) and to successor titles. Only serials with and ISSN are registered in NOSP. The database is located in Helsinki, Finland, but is also accesible as part of the databases offered at the university library in Oslo and through the swedish library system LIBRIS.

NORDIC UNION CATALOGUE OF PERIODICALS ISSUED IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The union catalogue records holdings of periodicals issued in developing countries in 19 cooperating libraries in the Nordic countries. The catalogue is produced by the Chr.Michelsen Institute, using the computer porgramme Revelation. At present the information is not avaiable on-line, but printed copies of the catalogue can be obtained¹

The background for compiling the catalogue was :

- to be able to supply library users with more information published in developing countries
- to achieve better coordination between the libraries and thereby a more efficient use of resources

Approximately 1100 titles are included in the catalogue. Annual reports, yearbooks, research report series, purely statistical publications, bibliographies and library aquisition lists are excluded. The following information is recorded: Title, place of publication, publisher, ISSN and library holdings. The catalogue includes an index of titles sorted by country of publication and a list of participating libraries with addreses.

¹Nordic union catalgoue of periodicals issued in developing countries / ed. by Sidsel Bleken. - Bergen : Chr.Michelsen Institute, 1988. - (DERAP publications ; no.244)

NORWAY

The Norwegian union catalogue of periodicals is maintained by the University library in Oslo, who also acts as host for the database. Both public and scientific libraries contribute to the database. The Norwegian union catalogue of periodicals is more comprehensive than the NOSP database, as it also includes journals which do not have an ISSN. This database also facilitates on-line ordering of copies of articles. The order is transferred to the library holding the periodical either by electronic mail or by telefax.

DENMARK

A Danish union catalogue of periodicals in scientific libraries is about to be established as part of the ALBA databases run by the computer department of the Danish scientific libraries.

FINLAND

The database KAUS contains Finnish and foreign periodicals in Finnish libraries. The database is produced by the the Automation Unit of Finnish Research and available through the Finnish State Computer Centre.

SWEDEN

The NOSP database is available through LIBRIS (Library Information System) run by the bibliographic department of the Royal Library.

Oslo July 26, 1991
Sidsel Bleken

EADI WORKING GROUP: PERIODICALS

INTRODUCTION

Definition and specific problems

PART I: GENERAL FRAMEWORK

I - IDENTIFICATION

A) BY MEANS OF A NORM

1. The ISDS system
2. ISSN

B) BY ANOTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

1. Bibliographies

II - ACQUISITION

A) By subscription

1. through a professional subscription body
2. directly

B) By direct purchase of the issue

C) through exchanges, gifts...

III - LOCALISATION

A) Through products in paper form

- press and advertising directory
- specialised directories

B) Through automated means

- CD-ROMs: Ulrich, ABI, PAIS, CCN
- Minitel: CCN...
- individual data bases in institutes

IV - MEANS OF TRANSMISSION

A) National and international

- mail
- fax
- telex
- telephone
- international carriers
- minitel
- data downloading

B) Networks

- electronic
- professional
- national
- international
- local

PART II: OBSTACLES

I. PRACTICAL

- language
- delivery delay
- electronic data format (incompatibilities of software, hardware)
- legal aspects
- censorship
- research (requires trained staff)

II. FINANCIAL

- cost of delivering information
- cost of data base searching
- cost of appropriate equipment
- cost of training specialised staff

CONCLUSION

Concrete example in searching for a periodical published in a developing country.

Construction of a data base from the Development Centre's directories (Africa, Latin America, Asia, Arab countries, Europe); however a common bibliographical format must be decided upon, also remembering that the Macrothesaurus is available for indexing.

GROUPE DE TRAVAIL DE L'EADI : LES PERIODIQUES

INTRODUCTION

Définition et problèmes spécifiques

PARTIE I : LE CADRE GENERAL

I - L'IDENTIFICATION

A) PAR UNE NORME

- 1- Le système ISDS
- 2- L'ISSN

B) PAR UN AUTRE ELEMENT D'IDENTIFICATION

- 1- Les bibliographies

II - L'ACQUISITION

A) Par abonnement

- 1) par un abonné professionnel
- 2) directement

B) par achat direct du numéro

C) par échange, hommage...

III - LA LOCALISATION

A) Par des moyens papier

- annuaires de la presse et de la publicité
- répertoires spécialisés

B) Par des moyens automatisés

- les CD ROM : Ulrich's, ABEY, PAIS, CCN
- le minitel : le CCN...
- les bases de données des différents instituts

IV - LES MOYENS DE TRANSMISSION

A) Nationaux et internationaux

- le courrier
- le téléfax
- le télex
- le téléphone
- les coursiers internationaux
- le minitel
- le téléchargement

- B) Les réseaux
- électroniques
 - professionnels
 - nationaux
 - internationaux
 - locaux

PARTIE II : LES OBSTACLES

I) MATERIELS

- la langue
- le délai
- le format électronique (pas les mêmes logiciels, le même matériel)
- l'aspect juridique
- la censure (?)
- la recherche (nécessité d'un personnel qualifié)

II) FINANCIERS

- le coût d'acheminement de l'information
- le coût d'interrogation des banques de données
- le coût d'une installation adéquate
- le coût de formation du personnel spécialisé

CONCLUSION

Exemple concret d'une recherche d'un périodique édité par un pays en développement

Constitution d'une base de données à partir des répertoires Afrique, Europe... du Centre de Développement mais il faut déterminer un format commun de saisie de la bibliographie étant entendu que pour l'indexation (éventuelle) il existe déjà le Macrothésaurus.

Suzanne Santiago

ISDS and Union Catalogues

Introduction

The purpose of the present paper is neither to present Union Catalogues nor to explain what the International Serial Data System (ISDS) is, but to try to define what could be and increasingly more often is, the good usage of ISDS by Union Catalogues. It will nevertheless be necessary to give a short introduction on ISDS, as a reminder and because the objectives and operating structures of the network are precisely what make ISDS so useful to Union Catalogues. The advantages of ISDS will be presented later in the paper and finally comments concerning practical issues.

Background: A rapid introduction to ISDS

What is the purpose? ISDS originated as a part of UNISIST from the recommendation that "an International registry of scientific periodicals should be established as a basis of a system for the normalization of the citations of the journal literature of science and technology".

The limitation to scientific and technological serials was soon abandoned and ISDS organized the establishment of an international register for the unique identification of serial titles based upon the assignment of an identifying code (the International Standard Serial Number: ISSN) permanently linked to a unique title (the key title) for each serial together with bibliographic information to allow unequivocal identification of the serial and links to related titles (earlier, later titles; merging, splitting of serials, other edition statements ...).

How does it work? ISDS is an intergovernmental organization. It functions as a network of operational centres, with an international centre located in Paris and a number of national centres located in the various countries.

The International Centre is an autonomous institution established in Paris on the basis of an agreement signed by Unesco and the French Government. Its statutes, ratified in 1976, lay down the formal organizational structure of the system. The responsibility for the establishment of National Centres rests with national governments.

In two parts of the world, National Centres have established a Regional Centre to coordinate some of their activities. There are now over 50 ISDS National Centres in all continents, dealing with serials in all possible languages and alphabets.

National Centres have sole responsibility for assigning ISSN to serials published in their respective countries and for establishing and maintaining the corresponding records.

The International Centre is responsible for processing serials published by

international organizations or published in countries where no National Centre yet exists and for organizing common working procedures and checking and distributing the information produced by the network.

All ISSN assignments and the corresponding ISDS records are input in the international database which is checked, controlled and maintained by the International Centre. This dual structure ensures both "firsthand" processing at a national level and control of serial publications, and the coherence of the system as a whole at an international level.

The ISDS database. The function of ISDS is the identification, registration and numbering of serial publications. ISDS assigns an ISSN to serials regardless of their country of publication, language, contents or status.

The ISSN is an eight-digit code (including a check digit) according to international standard ISO 3297. Throughout the very diverse serial literature, its aim is to unambiguously identify each specific serial title.

When an ISSN is assigned, a corresponding bibliographic record is simultaneously created. The format for the ISDS record includes 30 data elements, some of which are mandatory, some mandatory when applicable, and some optional.

The two key elements of the ISDS records are the ISSN and the key-title. The key-title is the title of the publication as ISDS standardizes it to make it unique. Most often the key-title is the title of the serial as it appears on the publication if there is no ambiguity, or sometimes the key-title is the title under which the serial designates itself, to which ISDS adds qualifying information in order to distinguish it from otherwise identical titles.

The ISSN of a serial publication and its key-title are inseparably linked. This is a fundamental rule of ISDS.

In cases where the title changes sufficiently to warrant creating a new key-title, a new ISSN is assigned and a new record is established. Both records remain available, and a cross-reference is established through linking fields.

The abbreviated key-title is another essential data element in the ISDS format. It is established in accordance with the international rules stated in ISO 4 and the List of Serial Title Word Abbreviations, for which ISDS is the maintenance agency. In defining the other ISDS data elements, particular care was taken to ensure compatibility with the International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials (ISBD(S)).

The ISDS database contains all bibliographic records created by the system. The database contains over 500,000 records and the annual growth is approximately 40,000 new records. Moreover, a continuous updating process results in the introduction of approximately 60,000 changes a year undergone by the publications.

What are the Advantages of ISDS for Union Catalogues? Matters of Principle:

A unique identifier. ISDS is primarily an authority file for the unique identification of serials, based on ISSN and a reserve of related bibliographic records.

Union Catalogues are intended for a wide audience. The main advantage of ISDS is that it sets up a common language for unique and unmistakable identification of titles. Union Catalogues are the result of the common care in different institutions to share their resources. Whether at the early stage of establishing the Union Catalogues from various cataloguing institutions or in the final stage when the user wants to localize the serial he needs, there is an obvious necessity for a common name for a given serial. This is common sense for any Union Catalogue, although it is of even greater importance when Union Catalogues are multinational. We are all aware that national cataloguing practices are not always strictly identical and even if it was so, who could, without international control, be sure that a title which is unique in one country does not exist in the same form in a different country?

Even national Union Catalogues, if they want to be used outside their national borders, which is increasingly more often the case, are affected. The first advantage is obvious, whatever the media of the Union Catalogues. It applies to printed Union Catalogues as much as Union Catalogues using new technologies.

Computer systems. If we take for granted that unique identification is the only way to proceed when libraries want to share resources, this identification process could be of any sort:

- full text: a complete descriptive record according to strict, common rules;
- a precise and formalized sequence of words: key-title or abbreviated key- title;
or,
- a numerical code: the ISSN.

The advantages of ISSN in a computer system are many when creating, organizing and maintaining files for a Union Catalogue.

Organization of the files. ISSN is a code that can easily and unmistakably be the key wherever a specific serial needs to be cited or retrieved:

- it offers the opportunity to organize the data in different files: one for bibliographic descriptions, one for holding statements;
- it offers the opportunity to link serials in a relational way. ISSN in a linking field will bridge to additional information in other records without repeating them;
- it means security, saving storage space, possibility to process sub-files and this can be taken into account from the beginning of the organization of the computer system.

Updating process for holding statements. The possibility to distinctly store bibliographic descriptions and holding statements facilitates updating. In a Union Catalogue, even though serial literature undergoes more changes than monographs, the holding statements are less stable than the bibliographic records because of new libraries joining the system and of changes in subscription policies.

For the participating library, it allows the ISSN and holding statements to be sent instead of having to send a complete form to identify and describe the serial title. For the Union Catalogue management, in a parallel way, it means processing less information.

Once the information has been processed, it also allows the Union Catalogues

to distribute information on holding statements only without having to send related records. The ISSN allows matching with the information contained in the user's internal database.

Telecommunications. Union Catalogues are meant for interlibrary loan (ILL). If the user sends a request by mail, he will appreciate a simplified form rather than a full description of the title in order to be sure to obtain what he needs.

This is even truer when, as is increasingly more often the case, ILL is based on telecom possibilities. ISSN means less information to key, less information to transmit, less information to process, and the security of speaking the same language unequivocally (compared to different ways of presenting titles, corporate bodies or transliteration schemes which, if not strictly identical, a computer will not recognize).

A bibliographic reserve. In addition to the advantages of ISSN and key-titles, the ISDS database offers 500,000 related records. Are Union Catalogues able to create 500,000 records when they are established and to maintain 40,000 creations and 60,000 corrections each year? Do they have the resources to catalogue in a short time (because Union Catalogues are needed and impatiently expected) the necessary records to create their original database and afterwards to track information about creation, splitting, merging, cessation of publication, changes in title ... all over the world?

Moreover the dual structure of ISDS (National Centres and International Centre) guarantee that

- The serial publications are catalogued at a local level and the professionals in the country are best placed to follow the creation and history of the publication, to suggest key-titles and abbreviated key-titles and catalogue in their own language, or to classify according to the content.
- Through the International Centre, the centralized processing of data guarantees, as far as possible, at least in terms of structure and uniqueness, the homogeneity and cohesion of the data.

Lastly, another advantage is due to the ISDS working procedures: ISDS is an open system. In addition to regular assignments, ISDS Centres assign ISSN or enter corrections, on requests from users when they are documented.

Living with ISDS: Practical Issues

As a consequence, we may assert that Union Catalogues derive many advantages from ISDS. It is, nevertheless, necessary to list a few practical issues which the users and ISDS in their common venture will face at different steps in establishing and maintaining a Union Catalogue.

Creating a Union Catalogue database. Union Catalogues choose to use ISDS records or some elements derived from them. If they decide to use integral ISDS records as such, they avoid the need for a common cataloguing structure: human resources, cataloguing software, common rules. The Union Catalogues will be sure that all records have the same structure, and are updated without extra

work. They will then be sure to concentrate on managing holding statements. If the Union Catalogue chooses to use only data from the ISDS records or to enrich the ISDS records with additional data, the following remarks apply all the same.

When creating the Union Catalogue database, there are two possibilities:

- Either the Union Catalogue did not exist beforehand, and ISDS is a huge reserve to set up the system and have at the user's disposal bibliographic records to which holding statements are added without cataloguing delays and risks of duplicates; or
- the Union Catalogue exists in a form that is no longer satisfactory. In that case, the difficulty arises from the necessary matching of former data with the new system. This problem has to be faced in any case (with or without ISDS). The process will take more time, but ISDS can be a help there too because of unique identification.

The second aspect deals with coverage.

- Historical coverage. ISDS was meant for systematic registration but started in the 1970s. If the Union Catalogues deal with recent collections, the coverage will be much more satisfactory than in the case of large historical collections. The question of registering dead serials in the ISDS network is not entirely resolved because of the extra workload it imposes on ISDS Centres that are mainly organized for current registration. Up to now ISSNs have been assigned on request to dead serials whenever possible.
- Subject coverage. The Union Catalogues are either multidisciplinary or specialized. The ISDS database is multidisciplinary. Specialized Union Catalogues will sometimes find fewer answers than general ones, depending on the speciality. The weight of dead serials will be heavier and titles may come from countries with no ISDS centres where serial titles are not systematically registered ... Requests cause more delay.

In short, some other minor questions may arise because Union Catalogues and ISDS do not strictly apply the same coverage policy:

- the definition of a serial may be slightly at variance;
- dead serials are second priority for ISDS centres: a title which is dead and was issued twice 50 years ago, may exist in the Union Catalogue. Should it therefore be a priority for ISDS?
- minor titles of local interest may not be registered systematically by an ISDS centre.

There is no standard solution, these points are usually solved by assignment on requests but cause delay.

Maintaining the Union Catalogue Database.

That is where the original enthusiasm due to the rapidity of creating the database from an available reserve sometimes fades away because there may be a difference in the working procedures and pace between Union Catalogues and ISDS.

Amendments to existing records. In a large majority they are a plus to the database but sometimes may be embarrassing: in the case of a change of title for example when ISDS assigns a new ISSN and key title. The criteria to decide that the change is significant may be at variance and Union Catalogue users may not be aware of

it when they want to match their holdings with a former form of title. On the contrary, concerning dead serials, ISDS Centres generally limit assignment to one form of the title and make one related record and will consider other titles as variant titles.

Other amendments originate from the pre-history of ISDS database: corrections are still going on concerning ISSN that were assigned in Ulrich's or New Serial Titles and are validated (or not) when encountered. Duplicates, errors made by publishers when printing the ISSN on the serial may imply discrepancies and cancellations of wrongly assigned ISSN and though this very seldom happens in matter of percentage, it is always a shock for a Union Catalogue to see disappear a record related to holdings. A good follow-up of cross-references between cancelled and valid ISSN should greatly diminish the problem.

Creation of missing records. Usually the more used and successful a Union Catalogue is, the more libraries join in. After a time, the missing records to be amended (or the existing records to be amended) are fewer but more difficult to handle because they are rare or dead titles. The creation is not the result of systematic assignment but implies a request: transmission to the concerned ISDS centre, difficulty to find a collection there from which to register the title, procedure to update the database ... cause unavoidable delay.

Creation of new records. In the aforementioned case, delays may not easily be avoided. In the case of new records, even though a waiting period may be necessary for Union Catalogues, delays should eventually be resolved.

Speeding up the updating process depends on

- The situation at the ISDS Centres: What are their human and technological resources? Are publishers aware of the preassignment? Do they inform the Centre? How does the Centre transmit the data to the International Centre: worksheets or magnetic tapes?
- The International Centre's ability to process and distribute the data: computer system, facilities for external liaison, availability of human resources?
- Union Catalogue procedures: How does the Union Catalogue use the data received from ISDS? How often does it process it?

The potential difficulties listed above should not discourage the user. They have only been mentioned to draw a realistic picture. Users are offered a lot but they sometimes expect more. Furthermore, everyday problems are marginal and should not cause one to overlook the immense resources available in ISDS.

Conclusion: A Successful Union?

ISDS is an authority file, comprising 500,000 records which are unmistakably unique, systematically growing and improving in quality thanks to an international network of operational centres. ISDS is intended to be a common language!

Union Catalogues may consider that ISDS records answer their needs because they save on resources which can be better applied to specific Union Catalogue tasks.

Union Catalogues may also decide that they need more enriched records because of specific needs. With ISDS, they can be sure of an authority record. Moreover, they can spend the resources saved on additional descriptions which ISDS does not provide.

About the author

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Task Force Group 3:

Book Donation Programmes/Exchange Programmes

Chair: Matty Klatter (Institute of Social Studies, The Hague)

Resource person: Birgitta Bergdahl
(IFLA - International Federation of Library Associations)

REPORT

Book Donation Programmes

The first remark concerns terminology. The participants of the Task Force felt that the name Task Force on Book Donation Programmes ("TF on BDP's") is too narrow. The issue deals with much broader issues and the TF proposes to use the term "TF" on document supply, stressing a two-way flow of supply/exchange: North-South and South-North, as well as supply of grey literature from South to North.

The TF discussed at length general and specific problems involved in this area as well as possible solutions for improving the accessibility to publications for libraries/documentation centres in the South and the promotion of locally produced materials in the South to the North.

In particular, western BDP's were critically discussed. Notwithstanding the existence of a great many of such programmes/schemes, the access to publications for the South is deteriorating further (or one could ask, probably because of the existence of such programmes). Dramatic terminologies such as "book famine", "book-starved Africa" and "book aid = food aid" illustrate this situation only too well.

The TF group felt that the issue of improved access to publication/document supply to our colleagues in the South should be and remain one of the main foci of attention of the I&D EADI WG, and linked to that the promotion of dissemination of publications produced in the South to the North. This requires a coherent approach from both North and South. The question of course is how to organize this in a systematic and structural way on the basis of "equal partnership".

On the basis of a substantial paper entitled "Current Western Book Donation Programmes in Africa: for how long? Sustaining western dominance or strengthening African cultural identity" by René Bekius (ISS, The Hague) the major issues and problems involved in this area, such as constraints and obstacles in document donation programmes, overlap, distribution, selectivity, coordination, etc. were discussed. This impressive paper, which brings together a lot of background material, case studies, as well as several crucial issues in the area of document delivery is available to all participants.

A crucial question which runs through this paper and which was taken up in the discussion is the issue whether western document donation programmes contribute to increased dependency and the weakening of the position of local information suppliers. The feeling was that it does but that unfortunately there is not much alternative at the moment.

The paper of Ard Jongsma (NUFFIC, The Hague) on the Periodicals Project in The Netherlands illustrated the problems referred to above very well.

Several further experiences in this area were collected resulting in the question how the donor community could overcome the impediments and how we should respond to this challenge.

The need for coordination and coherence and better planning in document donation programmes both between donors as well as between recipients and

donors turned out to be one of the most pressing points which came out of the discussion.

It was stressed that the coordination is needed both between suppliers and receivers as well as between donors to reduce repetition of effort and overlap.

Taking into consideration the importance which the TF attached to cooperation, the group stressed that the EADI Information and Documentation Working Group should cooperate with the International Development Information Network (IDIN) in this context. This should also be done with IFLA, UNESCO or any other international organization active in this field.

Re. the possibility of IFLA/EADI I&D Working Group cooperation in this connection, IFLA is working on and interested in twinning and document donation programmes and is planning to arrange conferences and seminars, such as a conference for European libraries in The Hague next year on document delivery. The EADI I&D Working Group is invited to take part in this conference. (UNESCO is also organizing a conference on BDP's in Baltimore in Sept. 1992 to which you will receive an invitation as well.) IFLA's activities in the field of document supply such as the "Universal Availability of Public Programme" will have on its agenda further investigations of the obstacles involved in the implementation of an effective document supply programme.

The possibilities for EADI-IFLA cooperation were welcomed very much by IFLA's representative Birgitta Bergedahl who acted as a resource person to this Task Force, and will be looked into further.

The Task Force group also underlined the need to advise/influence policy-makers and the donor community. Donor agencies should be convinced of the importance of documentation in the research process and should allocate resources for libraries and documentation centres in the South.

Also, information activities should be included as an integrated part of development projects and document supply should be more linked with other western aid flows.

Another important point which came out of the discussion is the need for evaluation of donation programmes as well as built-in evaluation possibilities and methods in programmes as well as training.

More attention should also be paid by both western donors and policy makers in the South to upgrade the status of librarians.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Task Force on Document Donation Programmes proposes to create within the Working group a standing committee on DDP's to take this issue up further in a structural and systematic way and especially in order to give shape to cooperation with IFLA and possible other organizations. This committee should preferably work on 2 levels:
 - policy level - lobbying to influence donors to make sure that funds continue to be available;
 - deal with practicalities of cooperation and donor schemes.

2. The Task Force proposes further that the EADI I&D Working Group should cooperate in this connection within the wider framework of ICCDA and the International Development Information Network (IDIN) so as to ensure a more recipient-led approach in DDP's.
3. In order to promote dissemination of documents produced in the South the Task Force proposes to the EADI Executive Committee/editors of the EADI Journal of Development Research (EJDR) to allow Third World publishers to advertise at a reduced rate in the EJDR.



Institute of
Social Studies

CURRENT WESTERN BOOK DONATION PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA. FOR HOW LONG?
SUSTAINING WESTERN DOMINANCE OR STRENGTHENING AFRICAN CULTURAL IDENTITY?

PAPER TO BE PRESENTED AT MEETING OF THE EADI WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION AND
DOCUMENTATION, PARIS 3-6 SEPTEMBER 1991. SEMINAR ON NETWORKING WITH SPECIAL
EMPHASIS ON NGOS

BY RENE BEKIUS

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0. INTRODUCTION

In 5 sections I will try to analyze several types of current western book donation programmes [from now on abbreviated in the text as BDPs] to Africa. After the introduction of the topic I pose a set of questions to be answered.

Section I sums up the main obstacles confronted in the current western BDPs, followed by section II: a short chronological overview of the history of the western book aid programmes and their focusing on the African tertiary sector. Section III focuses on the question how to bring more coordination into the current BDPs. This is illustrated in two cases of recent closer cooperation at the international and national level. Case A deals with the BDP of the International Council of Scientific Unions and case B with the French Association on the Distribution of Scientific Publications on Development. The cases C and D deal with two specific forms of BDPs: C. Book donation through publishers and D. bookdonation via CD-ROMs. Section IV deals with the question whether western book aid would be less needed if there was a stronger African output of scientific literature published by local African publishers. Does book donation aid contribute (un)consciously to the maintenance of the current weak position of local African publishers? How can the West publishers and libraries help to strenghten local African publishing? Section V tackles the question if the current donor aid flows in the information sector, mainly focusing on the tertiary African education sector, should be shifted from the former sector to the primary sector and to public libraries. Section VI gives two set of recommendations/ open questions meant for discussion. VI.1 deals with questions directly related to book donation problems; VI.2 tackles the problem of mono-focused western donor aid to the tertiary education sector in Africa and the question if the aid flow has to be curbed towards a policy in which pluriform goal groups are served.

I would be very glad if some ideas could be of use during our discussions in the present meeting of the Working Group on Information and Documentation of the EADI, Paris, 3-6 september 1991.

First I would like to give you two warnings in advance:

Firstly: I am not an expert on this topic and I will give you only an impressionistic personal view of the current western BDPs.

Secondly: all too often the specific cultural problems of regions are not taken into account when library projects are implemented. This applies also for the western BDPs in Africa. E.g. illiteracy is a big problem in Africa. The root of this problem is very much related with the type of society. Sociologists make a distinction in two types: societies where people started to use the hack and societies where the plough was invented. In Africa the hack was invented.¹ Two different types of societies developed subsequently due to the use they made of these different agricultural instruments. In plough societies there was a development of the script followed by a subsequent reading culture, whereas in hack societies this was not the case. The latter put however the emphasis on the transmission of oral information to the next generation. Later at the end of the 19th century Africa became colonized and through missionaries the script

was introduced. I see a clear link between the current western BDPs and the colonial cultural policy. How much capital was invested in education and in the set up of libraries for the general public during the colonial period? Who has profitted most of these services? The colonials or the natives? These cluster of topics which I can not deal with in this paper are however important to hold in mind refering to current BDPs for Africa.

After these two warnings I will start with several questions I would like to pose:

- (1) What are the main obstacles of the current BDPs? Is there much overlap in the programmes ?
- (2) What is the rationale of the current BDPs from the West to developing countries? When did the programmes start? Which clients are being served?
- (3) Along which organizational lines western BDPs could be more streamlined? Is current western book aid to Africa satisfying for both parties? Is more coordination necessary or should current BDPs be replaced by full text primary information on CD-ROM's?
- (4) How can Africa become less culturally dependent from the West? When will western scientific and indigenou knowledge systems fuse? Will more local African publishing houses decrease the western book donation stream?
- (5) Should western BDPs be seen as an isolated phenomenon or should they be integrated in a more balanced integrated information plan? When will western donor agencies start to formulate an integrated information policy plan for LDCs and how can African information policy makers become more independent from the West?
- (6) Which specific conclusions can be drawn from current western BDPs? Which general conclusions can be drawn from current western donor aid to the information sector to LDCs?

I. THE MAIN OBSTACLES OF THE CURRENT BOOK DONATION PROGRAMMES.

During recent times several authors have written on BDPs: e.g. M. Crowder² (1986); P. Loyd (1989)³ and G. Walsh (1989)⁴.

I will not bring you my own findings of the current obstacles confronted in western BDPs but I base myself on the research undertaken by Priestley⁵ and Clow⁶. Priestley assembled data of western book donation aid to sister institutions in Africa, mainly carried out by Anglosaxon tertiary research institutes. Besides this inventarization Priestley gained much insights during field trips to African libraries. She arrives at the following conclusions regarding western BDPs to Africa:

- [1] There is a mushrooming situation of western book donation aid to Africa.
- [2] Most BDPs operate in an unco-ordinated way, each donor following its individual preferences. (As examples Priestley enumerates: the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), UNESCO, Canadian Organisation for Development in Higher Education (CODE), ODA, IDRC).
- [3] Due to this lack of coordination quite a lot of programmes have an overlap or duplication in book donations, but also in training and equipment.
- [4] The effectivity of most BDPs is questionable. Most schemes operate along donor-led basis lines and are not recipient- or request led (these are schemes targeted by subject area). The former book donation aid type can lead easily to dumping of materials which are not necessary.
- [5] Many agencies donation schemes restrict recipients choice to a pre-determined selection. (Clow)
- [6] Most donor agencies are reluctant to make commitments to finance subscriptions of periodicals being afraid to get involved in administrative problems over delivery and missing issues. (Clow)

Let's now have a look how western BDPs came gradually into existence and let's trace the rationale for their birth. Is there indeed a question of a mushrooming situation as Priestley states? And which clients are being served with what kind of programmes?

II. THE RATIONALE FOR CURRENT BOOK DONATION PROGRAMMES. ITS HISTORICAL GROWTH.

Priestley is much concerned with the direction into which current western BDPs develop. There is a mushrooming situation. According to Priestley there are hundreds if not thousands of book donation schemes operating. Current book and journal donation programmes [from now on abbreviated as JDP] to the Third World set up by western donors is a rather recent phenomenon according to Priestley. The big turning point in the self-sufficiency of acquisition of institutes in Africa took place in the early 1980's due to the general economic recession which struck many African countries. As a result Western donors, for the major part universities, started to set up BDPs to sustain the educational needs of African universities. In fact a kind of twinning operation took off.

It would be interesting in another analysis to trace if Priestley's statement is correct that in the period between independence and the start of the 1980s the acquisition of materials was less difficult for African university libraries?

Most of Priestley's cited BDPs start from the premise that a provision of educational materials on tertiary level is necessary to LDCs due to the following set of obstacles with which they are confronted:

- (a) Scarcity of locally published materials in particular in specialised educational materials
- (b) A growing economic decline of developing countries
- (c) Shortage of foreign exchange.

By rearranging Priestley's inventarization data in an chronological order It is possible to see indeed a wild growth in western BDPs undertaken by the Anglophone world. It would be interesting to collect additional data on this growth of BDPs of other European countries like France, Germany ect. These data are absolutely needed in order to chart all western activitie in this field. Let have a look at growth of the western BDPs basing my self on rearranged data of Priestley.

THE FIFTIES

1954: Ranfurley Library Service (bilateral)

THE SEVENTIES

1971: Overseas Development Administration Book presentation programme (bilateral)

1973: Commonwealth Nurses Federation (multilateral)

1975: Common Wealth Ass. of Architects (multilateral)

1975: Ass. of Geoscientists for International Development (multilateral)

1975: Medical and Research Foundation in Kenya

THE EIGHTIES

1982: Royal Society of Chemistry (England/multilateral)

1982: Swedish Agency for Research Co-operation with Developing countries(SAREC/bilateral)

1983: Netherlands Periodical Project (Holland /NUFFIC /bilateral)

1984: Commonwealth Lawyers Ass. Law Book programme (England/bilateral)

1985: American Ass. for the Advancement of Science.

1985: Third World Academy of Sciences (multilateral)

1986: The International Union of Biochemistry (multilateral)

1987: Canada with the Committee on Overseas University Libraries Support(COULS/bilateral).

1988: British Council/book coupons programme (England/bilateral)

1988: International Campus Book Link (England/bilateral)

1988: Society for Applied Anthropology Overseas Library Programme (USA/bilateral)

1988: International Center for Theoretical Physics (multilateral)

1988: The Netherlands Literature Programme funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs ceased in 1988.

THE NINETIES

-: West African Research Ass. (USA/ bilateral)
-: Sub-Saharan Afric Journal Distribution programme of the African Studies Ass.(USA/ bilateral)
-: Commonwealth Legal Education Ass. (England/multilateral)

Which conclusions can be drawn from these data?

The above stated data show that England was the first starter with BDPs in 1954 (the bilateral Ranfurly Library Service) The first wave BDPs was launched by Britain to their ex-colonies. Most programmes in the early period were set up by specialized scientific institutions delivering most probably request-led BDPs serving very specif goal groups.

Subsequently in the early 1980s more several other western donors are joining in. Through the years one can discern a certain balance between bilateral and multilateral BDPs. A remarkable hausse of western BDPs sets in after 1985. The circle of donor gets wider and American and Canadian national agencies and international agencies are joining in and Europe extends its BDPs as well. In particular 1988 proves to be a very procreative book donation year. 1989 shows a relative decline in the setting up of BDPs. But the early 1990s show a growing interest for BDPs in another form by using the relatively new medium of the CD-ROM through which full-text data can be transfered. Although few BDPs function along this line it will undoubtedly become a fashionable trend in the 1990s.

Let's now have a closer look to how mushrooming of western BDPs can be halted by more cooperation and streamlining in the current activities. First we look at some solutions as brought forwards by Priestley. Subsequently I will illustrate in case A and B the growing tendency of closer international and national cooperation. Case C and D deal with 2 specific forms of BDPs: C. book donation through publishers and D. book donation via CD-ROM.

III. MORE COORDINATION IN BOOK DONATION PROGRAMMES/ CD ROM

In order to avoid on-going pitfalls in current BDPs of western donors to Africa Priestley proposes the following solutions:

- [1] Donors and African recipients should reshape and rethink policies which avoid duplication which is characteristic in current donor contributions to African library development. According to Priestley a distinction has to be made in a short-term and long-term policy to improve the quality and quantity of assistance to African libraries. A basis for such a short term policy would be to publish 3 directories which give insights on current developments taking place in: [a] present library development; [b]current African book publishing activities; [c] persons who might be available to assist in the establishment of a co-ordinated over-arching library development plan from western donor aid to the African libraries.

- [2] The only way to overcome current problems encountered in western BDPs is to shift from donor-led programmes to recipient-or request led programmes. This presupposes a better interaction between the two parties through linking arrangements, following training on scholarship or fellowship, as part fo a joint research or post-graduate programmes, and less formal visits to donor countries.
- [3] On international national and regional basis cooperation could be strengthened through: sharing of information about acquisitions and the content of university collections; enhanced schemes of interlibrary loans; development and dissemination of special bibliographies; referrals of enquiries from one co-operating library to another.
- [4] Much more attention has to be paid to user needs, including the training of information and library personnel.

An overview of the mushrooming western BDPs in particular in after the mid 1980s in North America and Europa to libraries in Africa was showed in section 2. However there are signs that recent western BDPs show more willingness to cooperate and that programmes are more coordinated through multidisciplinary networking at international and national level along. This is a positive trend and runs parrallel with the proposed suggestions offered by Priestley.

Two recent examples of more cooperation at the international and national level in multilateral programmes are: case A. Activities of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and (B) the activities of French Speaking Association on the Distribution of Scientcific Publications On Development. I will try to compare the set-up of both programmes and I will look if they take Priestley's solutions into account.

CASE A. BOOK DONATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL: BOOKDONATION PROGRAMMA OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS (ICSU)⁷

This case illustrates the example of an international set up of a book donation programme. The birth of this project took place in 1988 at the Trieste co-workshop of ICSU and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) to explore ways to further the support of the flow of scientific information to developing countries. It was agreed to set up a co-operative information network on scientific and technological literature aiming at:

- Minimizing duplication and increasing limited resources by means of a more coordinated information through a multidisciplinary network of participating donors.
- Offering intermediary guidance to organizations and individuals wishing to provide book, journals and other sorts of materials.
- Identifying additional sources of scientific literature
- Identifying new sources of support; expanding the scope of existing distribution programmes and lauching new ones.

These ideas for networking were further concretized early 1990 by an newly created standing committee of the ICSU-ICSU Press Publishing Service. Contacts were laid with other participants to dovetail the network: Canadian Journals Programme; The American Ass. for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The main objectives of the ICSU plan, is to create a formal network promoting the supply of scientific books and journals primarily to developing countries and secondarily to Eastern Europe. In a later stage the scope of activities will embrace also the social sciences and humanities.

This setting up of this network, endorsed by UNESCO, should take off between 1992-1993/4.

ORGANIZATIONAL SET-UP OF ICSU

Let's now have a look at the way how ICSU wants to organize this network. It works along two organizational principles: [1] the opening of clearing house in the West under the aegis of the ICSU open to ICSU members, professional bodies, publishers, third world institutions etc; [2] erecting of a local network of correspondents. They have to advise on the needs and capacities of the recipient institutions and to assist in the local delivery and distribution of donated materials

In order to get more grip on international cooperation ICSU intends to set up: a small secretariat, based at the ICSU in Paris, This secretariat is responsible for the set up and input of 3 data bases, which serve as a tool to rationalize and coordinate various book donation programmes. Database I provides current information on existing sources of donated scientific literature. Database II: inventorizes existing recipient institutions; Database III: inventorizes other relevant databases and directories. Access of developing countries to the databases is free of charge.

In the near future ICSU will sensitize the international scientific and donor organizations to participate in this network and to develop ideas on better transfer of western scientific output to developing countries. A newspaper distributed among members will be an important communication medium for closer cooperation. Finally ICSU tries to design a practical handbook with guidelines on: types of scientific literature most needed; ways to locate recipient institutions; existing donation programmes; methods other than donation programs, to acquire literature; description of complementary services; shipping procedures; suggestions on appropriate monitoring and evaluation strategies.

CASE B. BOOK DONATION AT NATIONAL LEVEL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS ON DEVELOPMENT (FRANCE)

There is a parallel in the set up of the recent founded French-speaking Association for the Distribution of Scientific Publications on Development and the above described ICSU BDP. The French also came to the conclusion that it is time to reorganize their distribution and dissemination of scientific literature to LDCs. Barbey⁸ summarizes the main outcome of a seminar on this topic held in Bordeaux on 25-26 April 1990. During this conference one agreed to:

1. Build up a common catalogue of publications between involved institutes in French speaking developed world and the urgency of more co-publishing (particularly in the sense of informing each are of forthcoming publications)
2. To establish a computerized file of addresses of French speaking institutes to distribute publications; a more rationalized sales management strategies.
3. More regular meetings to discuss streamlining in: rationalizing of distribution points and units in LDCs especially Africa; expanding of distribution networks and setting up new ones through intermediaries such as embassies, cultural associations ; new ways of publishing scientific data in accordance to needs of developed countries trough two different editions of one publication; a closer cooperation between northern and southern editors, distributors and book sellers.
4. A better streamlining of grey literature vice versa
5. To develop future studies on: sales of development literature; the question of payment or free of charge distribution of western publications?; a needs assessment of the transfer of western publications to LDCs. Do they in fact all need these types of literature; the solving of transportation rising costs; the policy of the treatment of unsold publications and duplicates of libraries, How and where to build up a centralized stock of publications, how to produce a catalogue of these materials and how to transport these materials free of charge to LDCs?

New in the approach of the French counterpart of the ICSU is also the integrated approach in which the interrelatedness of coordinated activities in BDPs is emphasized between 4 parties: distributors; editors; books sellers; and specialized librarians.

THE ORGANIZATIONAL SET-UP OF THE FRENCH ASS.

For the time being this Association operates on a informal basis with its secretariat at the Centre d'Etudes de Geographie Tropicale(CEGET) in Bordeaux.

When comparing both described programmes they depart both from the premise that more coordination and chartering of current BDP activities are needed in order to get a better grip on on-going the scattered BDPs. Both programmes are set up along organizational lines which Priestly suggests.

An other variant of BDPs is case C in which a direct book donation aid flow runs from the publishers to African libraries, without the intermediary help of universities.

CASE C. BOOK DONATION THROUGH PUBLISHERS.

Such a cooperation is also advocated in Raitt⁹ view. He is rather sceptical towards the BDP currently carried out by the Third World Academy of Sciences

[TWAS], sending unwanted materials of libraries (withdrawn from stock) to LDCs sister libraries. Instead Raitt proposes the following simple solution:

- [1] Publishers should play an active role by adopting one or several universities, to which a copy(ies) are donated free of charge.
- [2] In this organizational set-up there is no need for expensive administrative body because the publishers send their publications directly to the LDC institutions. The costs of publishers are minimal, some extra copies to university libraries in LDCs will not be missed.

Such a construction could take off under the auspice of e.g. TWAS of FID and endorsed by various Publishers Associations.

CASE D. BOOK DONATION- ON CD-ROM

Recently a new discussion started on how to pour BDPs in another direction (form) by means of a new technological development the CD-ROM. Let's first try to sketch some ideas on this technique in relation to book donation to LDCs. I will illustrate this by referring to a recent conference on "The Transfer of a possible Book-Donation Programme on CD-ROM". After quoting the so-called positive aspects of this new technical development for LDCs I subsequently will cite some negative elements which often are not taken into account or concealed in the current professional literature on this medium.

Typical for recent literature on the CD-ROM technique is its praising of this new technique as the manna falling from heaven and its lauding as being an important solution to current information problems in many LDCs. To quote some dictums¹⁰: "The mix of CD-ROM and on-line access helps to reduce expenditure in hard currency of LDCs"; "user-friendliness and constant availability of CD-ROM will certainly attract many users who otherwise would not be gathering information to enrich their work". These are typical western styled phrases and should alarm some of us.

More often the pro's of this technique to LDCs is explained than its negative points. Most CD-ROM data bases are produced in the West. Competitive western data-base producers are trying to find outlet markets in the west as well as in developing countries for their new products forced by a growing western competitiveness in this sector¹¹. Maybe my view is too negative but I will come back to this point at my conclusion on the possibilities of the CD-ROM technique for LDCs.

Let's first turn to some recent thinking on CD-ROM technology related to book-donation. A new way for BDPs is the CD-ROM technique: transferring scientific materials- core journals entirely on CD-ROM to developing countries. Several programmes are in the make to realize this: PGI/UNESCO¹².

Recently an expert meeting on Application of CD-ROM Technology for Distributing Full Text Primary Information to Developing Countries¹³ took place and the The Hague (1-3-July 1991) organized by the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID) and UNESCO.

The conclusion of this conference was: CD-ROM technology facilitates identifying and obtaining western scientific literature. The main advantages of CD-ROM full text delivery are: Availability of the core collection in several locations (thus also outside the capital); less postage costs involved; avoidance of physical deterioration of information.

The main recommendation of this conference to the UNESCO were:

- [1] To start a survey to be conducted by UNESCO/PGI to installations; commercial full-text databases available; priority areas; mastering projects in LDCs; international programmes aiming to help in this field.
- [2] To explore with existing image-based products and services the possibility of collaborating in a pilot project for the provision of scientific literature on CD-ROM to LDCs.
- [3] To design a programme for the long run.
- [4] Appropriate assistance is needed towards installing CD-ROM base services, their maintenance, as well as training of operators and users.
- [5] To promote the use of this technology through UNESCO by providing equipment and contribute to advisory services and concentrate on training activities to establish a local human resource base of technological expertise.

Although the above mentioned programme has taken into account some in-built risks which might occur in the transfer of this technology to LDCs no word is said on other contextual risks which might occur during the implementation of these types of projects.

However in Woherem's¹⁴ appraisal of the present and future potential of the information technology [from now on abbreviated of IT] in Africa some important warnings can be heard on the transfer of IT. Wohrem quotes Odedra (1990) who argues that:

- [1] Most consults from abroad invited to design IT systems in Africa lack knowledge of local conditions. Their designs are therefore not dependable (suitable or appropriate) which leads to under-utilisation of most systems.
- [2] Although international agencies like Unesco, Unido, UNDP, USAID, VSOP, CIDA, VITA help to create IT awareness in Africa and to donate systems most of the time it is without adequate training.
- [3] A majority of foreign aid is linked to the donor country's domestic products/consultants.

Wohrems general message on IT transfer to African countries is: be cautious. In spite of the potential benefits IT can provide, indiscriminate and improperly planned application will result in increased unemployment. It also means more breakdown of their culture, because western techniques bring with them western values and cultures. The resulting clash of cultures could further warp African and cause cultural disorientation. This could threaten the tenets of the traditional culture and hamper sovereignty, because IT is mostly dominated by the DCs through their MNCs. Finally he stresses that unless an adequate IT strategy is laid down, the benefits of IT might just be an elusive dream.

On the basis of the 4 above mentioned BDPs cases (A, B. C. and D) I draw the following conclusions:

- (1) The ultimate goal of a closer co-operation and coordination between donors and their African counterparts with regard to BDPs is to arrive at a more efficient use of resources and at more coherence in international donor agency programmes. BDPs should be linked to wider goals groups than the tertiary sector and should be linked with related activities (literacy programmes and the strengthening of indigenous publishing).
- (2) It would be interesting to compare the pro's and con's as well as the financial consequences of journal donation aid directly through publishers to LDCs or the option of full text primary information on CD-ROMs to LDCs.
- (3) Only by knowing the limits of the CD-ROM technology and by its assessing as a possible technical option in well-balanced integrated international information policy plan, designed both by western donors and African counterparts, the most serious pitfalls as described by Wohrem can be avoided. In particular more research should be undertaken to assess the possible negative consequences on the employment situation of Africans in the information sector when implementing CD-ROM technology.

IV. FOSTERING AFRICAN CULTURAL INDEPENDENCE FROM THE WEST? A SHIFT IN WESTERN DONOR AID FROM BOOK DONATION PROGRAMMES TO INVESTMENTS IN THE STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL AFRICAN PUBLISHING HOUSES?

One could ask after having reviewed in the preceding sections the development of western BDPs if they are useful and appreciated by Africans? Although the majority of the African librarians might be happy with these programmes there are also some negative viewpoints on BDPs. Such a negative vision if ventilated by Mchombu¹⁵. Instead of perpetuating the current state of information dependency on the West Mchombu pleads for a better tapping and generating of African local knowledge systems, African scientific as well as oral indigenous knowledge systems, to be refurbished into a national information base. Such an approach implies however a far stronger and more active role of the local African book industry. This development implies however not that Africa has to reject western scientific and technological literature. However African libraries should bring a better balance in their acquisition policy between local obtained materials of African publishers and western publishers on those development topics which are

really needed both for the scientific and the general public.

Let's elaborate this link between the local African book industry and the western BDPs somewhat more in detail. One reason why there are BDPs is that the African book industry is very weakly developed. If there would have been a strong African book market there would have been a better balance in acquisition between imported scientific literature and indigenous materials. The question one could raise is, would it make sense for western library donor aid to finance endlessly BDPs or would it be better to curb this type of aid flow and investing funds in upgrading and strengthening of the African book market?

In order to answer this question we have to look at the obstacles which have impeded the growth of the African book industry. Subsequently I will deal with some solutions proposed by several African and western authors. One can discern internal and external factors which have contributed to this weak position.

EXTERNAL FACTORS IMPEDING THE LOCAL AFRICAN BOOK INDUSTRY

When looking to the external factors one could say that quite a lot of foreign publishers have played and still are playing a dominant role in the book industry of their ex-colonies in Africa. On the whole they have had a rather negative influence on developments in the African book industry. Gundu explicits this in his case on Kenya. I am afraid that his case can also be applied to other anglo- or francophone areas of Africa.

During the colonial period and after independence foreign book firms, mainly British and (French), were established in Africa. In Kenya Longmans (1950), Oxford University Press (1954), Evans, University of London press, Cambridge University press, Edward Arnold, Pitmans. Most of these firms started as parent companies in Britain and became later on autonomous associated companies. These foreign firms concentrate mainly on educational books. In a later stage some of them started publishing educational materials in local languages. Gradually next to the foreign publishing houses, local ones appeared. After independence the multinational Macmillan and other western publishers dominated in the field of publishing primary school books. Although this trend stopped they still dominate in the field of publishing secondary schoolbooks and academic books. Let's proceed now to the internal obstacles in the African publishing sector.

INTERNAL OBSTACLES IMPEDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL AFRICAN BOOK INDUSTRY

In order to get some grip on this topic I will compare the main bottlenecks in the vision of some African writers and of one European author. Gunda¹⁶ showing clearly the vicious circle of difficulties confronted by Kenyan local publishers:

- [1] A lack of skilled personnel due to limited resources.
- [2] Small firms have to compete with larger mainly foreign publishers.
- [3] Banks are unwilling to finance activities due to weak management.
- [4] 10 % of the educational book market is in the hands of local

publishers.

- [5] 80% of all imported books come from Britain.
- [6] There are no import restriction or taxes on books.
- [7] Kenyan paper is 30 % more than the world market price, and therefore in it 38% cheaper to print books in England.
- [8] Local publishers are lacking a network of warehouses facilitating book distribution neither book trading journals of current publications
- [9] A negative business relationship between indigenous and foreign publishers. The latter are reluctant to cooperate with local firms in such areas as inservice training and the promotion of locally published book abroad.

Bgoya¹⁷ points at the problem that most local publishers are parastatals and therefore not autonomous or being linked with African branches of transnational corporations. In Priestley vision the main bottleneck for the local African book industry are:

- [1] A lack of adequate professional knowledge at the various stages of planning and implementation.
- [2] The limited outlets for scholarly publications on the local and regional markets.
- [3] From donor side there is an ad-hoc, uncoordinated and short-term aid programmes mainly focusing on donations of paper and equipment without much technical assistance.

Till so far I have summed up some negative points which impede the local African book industry to develop. Let's now turn to the proposed solutions of some authors to upgrade and strengthen the African book sector.

Gunda considers only cooperation between Western and African publishers as a solution by organizing both local book exhibitions and by participating in international book fairs. According to Bgoya one way to break through this vicious circle is to divide responsibilities of private and statal publishers, whereby the state sector is taking care for publishing text books for primary and secondary schools and the private publishers for the rest of the supply. To lessen cultural dependency from the West it is necessary to develop a policy of publishings texts in the local languages, however this is often thwarted by the government decision makers being afraid for internal tribal rivalries.

Okojie and Azubuike¹⁸ propose to strengthen the local Nigerian book industry along a similar line as Bgoya does. However they stress the instrumental role which the state has to play. They urge for more governemt support through: [1] development of pulp and paper industries in order to avoid import; [2]

incentives by the government to printers and publishers to stay in business: by means of loans at preferential interest rates; tax concessions for new businesses; a coordination of the industrial aspects of the book business; protecting the industry from excessive foreign competition; restricting importation of books. Both authors stress also the need of more training of printers, editors and professionals in this industry branch. They also point in the direction of a better organizational structure through a Book Industry Reserach Association, uniting all concerned parties: librarians, printers, publishers, book sellers to be managed by the Nigerian Book Development Council; also more attention should be paid to cooperative publishing according to different academic disciplines. A western view on this topic is formulated by Priestley. She advocates the following set of solutions:

- [1] A long term strategy for African publishers in cooperation with western donor aid.
- [2] Better planning and execute book publishing projects including a policy and planning framework.
- [2] More mutal co-operation in wider national or regional markets, thereby sharing costs of preparation, manufacture, warehousing, marketing and distribution; to explore new methods of publishing cost-effectivily for small markets; joint ventures with overseas publishers in publishing written materials in local language.
- [3] The World Bank's book subsector could be instrumental in developing programme guidelines.
- [4] An expertise directory in the field of book publishing should be made.
- [5] Regional training courses and possibilities should be assessed.
- [6] The establishment of book development councils at regional level.

Priestley points out that there are some hope-giving western book development projects (mainly textbooks) taking into account the above summed up pittfalls: e.g. Commonwealth Ass. of Polytechnics in Africa; the Ass. of African Universities; Macmillan's Tropical Nursing and health Science Series; the English Language Books Society.

Having overviewed the main bottlenecks of the African book industry one could raise the question is the situation for local African publishers hopeless?

At this moment some interesting developments are taking place with the African local book industry pointing in a positive direction of loosening it self from foreign dependence taking form in self-reliance projects. An exmample of such a development is : the action of a group of 18 African publishers starting in 1990 the African Books Collective¹⁹ (ABC) a non-profit self-help project aiming

to promote and distribute their books in the UK, Europe and North America and the Common Wealth. This project is funded by several western donors. The premises of the project are interesting: to proliferate African scholarly and literature works; to strengthen weak overseas promotion; to promote the flow from developing to developed countries; to enhance the economic base of African publishers and facilitate increased publishing; to strengthen the role of African academics in the international community; to disseminate African culture.

It would also be interesting to see if such types of projects will spent their energy also to networking in the African continent to loosen the power of foreign multinational publishers. Maybe a closer south-south cooperation will enable African publishers to become more independent from the western publishing dominance.

V. MORE COORDINATION OF WESTERN AID FLOWS TO THE AFRICAN INFORMATION SECTOR.

In this section I should like to pay attention to a set of two questions narrowly related with the current western BDPs.

- [A] Which obstacles impede LDCs (e.g. Africa) to create a situation of less dependence from Western donor aid in the information sector? How can Africa africanize its information sector and become less dependent from western aid?
- [B] Which sections within the African information sector have profitted most from western aid flows during the last 20 years? How can a better balance in western donor aid to Africa be obtained?

A. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL OBSTACLES IMPEDING A GROWTH TO AFRICANIZATION OF THE INFORMATION SECTOR. SOME SOLUTIONS.

It is clear that Africa is still very much in need of western help to built up their information sector. What are the reasons however that even after 20 years of western aid the African information sector remains so dependent from the West? Both Mchombu and Priestley have analysed the main current internal and external obstacles confronted in the African information sector and are proposing a set of solutions.

OBSTACLES TO DEVELOPMENT

Mchombu

1. A failure of African librarianship to adapt to African socio-economic and cultural realities.
2. Inaptness of African library schools to offer appropriate training to African needs.
3. A nurturing of top-librarians in the Anglo-American brand of librarianship, having no contacts with their African users.
4. A growing alienation of librarians with their users (government backers) due to a not living up with their expectations.
5. A lack of local networks to exchange information.
6. A lack of upgrading of the peripheral information technology.
7. Lack of sense of direction in African information sector and an overdependency on foreign donor agencies.
8. A wrong curriculum; sending students abroad following courses taken out of their own information environment.

Priestley

1. Ad hoc library development carried out within individual countries and institutions.
2. Ill-defined national information plans.
3. A low social status.
4. A lack of appropriate trained personnel.
5. A lack of material provisions

SOLUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT

Mchombu

1. Reforming African librarianship
2. A restructuring of African libraries by focusing on a better linkage of Africa's indigenous knowledge resources with exogenous western knowledge resources.
3. Improvement of the management capabilities of African top librarians
4. A restructuring of collections by supplying information to users which is really wanted and less emphasizing the guarding of documents.
5. A better contact with users to sense the needs and to use them for policy making.
6. To satisfy the basic information needs in practical fields as health, farming, family planning, appropriate technology, by setting up local indigenous knowledge bases; more exchange of African data between African countries in a regional and continental network.
7. The development of a better sense for collective leadership of African top librarians.
8. An upgrading of the weak African library school programmes and adequate on the job training by focusing more on the African information environment and by a repackage of information (indigenous knowledge systems).
9. The transfer of more information technology to enhance efficiency and to change the social status of African librarians.

Priestley

1. Proper planning and efficient management to promote effective collaboration between librarians, educationalists and managers in institutions and ministries.
2. The set-up of post-graduate training or at least a 2-years undergraduate diploma course.
3. More qualified staff in research centres.
4. Tutor-librarians in teacher training colleges.

When comparing Mchombi's and Priestley conclusions both indicate that: (1) planning and vision, necessary prerequisites, lack in this sector; (2) planning and better training are needed. Whereas Priestley comes mainly with a set of typically western precepts (efficient management and the up-grading of the quality of training) to strengthen the information sector, Mchombu arrives at the same conclusions in a more original way. He emphasizes that for a great part through a gradual alienation process African librarians have lost contacts with their financial supporters (governments) and with their users. The only way to break away from this vicious circle is to concentrate on the real basic information needs of both the government and the general public and by appreciating and incorporating more the indigenous knowledge resources. This can only be realized if the African top librarian distance themselves more from the anglo-american model of librarianship and become less dependent from western donor aid. Maybe it would be time for western donors to reconsider aid to the African information sector by assessing in which sectors one has to withdraw in order to give Africans more space to design and to fill in their own teaching curricula. This does not imply that all aid in this sector should be stopped.

[B] WHICH SECTIONS WITHIN THE AFRICAN INFORMATION SECTOR ARE PROFITTING MOST FROM WESTERN DONOR AID? MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO OR A CURB IN AID FLOWS?

In fact very few aid evaluations have been undertaken to assess whether western library aid has been successful during the last 20 years. However some authors (Dosa, Clow²⁰) have tried to get a better grip on the interaction of western types of aid flows to the library and information sector of LDCs and the local responses to these aid flows. Clow is rather pessimistic on the success of past western library aid in LDCs. According to this author the premise that information related aid contributes to economic development of LDCs is still not proved.

When we are talking of western aid to strengthen the information sector in LDCs we have to differentiate several types of aid flows in order to be able to assess the balance in these streams. Clow discerns the following flows in information aid: consultancy; recruitment and funding of expatriate professionals for long-term projects; presentations (mainly books); donations (second hand or remaindered stock); gifts of equipment or furniture; buildings; subsidized education and training for librarians; support for research, library associations and individuals.

Taking into account the above mentioned aid flows, one could ask to which sections of the African information sector went western donor aid during the past 20 years? Which groups have benefitted from these aid flows till so far; and which barriers have still to be surmounted?

Some authors have tried to unravel the western aid flows in the field of education and library development. Let's first have a look at the investments put in education in Africa and subsequently trace whether those investments were also made in the library sector.

Orivel²¹ and Sergent investigated the effectiveness of western aid in the African education sector, by analysing annual reports on development aid of the UNDP. They conclude that the current foreign aid is basically and structurally unsuited to solve the existing problems in education. They discern 3 aid flows :technical assistance, fellowships and operational expenses most money is primarily spent on technical assistance then to fellowships (17%) and inputs like materials, textbooks, raw materials receive the least attention ,only 10.9 %. Their conclusion is that donors prefer to help smaller African countries and within these countries they are selecting the smallest educational subsector: higher education. The majority of the donors are reluctant to intervene in primary education. This type of help western aid is not reducing educational inequalities but aggravating them. To solve this problem both authors advocate that aid flows should be curbed to primary schooling; at the tertiary level more efficiency could be reached by concentrating aid flows to extension of existing centres of excellence (universities); these centres should focus on regional specializations from which neighbouring countries should profit. Duplicating tertiary educational facilities should be avoided.

With regard to the investments in the African library sector by western donor aid , the same picture emerges as in the educational sector. But according to Clow most donor aid flowing to the tertiary library sector in Africa is rather low due to: [a] a low priority in aid programmes and policies of western donor to academic and school libraries and [b] the low status of the libraries in the recipient countries seen in the eyes of government officials. This is in its turn again reflected in underfunding of domestic research both by local governments and aid agencies.

Clow points also at two other interesting clusters of obstacles to the African information sector:

- [1] most donor aid and energy is spent on short time consultancies often departing from the global solution (identifying general structural deficiencies (manpower quantity and quality, educational needs and so on) often combined with a large-scale approach and on education and training and less to the other above cited components.
- [2] Well stocked African libraries (public, school and academic libraries) leading to an informed and educated pose a direct threat to the established political power of local and national (often authoritarian) governments. This is a reason that often information is controlled through censorship. In this context according to Clow it is not surprising that aid agencies are not supporting public library development.

Finally Clow poses the questions: why aid agencies together with the majority of LDCs governments neglect public libraries and adult education and attach a low priority to information? Are both parties acting out of ignorance, or self-interest, or genuine inability? In stead of supporting higher education services, Clow advocates a shift in donor support to public libraries.

Besides donors should focus less on global solutions mostly translated in large scale projects and more on a mix of both large and small-scale, decentralized projects. To recapitulate both Clow as well as Orivel and Sergent are pointing at the necessity of a shift in donor aid from tertiary education to primary education.

Can some shifts be discerned in the support of international donors? I am not adhering to the gloomy picture which Clow is sketching. I think that gradually policy shifts take place in western donor aid pointing in the direction of a better spread of funding in several branches of the African information sector. I will illustrate this by showing the policy shifts of two important donor organizations, IDRC and DSE and the recent IFLA/ALP programme. Case A deals with policy shifts within IDRC, case B looks at the shifts at DSE and finally case C as the current focus of ILFA.

CASE A. POLICY CHANGES AT THE IDRC

McConnell discerns a clear shift during IDRC 20 year existence. Although bottom-up oriented IDRC started in its early stages projects at the international level, often cooperating with UN agencies: the development of the OECD macrothesaurus, the implementation of international networks AGRIS, Latin American Population Documentation system (DOCPAL), DEVSIS. However this trend during these past 20 years has shifted more into the direction of supporting research projects focusing on strengthening the local capacity. This resulted in the building up of a limited specialized collections in certain field of research mainly in the field of agriculture and health.

For example:

(1) The University of Botswana project focusing to improve information services for rural communities) and (2) Thailand: the development of a decentralized system gathering and using information in rural planning)

When this approach of the IDRC continues I see a clear match between the Western scientific knowledge with the indigenous African knowledge systems.

The future policy of IDRC is directed at: using the pro's of the new technologies; to tailor service more specifically to selected target groups to meet their needs; to integrate more sectoral and regional planning; a more holistic interdisciplinary approach in partnership with sister divisions in de IDRC and other donors.

CASE B. POLICY CHANGES AT THE GERMAN FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The German Foundation for International Development (DSE)²² started just like the IDRC in the same years, early 70s. There are many parallels to be found in the activities of both organizations. DSE also expresses the need that the improvement of the information sector in Eastern and Southern Africa (concentration areas of DSE) can only be realized through coordinated action of

international organizations and NGOs in industrialized countries. DSE has held several workshops and seminars in cooperation with the British Council and the IDRC and the Centre for Technical Cooperation in Agriculture (CTA). This is an illustration of a growing recognition of international cooperation in co-projects.

CASE C. THE IFLA POLICY. [ALP]

The medium-term programme, 1992-1997 of IFLA (Core Programme for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World [ALP] focuses on 3 goals:

[1] assisting library staff, library schools and library associations in education and training programmes; [2] promoting the establishment and development of library and information services to the public with particular attention to the needs of marginal rural and urban areas; [3] encouraging a greater involvement and indentification of libraries with literacy work.

In conclusion : the current policy trends within several of the above mentioned organizations clearly have shows that there a growing awareness as to direct the focus of aid also to other sections of the African information sector and not solely on the tertiary sector. I wonder however in how far it would be possible for the ALP plan to integrate with projects already implemented by colleague donor institutions.

VI.1 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL BOOK DONATION PROGRAMMES

- [1] Current western BDPs are mainly focused to the needs of tertiary educational institutions in Africa. More differentiation is needed in the near future to spread this service to larger and more varied goal groups than is the case right now.
- [2] CD-ROM BDPs are unavoidable. However there is quite a lot of competition in this market sector. Large amounts of money and prestige are involved. The pitfalls encountered in the current BDPs should be avoided. An integrated international CD-ROM plan should be designed for full text delivery. In any case such an international plan should have clear premises, and need the endorsement of important western donors and African international library organizations, universities, and publishers.
- [3] Despite all the pro's of the CD-ROM technology there is a real danger- due to the technical sophisticatedness of the system- that LDCs become increasingly more dependent intellectually and materially, from the West.
- [4] CD-ROM technology should not be dumped every where in LDCs? Even in the West for quite a lot of libraries it is a new medium. CD-ROM should be installed in Africa at those spots where comparatively large groups can profit from it: headquarters of regional information networks; university libraries; etc.
- [5] It remains to be seen if the current low social status of African librarians and information officers will change by using more technological western hardware. It might be interesting to compare the growth or decline in status of western information professionals and their colleagues in LDCs by using more technology. Status is not only depending on technology but is also narrowly related to the power of information policy makers [Okojie and Azubuike] to influence politicians to assess the value of information; pressure of the African information sector on politicians depends also from up-grading of the weak organization grade of librarians and documentalists.
- [6] Serious attention should be paid by western donors to the criticisms uttered by Africans towards western aid flows in the African information sector.
- [7] Western donors should incorporate in their long term aid plans for LDCs ways for a gradual aid withdrawal in the information sector and by furthering independent African thinking on their own information problems. This could be reached by trying to further inter-regional cooperation in Africa and through the development of more south-south help.
- [8] A better fusion is needed between the scientific western data and the African indigenous knowledge systems. Farmers, nurses don't pay visits to university libraries. African and western scientists should differentiate the several goal groups they are serving with their publications (colleagues and the general public) by popularizing scientific knowledge for the latter. Book donation should also be coupled to indigenous

knowledge systems. In the sense the western scientific literature should be repackaged in a popularized form to be consumed by the people working in health, agriculture etc. The end result could be an integration of western and valuable African indigenous knowledge systems.

- [9] BDPs, for a large part consisting of the sending of western teaching materials, sustain Africa's cultural dependency from the West. Often these materials do not match the African needs. In the near future it would be better to curb book donation aid (western teaching materials). In stead of investing money in BDPs more attention should be paid how to lessen the cultural dependency of African states on western educational materials by co-financing local indigenous African presses focusing on strenghting of the local book production thereby serving all educational levels.
- [10] Is western book donation aid and isolated aid flow or is it linked with other western aid flows? Book donation aid should be more related to: document delivery systems, international and national lending systems, literacy programmes etc. The efficiency of book donation aid can only be assessed when considered in a broader context of integrated information aid.
- [11] In order to avoid a possible nearby donor fatigue syndrome in the information sector it would make sense to ask the question : how much money is spent from the 60s till the 90s both by African governments and western donors in setting up information networks in Africa? What has been the mutual outcome of 30 years African- western cooperation in strenghtening the information sector in Africa? Which types of western donor aid was succesfull and which aid not?
- [12] Pooling of current BDPs is an absolute prerequisite in the near future. This pooling should be based at least on a national base. However it would be better to integrate national BDPs , once they are worked out, into a wider international programme (network). A lack of networking implies a waste of time in establishing contacts leading to duplication and creating unnecessary logistic problems. In order to avoid possible obstacles in international networking of BDPs I wonder if it would make sense to come to agreement to divide work along geographical areas. For example one international network is e.g. responsible for Africa, the second of Asia and so on.

6.2 A SET OF GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO BETTER DONOR COOPERATION

Book donation is only one part of the complicated information sector cake. I can only conclude that more cooperation is needed between western donors regulating in an efficient way the transfer of education, know how of the IT and the so much needed primary documents. On the other hand there is the need for more cooperation in regional networks in Africa. This cooperation however can only take off when both western donors and African information policy makers are tuning their plans on the same wave length by focusing on the following topics:

- [1] Formulate a research agenda in which the main premises of western aid are clearly outlined.
- [2] forging a more coordinated integrated information policy approach to LDCs by respecting each other individual spheres of interest however concentrating on better cooperation and less duplication in projects.
- [3] Intersecting the total African information sector in Africa in practical digestive small international co-projects focusing at the national and regional level, each group having its own regional specialization.
- [4] A better balance in aid between tertiary and primary education. Information donor aid of the latter should be more linked and integrated with literacy and human rights programmes.
- [5] More attention should be paid both by western donors and government policy makers in LDCs to upgrade the status of libraries. By considering information as a economic good needed for a better human resources potential.
- [6] More time should be invested by western donors in looking at the premises of information plans and by evaluating the implemented information aid projects of the past 20 years before starting new big projects.
- [7] Western information consults should be careful not to fall into the trap of quick missions (urban development tourists) risking to obtain a distorted view of the real problems; on the other side attention should be paid that donor plans are made only based on unilateral data obtained from local information specialists. Recipient-led programmes should be based more on local needs and priorities.

LIST OF USED ACRONYMS/ ABBREVIATIONS

AAAS= American Ass. for the Advancement of Science
BDPs= book donation programmes
CIDA= Canadian Institute for Development Aid
CODE= Canadian Organisation for Development in Higher Education
DSE= German Foundation for International Development
CEGET=Centre d'Etude de Geographie Tropical
ICSU= International Council of Scientific Unions
IDRC=Internat. Development Research Council
IT= information technology
LDCs= less developed countries
MNCs= multinational companies
ODA=Overseas Development Aid
PGI=Programme General d'Information UNESCO.
TWAS= Third World Academy of Sciences
UNESCO= UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNDP= UN development programme
UNIDO=Un Industrial development Organization
USAID=US Agency for International development
VITA=
VSOP=

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Paper for Task Force Group Book Donations, Paris, 4 September 1991

by
Ard Jongsma

To protect my audiences against excessive rambling I'm used to writing out my whole speech in order to save time by simply reading it aloud. It always fails, but, it is a sign of good intentions.

I left out of my speech the part about initiatives for international cooperation. Not because I underestimate the value of this. On the contrary, The people from Ranfurly should know that I tried a few times to find recipients for specialized book collections. Not to blame Ranfurly, I suppose they simply lacked time, just as I probably wouldn't have had time for you. I do think however that we should **make** time to share experiences. The reason I will not discuss it right now is that it's not a subject to fire off at a captive audience of colleagues. It is something to exchange opinions about, and I strongly advise that we do this before 5 o'clock tomorrow night.

My desk is a piece of wood, two square meters. Navigation on it is quite easy. It stands solidly in one of the Nuffic offices in The Hague and provides me with the best view I've ever had over the third world.

Live librarians are scarce in The Hague, not to mention live librarians from developing countries. In the two years I've been working on the Netherlands Periodicals Project I have met only two original species, one from a distance, one from nearby.

The few meters and kilometres I travel beyond my desk are those between me and the Dutch librarians I meet, who almost without exception overload me with coffee and cake because the Netherlands Periodicals Project is the best solution to be found in Holland for their little orphans: surplus journals.

So much for the environment in which I'm trying to do my job. My job is to run the Netherlands Periodicals Project, for short and from now on: NPP. The NPP was established in 1983 at the initiative of it's host organization Nuffic and the Agricultural University of Wageningen. In Wageningen in 1983 a large stock of valuable Agricultural Journals became surplus paper when the library began the fashionable process which in Dutch is called "ontdubbeling".

"Ontdubbeling" simply means that a library has to get rid of the duplicate copies it collected during the wealthy late seventies and early eighties, usually because of lack of space. Nuffic mediated on a kind of voluntary basis to find a good destination for the Wageningen collection. The Dutch Government paid for shipment, and the Netherlands Periodicals Project was born. More shipments were organized, each of them separately identified and evaluated by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the NPP grew from 1 shipment in 1983 to over 40 in 1986. It took until 1988 before a project proposal was made in which Nuffic could take the whole organisation

into own hands and the Dutch government agreed to pay one sum for Nuffic to disburse what to do with it, of course under certain restrictions. More about the restrictions later.

The project's main aim was not to provide libraries with the literature they were most desperately in search of. There are enough projects suffering and struggling under the weight of this target. The main aim was to fill gaps in existing collections of periodicals. Developing countries were, and still are, suffering more and more from the effects of wars, regimes and our growing wealth. A print-out of my data-base of requests for missing volumes in one specific country usually matches the time-table of the nation's most recent history. Wars, earthquakes, coups and other dramatic events are displayed with graphic accuracy in Dbase3+.

I don't have to explain the difference in value of a journal collection with or without missing parts and volumes.

The restrictions for the project were as follows:

- The project should depend entirely on donations.
- Shipments should include only scientific periodicals.
- Shipments may be sent only to countries with which the Dutch government has bilateral agreements for developing cooperation.
- Only to research institutes and institutions of higher education.
- Donations should become public domain and not only serve the rector or an elite group of professors.
- Two-thirds of the shipments should be sent to institutes which are already supported by the Dutch government, in other words: institutes which already receive financial support or which have programmes of co-operation with Dutch Universities.

Unfortunately the external evaluation coming up will show that not all of the rules have been obeyed in the past few years and bureaucracy tends to punish all disobeying. I will mention a few of the reasons why running the project sometimes requires a creative administration.

1. The project still depends entirely on donations. This keeps the project cheap, which is one of its big advantages. The often-heard protest about literature donation programmes is that the money would be better invested in projects which offer better prospects for sustainability. That does not really touch the NPP. To be more concrete in financial terms: in 1990 the NPP organized the shipment of 25 tons of literature to 21 destinations. For the librarians among us:

that's about 600 meters of shelf. The actual value of the literature by that time totalled some 1.5 million US\$ whereas the total project cost did not exceed 50 thousand US\$. In other words 3% of the total value.

2. Scientific, yes. Periodicals, no, not only. The fusion-boom of the eighties forced quite a lot of scientific libraries in Holland to share collections. According to an old law one and one makes two while new laws in the Dutch library-world say that the only solution for duplicate copies is the above mentioned "ontdubbelen". In Groningen for example the Faculty of Dentistry was closed a few years ago. Unique textbooks were moved to the Faculty in Utrecht. The rest, a complete basic library on Dentistry, sent to the University of Dar Es Salaam through the mediation of the NPP.

The whole library of the Philips International Institute of Technological Studies was sent to the Universidad Nacional de Ingeniera in Managua because the director of this former institute was unwilling to give it to the University of Eindhoven out of anger at being forced to fuse with them. By the time the University of Eindhoven found out that the removal boxes were not complete, 3 tons of the most valuable books and journals I ever saw were already over Labrador.

To complete the second restriction: in my short career at Nuffic I have already sent scientific light bulbs for scientific slide projectors, scientific photocopy-paper and scientific felt-tip pens too.

3. Shipments only to countries with which the Dutch government has signed bilateral agreements for developing cooperation. It is a strict law but the selection is not bad, especially because this selection also takes into account the support given by other donors to different countries.

4. Shipments only to research institutes and institutions of Higher Education. Well, the fact that Nuffic also runs a department where almost ten people spend their whole lives comparing different education programmes shows how arbitrary and fragile the expression "Higher Education" is.

5. Then the point of public access. This is a difficult point for various reasons. First because it's difficult to check whether promises are actually kept. But most of all because it is necessary to bear in mind various, at a first glance not immediately apparent aspects like poor library-safety, harsh climate conditions and different standards regarding seniority. I'm surely not the first one to say that it is a wonder that a western library and a library in a developing country are both called library.

6. Institutions which already are, one way or another, supported by the Dutch Government should benefit from two-thirds of the shipments. In practice it already works out this way because good information about conditions in libraries is scarce in Holland. In fact the people who know most about it are the people working in the field in cooperation programmes. To me they offer the most reliable information about local

situations. The best example of this is the cooperation between the NPP and the Delft University of Technology. When I get a donation of literature which I think might be useful for one of their projects I can fax the list of titles on Monday while on Tuesday I can expect a fax back from Delft with titles underlined and priority indicated. It takes them no more than 24 hours whether they are consulting Jakarta, Maputo or Managua.

In practice the project's structure is as follows:
I work with four simple databases.

1. To store requests.
2. To store everything in stock.
3. For addresses
4. For information about shipments. Cost of packing, shipping, clearance and local transport, quantities and dates.

From the 150 institutes that send requests, I have selected a core group of 25 institutions for which I actually search on a request-led base. They provide me with detailed information about gaps in their series and about the fields in which they need more up-to-date journals. Through mailings I try to locate potential donors. The response is generally satisfying. That's one way and probably the best way of conducting the project.

The mere part of the literature comes however with the wind to The Hague. After rigorous selection I store the titles which are potentially useful and try to find recipients for them, mainly through the international affairs offices of the Dutch universities.

Something I have to stress because it is a matter of strict principal, is that I **never** send literature without confirmation that it's really wanted and useful in the receiving library. But I should end this sentence by saying "...never anymore". It is from experience that I have learned to throw away literature which in my own eyes might still be very valuable.

The literature for which I cannot immediately find a destination I collect and store for a periodical mailing to institutes that might be able to use it. The titles in stock are listed by subject. These lists are sent to a few selected institutes. They can return them after indicating priority. Then I try to divide the materials as well as I can.

I collect materials in Rotterdam near the harbour for every institute separately for about half a year in order to cut the costs of shipping. Bigger is cheaper. Upon arrival in the various countries the Dutch Embassy takes care of clearance and local transportation and sends the bills back to Holland. The recipient pays nothing more than a stamp every now and then.

Together with the documents I send lists of contents to the

libraries and an evaluation form. I force them to fill in the form and send it back after they receive the literature for two reasons:

First, to check myself through major questions like what were the contents, is it useful and was the address correct. This may sound simple, but you'd be surprised if only you knew. In fact only the threat that no answer means exclusion from further support can move some librarians to answer. When their list of contents differs from mine something has gone wrong, but fortunately the mistake is usually my own. If I don't get any response I inquire at the Embassy. The few times this happened until now the reason for it was a lack of staff to catalogue the new acquisitions.

As I said before it is hard to identify the best destinations for the offered literature. I'm doing what I can to organize some cooperation between libraries. A good example is Mozambique. The Eduardo Mondlane University and the Instituto Superior de Pedagogico, both in Maputo, receive quite large amounts of literature on education. The real scientific periodicals are kept separate for Eduardo Mondlane whereas the more practical materials are sent to the Instituto Superior. But anytime I put together a shipment for either of the two I send a list of contents to the other one too. It is a simple way of putting in practice what network people are always talking about. I don't do it because I expect them to really find the titles of their dreams on those lists but because I hope to make them more aware of the fact that there is another specialized library next door too.

That's not all the NPP does. For the last year I've been working to try to influence attitudes among Dutch university librarians. I would like to get them more in personal contact with their counterparts in developing countries. It is an action of self defense. I'm trying to make them appreciate the fact that no eggs at breakfast is better than rotten eggs at breakfast.

Very often I meet disappointment when I'm racing through their shelves of garbage, picking out may be a quarter of what they offered with their hearts of gold. What I'm trying to do now is to motivate them to start their own little NPP's, by delivering their own so called "delayed subscriptions". Most librarians do away with specific titles or surplus volumes of double subscriptions after a relatively short period.

I created a small database in which I started systematically collecting data on their titles and the period of storage in their libraries as long as this period does not exceed three years. From my core-group I try to find destinations for these titles and ask the Dutch librarians to send the titles directly to the recipients. Every year a volume with a delay of no more than 3 years. The NPP pays the bill. In theory that should be lots more expensive than the regular shipments but in practice the average Dutchman with his calvinist background would be too ashamed to present such a small bill for payment, and prefers to regard it as the good deed of the day to pay it from the boss's pocket. And rightly so...

Preparing this speech I was rather in doubt about what to concentrate my story on. Either tell about my job or give the more general issue: my opinions on literature support. I know that I'll have to do both of them during these sessions. The best way to tell you about my job was from the position of speaker. I hope to have a fruitful discussion about the rest today and tomorrow. I don't think there is much need for incentives to introduce a discussion, only this:

I'll never forget the statement of Paul Osborn of the SATIS-network at the last meeting of the Dutch Working Group on Information and Documentation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague. He said: "Book Aid is Food Aid".

This is true and not true. I think he never understood that his statement has a double meaning that also makes it more than true. Book aid is food aid, it is a bad solution to a bad problem and it will never solve the problem: closing the information gap between north and south. And I would never take part in throwing materials down the bottomless hole of information hunger in the south if I didn't have true hopes for change in this situation.

Food aid is not a way to solve a problem. Food aid is a last ditch effort to prevent people from dying... while working on a more sustainable solution.

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Task Force Group 4:

Mapping of Existing North-South and Developing Countries' NGO Networks

Chair: Dirk Hoftijzer
(IVO - Development Research Institute, University of Tilburg,
Netherlands)

Resource person: Joanne Combes (OECD Development Centre)

Séminaire sur le Renforcement de la Coopération
en matière de documentation sur le développement
3-6 septembre 1991

Compte Rendu du Groupe de Travail N° 4

RECENSEMENT DES RESEAUX DE DEVELOPPEMENT
(MAPPING OF DEVELOPMENT NETWORKS)

Président de séance: Dirk HOFTIJZER
Information: Joanne FURMAN-COMBES
Rapporteur: Valérie DI GIACOMO

Les réseaux et la coopération

Le Groupe de Travail a réuni une quarantaine de participants pour procéder à un échange de vues sur le thème "Recensement des Réseaux de Développement". La discussion avait pour but d'examiner les possibilités de renforcer la coopération entre les réseaux d'ONG et les réseaux d'instituts de recherche du Nord qui mènent des activités portant sur les pays du Sud, ou qui sont menées dans les pays en voie de développement.

Les bénéfices potentiels de la coopération ont été résumés comme suit:

- Les ONG qui travaillent sur le terrain pourraient bénéficier des résultats des travaux entrepris par les instituts de recherche.
- Les ONG-Lobby pourraient contribuer à la mise en oeuvre des résultats des travaux effectués par les instituts de recherche, en jouant leur rôle auprès des politiques et des décideurs.
- Les ONG-Education au développement pourraient utiliser les données de la recherche pour alimenter leurs activités axées sur l'opinion publique des pays du Nord.
- Les instituts de recherche des pays du Nord pourraient également tirer profit de leurs contacts avec les ONG qui travaillent sur le terrain, celles-ci étant généralement plus avancées en matière de communication.

Information

Mme FURMAN-COMBES a donné au Groupe de Travail des informations détaillées sur deux enquêtes qu'elle a effectuées sur:

- Les réseaux d'ONG de développement en Europe,
- Les réseaux d'ONG de développement en Afrique.

Voir Annexe A pour les détails sur ces enquêtes. Les Répertoires résultant de ces travaux seront publiés par l'UNESCO en 1991. Par ailleurs, il est rappelé que le Centre de Développement de l'OCDE a publié en 1990 un Répertoire des Organisations Non Gouvernementales de Développement dans les Pays Membres de l'OCDE (2 500 profils d'ONG).

Les réseaux

On entend par réseaux nationaux ou internationaux un collectif d'organisations non gouvernementales autonomes qui décident formellement de collaborer pour échanger des informations et/ou pour mener ensemble certaines activités spécifiques. Le terme "réseau" ne s'applique pas à des groupements composé de membres d'individuels.

Les motivations qui sont à la base de la création de réseaux varient d'une région à l'autre. En Europe, par exemple, des ONG naissent dans un pays, puis lancent d'autres organisations à l'extérieur pour promouvoir leurs objectifs. Les réseaux sur les droits de l'homme sont principalement constitués de groupement qui échangent des informations entre-eux. En Afrique, beaucoup d'ONG sont internationales pour assurer leur protection, établir des liens à l'extérieur, renforcer leur image de marque et obtenir des financements. En Amérique latine on a parfois eu besoin de la pression internationale pour permettre aux ONG d'être en contact avec le monde.

Les réseaux mis en place pour des campagnes ponctuelles orientées sur l'opinion publique, ou pour des actions spécifiques, sont plus clairement définissables: savoir d'abord ce que l'on fait, et ceci détermine le fonctionnement du réseau.

Echange d'expériences

Un tour de table permet de prendre connaissance des expériences sur le terrain de certaines des organisations représentées, travaillant en réseau pour les échanges d'information. Ici encore les situations varient si l'on se trouve en Afrique ou en Amérique latine, et ceci pour des raisons politiques, économiques, techniques ou de comportement humains. Selon les cas l'information circule ou ne circule pas. D'une manière générale les attitudes au regard d'un réseau documentaire sont liées à la valeur de l'information fournie à l'utilisateur. On n'est pas toujours sûr que des gens font ce qu'ils disent faire; il faudrait pouvoir le vérifier en allant sur le terrain.

En résumé, cet échange de vues a mis en évidence la volonté des réseaux ONG d'échanger l'information, mais la coopération entre ces réseaux et le monde de la recherche est pratiquement inexistante à ce stade, sauf dans des cas très concrets au plan local, ou sur le plan de rapports personnalisés

Evaluation de l'information

Il n'est très utile de procéder à l'évaluation sur la base d'informations obtenues par questionnaires. Les appréciations devraient porter sur l'output plutôt sur sur la structure du projet. Les ONG pourraient contribuer à l'évaluation en fournissant à leur retour des indicateurs pour définir l'organisation qui a accompli la tâche. Les chercheurs de l'EADI pourraient peut-être participer à cet exercice, lorsqu'ils vont sur le terrain, et sur la base de critères à préciser (comme le font déjà certaines organisations internationales de financement).

L'évaluation est une tâche ambitieuse et délicate. Pourtant, même si c'est politiquement difficile, elle est absolument nécessaire: la communauté des ONG n'est pas uniforme, même l'éthique diffère (dans le Nord comme dans le Sud il y a des ONG à but lucratif). Un participant a qualifié la tâche d'évaluation comme un défi pour les années 90, si l'on veut que les ONG reçoivent des fonds. Toutefois, il faut veiller à ce que la sélection ne devienne pas un "pouvoir" entre les mains des seuls initiés.

Activité envisagée

Le Groupe de Travail a procédé ensuite à l'examen d'une activité concrète en vue de recenser les réseaux d'ONG et les réseaux d'instituts de recherche en matière de développement situés en Europe. Le but recherché est de tester, et si possible d'améliorer, les échanges d'information entre réseaux d'ONG et réseaux de recherche développement.

1. Besoins des utilisateurs

Le groupe a jugé utile de lancer une enquête portant sur les besoins des utilisateurs de l'inventaire proposé.

Les informations données par le représentant de l'UNESCO ont été très utiles à cet égard, puisque cette organisation a effectué une vaste enquête au niveau mondial pour identifier les besoins des utilisateurs de son Centre d'Echange d'Information (voir Annexe B).

2. Définition des réseaux

Le Groupe a soutenu la proposition visant à faire porter l'enquête sur les réseaux d'ONG et les réseaux d'instituts de recherche en matière de développement situés en Europe, y compris les pays de l'Est.

Il est proposé d'entreprendre une étude pilote qui portera sur les réseaux ayant des activités sur ou dans les pays du Tiers Monde. L'Amérique latine a été retenue pour ce projet pilote.

Des contacts seront bien entendu établis avec les institutions en Europe, qui ont éventuellement mené des activités de même nature (par exemple REDIAL, à Paris).

3. Contrôle de la qualité des réseaux

On a estimé qu'il était préférable d'opter pour des critères souples:

- Existence du réseau: 2 ans environ.
- Volonté du réseau (et de ses membres) d'échanger l'information avec des réseaux extérieurs.
- Les réseaux devront avoir une structure formelle, comprenant un secrétariat permanent (catalyseur).
- La prise en compte des données sur les ressources financières des réseaux concernés n'a pas été retenue. En effet, il existe divers réseaux (par exemple l'EADI) qui sont très actifs et dont les budgets sont modestes.

4. Questions pratiques

Il est proposé de mettre en oeuvre le projet pilote en deux étapes:

(i) Une enquête sur les besoins des utilisateurs:
Pour l'élaboration d'un questionnaire, il a été suggéré d'établir des contacts avec les membres du Comité Exécutif et les Coordinateur des groupes de recherche de l'EADI, ainsi qu'avec les membres de réseaux ONG de développement. Une équipe de 5 personnes a été constituée, pour mener à bien cette première tâche.

(ii) Envoi du questionnaire aux réseaux ONG et aux réseaux de recherche en Europe: Une équipe de 4 personnes a été constituée pour réunir les listes d'adresses des organisations concernées par l'enquête.

On espère pouvoir présenter à l'occasion du séminaire de l'EADI, qui se tiendra en 1992, les résultats concrets de cette initiative.

**EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORKS:
EXPERIENCES IN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION**

J. Furman & B. Combes / September 1989

Without communication, development is a non starter. Development is fundamentally about participation - and participation cannot exist if communication is missing. 1

The past twenty-five years have witnessed a proliferation of development actors. Official bilateral aid agencies and multilateral intergovernmental organizations have been joined by an increasing number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), both from northern, industrialized countries and more recently from countries of the South. The development initiatives and awareness raising actions of these varied NGOs have fostered a greater sensitivity to the need for improved conditions for people and societies worldwide.

Through their activities for and with the people of developing countries, northern NGOs have gained practical experience of sustainable development approaches and techniques. These NGOs generally focus their development activities on sectoral actions, such as agricultural development, appropriate technology, educational projects, health services, and institution building, or promote a multisectoral approach, such as through integrated community or rural development. Northern NGOs include not only the "traditional" private, voluntary development organizations but also more specialized organizations, such as educational institutions, foundations, professional organizations, religious groups, alternative trade organizations and associations of individuals promoting decentralized co-operation.

As the number and kind of development organizations and activities have increased, many NGOs have recognized the need to join forces with similar organizations to form associations which foster a co-ordination of efforts and actions. Various names are used throughout Europe to refer to these groups including, in English, "consortiums", "co-ordinating bodies", "umbrella organizations" and "networks". The name selected for the organization often reflects the particular historical and political contexts of the growth of the associative movement in the respective country, as well as the organization's legal status, founding principles and objectives. For the purpose of clarity, the term "network" has been used in this study to represent these organizations.

In general, development networks specialize in the support of member organizations by acting as forums for discussion and assisting in information exchange. The co-ordination and support activities of European networks have shown that "the communication component of development is not just an exchange of information, but a conversational process for co-ordinating actions and opening up possibilities." 2

Through their information services, and with the help of their member organizations, development networks have collected and disseminated a considerable amount of development information. They are thus able to foster increased communication and information exchange activities in the development field, both in Europe and throughout the world.

Information exchange, as a crucial element in the development process, is both a tool and a resource for development practitioners worldwide. Information is found in the form of publications, audio-visual material and grey literature (unpublished materials) about the situation in developing countries, as well as in documents dealing with the actual process of development, such as methodologies for implementing projects, evaluation tools and scientific applications for development.

3

Development networks promote networking as a means of contributing to development information exchange, and thereby to the whole development process. They distinguish between two types of networking: "functional - stressing participation, relevance, and pragmatism; and institutional - stressing membership, co-ordination, and formalities." 4 Development networks favor the former as more desirable in their networking activities, stressing a two-way flow of relevant information, as well as

activities that can meet the needs of those participating in the network. The institutional aspects of networks, calling for member duties, co-ordination of efforts and formalities in meetings and joint actions, are often necessary supports for the structure of the network. Furthermore, depending on its level of institutional development, a network can offer a number of services to members, including information services, assistance in awareness raising initiatives, and representation in discussions with governments and international organizations.

European Development Networks

Few are aware of the variety of development networks that exist in western Europe. International networks, such as IRED (Innovations et Réseaux pour le Développement), ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies) or ICDA (International Coalition for Development Action), are most often cited when any mention of networks is made in development-related publications. Little is said, however, of national or sectoral development networks based in Europe.

In this volume, the term "European development network" has been used to refer to both national and international networks based in western Europe which undertake actions in the South and/or the North through development and development education activities. This, however does not include networks strictly made up of individual members, nor does it cover networks solely involved in refugee work, human rights and political solidarity, or development research and training.

A survey of 345 national and international development networks in western Europe was undertaken in 1988 to compile the information for this study. Through this survey and data from secondary sources, information was obtained on 270 development networks.

Aims and Structures of European Development Networks

European development networks display a variety of aims, structures and actions. They are generally founded for one of three main reasons. The reason most often cited is that organizations undertaking similar actions or having common goals find it beneficial to join together to improve inter-organizational co-operation. The network thus presents its aims in relation to the need for information sharing, co-ordination of members' endeavors and provision of mutual support in common actions.

The second reason mentioned is that it is felt a new organization needs to be created to undertake actions beyond the reach of any single member. The goals of such a network centre around the actions or sectors important to the members. Many of the actions of the network are thus undertaken by the secretariat or co-ordinating body.

The final reason cited is that, following encouragement from governmental or intergovernmental funding sources, organizations join together to create an organization which can represent their interests, either in negotiations for funding, administration of government allocated resources or in policy discussions with public officials.

The original aims chosen for the network greatly influence its structure. Three structures identified by Fernand Vincent, Secretary General of IRED, are representative of many of the different networks: the Centralized Network, Semi-Decentralized Network and Exploded Network structures. The differences between these structures is based on the evolution of the role of the secretariat or central body. In the Centralized Network, a central body is responsible for most of the actions of the network, calling on members for support in policy-making and co-operation in projects.

Communication between members is not seen as being fundamental to the network's functioning. This structure is often adopted by networks undertaking actions that none of the members could support on its own.

The Semi-Decentralized Network is characterized by a central body which undertakes actions and facilitates contacts between members. This structure is adopted by networks which represent their members in negotiations with funding sources, as it allows the central body to undertake the necessary actions and fosters support from members.

The Exploded Network primarily emphasizes communication and co-operation between all members. The main actions of the network are carried out by its members, with facilitation, provision of support services and representation undertaken by the central body. Many networks formed to co-

ordinate members' activities and promote information exchange adopt this structure as it permits flexibility, independence and shared responsibility in actions undertaken by members for the common good.

A fourth structure, identified during the 1988 study, can be labeled the Decentralized Network structure. The need to create a new organization or have a co-ordinating body is eliminated by an agreement between members to share information, alternate the responsibility of acting as the contact point or secretariat, and share the costs for the network's functioning. This structure has been adopted by short-term action networks focusing on a specific theme or sector, as well as by networks created out of an agreement between organizations to work together.

Many European development networks have adopted structures which resemble the four structures outlined above. Others, however, have modified these structures to suit their particular needs. The adoption of one structure or another depends to a large extent on the reasons for creating the network. Thus, networks which are founded for several different purposes are likely to change the original structure as the network evolves. The structure acts as a support for the organizational aspect of the network, providing a framework for the projects undertaken by the members and the secretariat, and a means of co-ordinating communication and information exchange.

Overall, a network can "help NGOs to avoid repetition of their own and others' past failures, to promote innovation and replicability in project design and implementation, and to strengthen the NGO community as a whole." 6 Furthermore, development networks can promote information exchange and partnership beyond national and regional boundaries.

Networks' Activities in Developing Countries

European networks' actions, as those of their members, cover a variety of development sectors and fields of activity, ranging from agricultural development, appropriate technology and health services to education and the production of audio-visual materials. An analysis of these activities reveals a division between four types of actions, namely initiatives focusing on General Actions, Broad Topic Actions, Issue-Oriented Actions or Sectoral Actions.

The General Actions category groups together networks which either co-ordinate members' activities or are involved in development co-operation in a variety of sectors. The Broad Topic Actions category includes networks whose members and/or secretariat undertake activities centred around a subject or area of interest, such as decentralized co-operation, development education or emergency relief.

The Issues Oriented Actions category groups together networks focusing their activities on specific issues, such as agricultural issues, consumer issues, environmental issues, or health issues. The final category, Sectoral Actions, includes networks with actions in a specific sector, including alternative trade, appropriate technology, credit unions, equitable tourism and institution building.

Using this classification, a large number of the 270 networks in this Guide fall into three of the more general topics: 39 networks identified under development co-operation, 27 under co-ordination of members' actions and 26 under development education. Other topics group together between 1 and 14 networks. In general, it was found that the more specific the topic, the fewer the number of networks working on that activity.

Further observations about the activities of networks can be made when looking at the networks' membership. Of the 270 networks included in the Guide, 153 are national networks, having member organizations based in one country, while 117 are international networks, with members in more than one country. From the analysis of the networks' activities, it appears that networks with a broader focus are more often organized at the national level, while the more specific topics are better suited to international co-operation efforts. It was found that 62% of the national networks focus on General Actions and Broad Topic Actions, while 38% of the international networks have Issues Oriented Actions. Finally, it was found that Sectoral Actions regroup approximately the same number of international and national networks, and thus sector-oriented networks seem to be organized as frequently at the international and national levels.

Information was also gathered on the countries in which European development networks undertake or support initiatives. The survey shows that 76% of the networks work in Africa, 62% in Latin

which have caused underdevelopment in the South. They also provide an insight into the links between nations and ways to further world understanding.

Along with these activities, some networks undertake curriculum development, incorporating information about the South into national education plans. Others promote lobbying of governments to change or increase development funding practices, while some disseminate information on development issues to specific target groups, such as teachers, trade union members, church groups, businessmen and politicians. A further goal of these activities, which has developed more recently, is to make people in the North focus on the issues of poverty, social injustice and unemployment at home, and find similarities between these issues in the South and the North. 12

European development networks complement these activities by providing a range of information services. Seven types of information services are commonly used. Of the 270 networks included in the Guide, 91% publish information on development issues while 83% have information/inquiry services. Documentation centres are maintained by 38% of the networks, while 36% have audio-visual services, providing and producing audio-visual materials.

Compared to the large number of networks which have documentation centres, only 12% have libraries, while 20% offer computerized information services. A variety of other activities, including exhibitions, seminars, conferences, workshops, training courses and campaigns were mentioned by 95% of the networks as being part of their information services.

Obstacles to Information Exchange

The 1988 survey indicates that European development networks play an active role in the collection and dissemination of development information. Their work in these fields has helped them identify common problems in gaining access to and disseminating timely and accurate information. To explore these communication difficulties, three questions were included in the survey soliciting information about major obstacles in the communication process. Of the 200 networks responding to the survey, 100 (50%) answered these questions.

The first question asked the respondents to list the five major obstacles encountered in collecting information. Lack of staff (76%) was the most pressing problem, followed by lack of funds (66%), and bureaucracy (49%). Three other obstacles were also cited: lack of technical support (29%), lack of contacts in other organizations (25%), and lack of reliable sources (24%).

The second question solicited information on the five major obstacles found when diffusing information. Lack of staff (69%), lack of funds (69%) and lack of technical support (39%) were again the major obstacles cited, followed closely by target group's lack of interest (36%). Other obstacles selected were language differences (30%), target group's reluctance to accept innovation (29%) and the negative attitude of other development specialists (21%).

The responses to the first two questions indicate that lack of staff and lack of funds are the primary difficulties met in the communication process. These obstacles are internal, faced by the organizations and by the information service personnel. The responses seem to suggest that the networks need greater funding for their information services, either through outside sources, or by putting a greater internal emphasis on this aspect of their activities and allocating larger amounts in their budgets for the work necessary to collect and diffuse development information.

Information collection seems also to be hampered by further internal difficulties, bureaucracy and lack of technical support, as well as external difficulties in locating the information through contacts and reliable sources. In information diffusion, internal obstacles of lack of funding and staff are joined by lack of technical support.

However, the diffusion activities also seem to be hampered by a lack of interest in the information that the network has available, both by the general public, often the target group of networks' activities, and by development professionals, usually involved in their own sectors of activity.

More educational activities and awareness raising actions thus seem to be necessary to increase receptivity to the information available. Language differences, another obstacle often cited, are inevitable with the number of languages spoken in western Europe. However, efforts could be made to find common grounds for discussions, especially at the international level. Development networks thus seem to highlight obstacles that can be overcome by a greater emphasis on the communication process,

both internally and externally.

The final question in the survey turned the focus to the most successful means of diffusing development information. Asked to select the five most successful means, respondents chose the activities of non-governmental organizations (82%), publications, books and reports (62%), development networks' activities (58%), and advertisements and mass media (55%). Other means chosen were the activities of international organizations (38%), schools and universities (31%) and religious organizations (26%). The means cited least often were governmental agencies' activities (6%) and information campaigns (6%).

Respondants thus seem to find that both the information exchange activities of NGOs and the use of printed material are the best ways to reach their audiences. While respondents also mention their own organization's activities as being successful, the difficulties they encounter in information dissemination seem to give them a more realistic view of their accomplishments. These activities, along with advertising and the use of mass media, also appear to be a possible means of combatting lack of interest on the part of the target audiences.

The results from these questions show that the exchange of development information in the North could be improved by reinforcing the capacities of the existing information services and fostering increased networking and awareness raising activities. With their experience in development actions, development education activities and information exchange, development networks seem to be in an optimal position to help and encourage other in the field to promote development information exchange and communication. They can also help to co-ordinate the activities of their members and other organizations, to avoid duplication of efforts and increase contact between those involved.

Further efforts seem to be necessary at the national and international levels to increase communication with those in the South, and to find means of working around infrastructural communication barriers.

At the current time development information remains most easily accessible to people in the North. In the South, "inadequate communications capabilities hinder the transfer of information. Lack of information, in turn, impedes the vital participatory role of people and reduces possibilities for effective action." 13 In view of this situation, greater efforts need to be made so that the development information gathered and accumulated in the North can be more widely exchanged and discussed by northern and southern development practitioners.

The 1988 survey indicates that European networks have started to strengthen the links between information dissemination, development initiatives and development education to promote and stimulate social awareness and mobilize people to seek solutions to the problems faced by people and societies throughout the world. Despite current difficulties in the information flow, European networks seem to be in a position to provide a means of access to development information for southern organizations, and to encourage information dissemination between all development practitioners. Such exchanges could further strengthen and enhance the partnership between the North and the South.

If NGOs were better informed about each other's programmes, individual efforts could be better co-ordinated: greater integration could only result in enhanced overall efficiency which would, in turn, make it easier to achieve the common goals which go beyond the diversity, no matter how necessary and enriching, of the various organizations and of specific local and national conditions. 14

European development networks, diverse in their aims, historical backgrounds, structures and activities, seem now to be challenged by the need to reach beyond their national and regional boundaries. Many have met this challenge, while others seem to have realized only recently the implications of the development of southern NGOs and networks. Increased communication and development information exchange will help development practitioners, NGOs and networks forge new links and partnerships based on common goals with other members of the development community worldwide, in order to face the challenges of global development.

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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORKS: EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES

B. Combes and J. Furman Combes

"At the heart of Africa's development objectives must lie the ultimate and overriding goal of human-centred development that ensures the overall well-being of the people through sustained improvement in their living standards and the full and effective participation of the people in charting their development policies, programmes and processes and contributing to their realization." (African Charter for Popular Participation, 1990).

Throughout the past decade an increasing number and variety of development networks have been established in Africa. These groupings of organizations have emerged to tackle the challenges and difficulties the African continent has been facing. They play a vital role in the economic, cultural and social development of sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in the institutional development of member organizations through the provision of information, training and other important services.

The member organizations of networks include a wide variety of development-oriented associations, ranging from community groups, women's groups, and NGOs to training institutions and even governmental agencies. They undertake actions in every possible sector of rural and urban development. Through their activities for and with people in all parts of society, the networks and their members have gained practical experience of sustainable development approaches and techniques. They demonstrate that "development is development of the people and the way out of the present crisis (faced by the African continent) lies fundamentally with the people of Africa themselves". (African NGO Preparatory Meeting, 1986)

Development Networks in Sub-Saharan Africa

Networks in Africa have been formed for a variety of reasons. At the national level, Christian councils were among the first to start the networking process by grouping together church-related organizations. Later, councils of social service agencies were formed, especially in East and Central Africa, providing services and caring for the well-being of the population. Such organizations have developed into more broad-based agencies, combining social welfare activities with other types of development actions.

In response to natural and environmental crises, other types of networks have developed in West Africa. Such organizations have helped to co-ordinate the activities of member organizations, which undertake emergency and development actions in the area. At the same time, local-level groupings of community-based organizations have sprung up throughout sub-Saharan Africa, as a result of the members' need to have a common voice and find solutions to problems faced by all. Overall, the development of coordinating bodies of NGOs in Africa has "accelerated in recent years". (Stremlau, 1987)

A survey of 430 national and international development networks in sub-Saharan Africa was undertaken in 1990 to compile the information for this study. Through the survey and data from secondary sources, information was obtained on 174 African development networks. In this volume, the term "African development network" has been used to refer to both national and international networks based in sub-Saharan Africa which undertake actions in that region through social, cultural and economic development activities. This, however does not include networks strictly made up of individual members, nor does it cover networks solely involved in human rights or political actions.

Functions and Structures of African Development Networks

Although a variety of factors have caused individual NGOs to work together as networks, many African networks have been created because the issues or problems faced cannot be addressed by a single individual or institution, as well as to tap or pool resources (e.g. expertise, institutional, financial). Furthermore, organizations have joined the membership of networks because "they look to coordinating bodies for services to which they do not have access on their own. They also perceive the coordinating bodies as offering strength in numbers and as able, therefore, to provide a visibility and a voice for NGOs at the national (and international) level." (Stremlau, 1987)

While the reasons for the creation of networks are numerous, there is a common set of functions which the network's secretariat usually undertakes. The 1990 survey highlights the main functions and offers further information on the kind of organizations which are members of networks.

Functions

The four most important functions cited were to act as a forum for information exchange (84%), to solicit funding for members (84%), to co-ordinate members' activities (79%) and to represent members in discussions with the government (67%).

As a forum for information exchange, the network has some specific tasks to perform, notably to collect and disseminate information about its members (73%), to provide them with technical information (71%), as well as with training for their member organizations' staff (66%). Establishing contacts is also considered an important task, first at the international level with NGOs (63%) and potential donors (60%) and then at the local (56%) and regional (55%) levels with NGOs.

By acting as a spokesperson for its members, the network can influence certain aspects of the government's social, cultural and economic policies (52%). As such, its development actions may complement those of governmental agencies. For networks "were born above all to tackle specific problems of daily life and to bring a process of development dynamics to the grassroots. (Their) existence is justified more by the need to complement, rather than be antagonistic to, governmental action." (Musengimana, 1990)

Membership

Of the 174 networks included in the Source Book, 110 are national networks, having member organizations based in one country, while 64 are international networks, with members in more than one country. An analysis of networks' membership shows that African networks, whether national or international, regroup a wide range of member organizations

When asked to list the type of member organizations in their network, the two major categories of responses are national and community-level organizations. National organizations include national (38%) and local (37%) NGOs as well as religious organizations (22%) and governmental agencies (14%). Community-level organizations regroup women's groups (36%), cooperatives (35%), community groups (32%), farmers' and youth groups (both 27%).

In addition, two minor categories appear: specialized and foreign-based organizations. Specialized organizations include training organizations (24%), professional associations (19%), trade unions and research institutes (both 14%) as well as universities (11%). Foreign-based organizations regroup both regional (23%) and international (17%) NGOs.

Networks' Activities in Sub-Saharan Africa

African networks' actions, as those of their members, cover a variety of sectors and fields of activity in economic, social and cultural development, ranging from agricultural development, income-generation activities and primary health care to adult education and the conservation of cultural heritage. An analysis of member organizations' activities reveals a strong emphasis on information and education as well as on economic and social development.

For this study, member organizations' activities were classified into seven general categories. Of the 174 networks included in the Source Book, 85% of their members provide information services while 84% focus on education and training activities. Economic activities are undertaken by 78% of the member organizations, while an equal number (76%) carry out rural and social development actions. Activities in the field of health are focussed on by 66%, while 44% offer voluntary services, 39% concentrate on cultural development and 35% on humanitarian aid.

A look at the specific activities regrouped under each category offers an insight into the primary focus of actions of member organizations. In the field of Information Services, information dissemination (67%) and awareness raising (62%) represent the priority areas for action. Education and Training actions concentrate on adult education (56%), followed by vocational training (50%), human resources development (50%) and non-formal education (48%).

Economic Activities focus on income-generation actions (54%) and the cooperative movement (50%), followed by small and medium enterprise development (44%), credit systems/savings (37%) and handicraft promotion (37%). Rural Development is geared towards agricultural development (67%) and environmental protection (48%) followed by water projects (39%) and appropriate technology (35%).

Social Development focuses on women's programmes (62%) and community development (52%), as well as youth programmes (46%) and social welfare (39%). Health actions concentrate on primary health care (41%) and nutrition/food security (39%) as well as family planning/population programmes (36%) and child care (37%). Cultural Development mainly concerns social and cultural activities (36%); whereas Humanitarian Aid focuses on emergency relief and food aid (32%).

Obstacles to Network Activities

The 1990 survey indicates that African networks play an active role in information dissemination and the provision of educational or training activities for their members. Their actions in social and economic development have helped them identify common problems in gaining access to and disseminating information, as well as in performing their activities. To explore these difficulties, three questions were included in the survey soliciting information about major obstacles encountered by networks in the course of their activities. Of the networks responding to the survey, 84% answered these questions.

The first question asked the respondents to list the three major obstacles encountered in collecting and disseminating information. Lack of funds (71%) was the most pressing problem, followed by lack of technical support (40%), and bureaucracy (34%). Three other obstacles were also cited: lack of staff (30%), lack of knowledge of information sources (22%), and reluctance to share or exchange information (22%). No major differences in the responses of national and international networks were found, although bureaucracy is perceived as being the second most important obstacle by international networks (41%). International networks also find that language differences (24%) are significant.

Looking at funding for the activities of African networks, the 1990 survey indicates that the networks rely on a number of funding sources. Asked to select the three most important sources of funding, respondents chose membership fees (66%), foreign aid programmes (47%) and NGOs (37%). Other sources chosen were foundations (26%), private donations (25%), intergovernmental agencies (23%), national government (22%) and religious organizations (20%). As the member organizations often rely on the network for assistance in funding and obtaining funding, there is little extra that can be given to the network. Thus while membership fees remain an important funding source for the network and a symbol of solidarity and support, the networks still suffer from lack of funds. In past years, funding agencies have been reluctant to provide support for networks as their activities were not concrete actions with an outcome that was easily evaluated. However, as networks are now being recognized more and more as playing an important role of co-ordination and representation by governments and international organizations, new interest has arisen in funding networks.

The second question in the 1990 survey solicited information on the three major obstacles encountered in the course of the networks' activities. Lack of funds (88%) and lack of staff (38%) were again the major obstacles cited, followed closely by difficulties in insuring communication between members (38%) and attitudes of local, national and regional leaders (32%). Another obstacle mentioned was lack of contacts with other networks (21%). Once again, few differences between national and international networks' responses appeared, although international networks mention that language differences (18%) are also an obstacle, whereas national networks feel that differences of opinion about the network's objectives (16%) must be taken into account.

In a study of African national coordinating bodies undertaken in 1987, it was found that "in order to play a more active role in strengthening NGOs, the coordinating bodies need strengthening themselves. They need to be able to attract and hold skilled staff, to assess the needs of their members, to undertake longer term planning, and to secure stable financial resources for their expenses. (They) must strive to identify ways of involving members in the work of the coordinating body, not merely as recipients of services, but also as providers of services to other NGOs." (Stremlau, 1987)

The final question in the survey turned the focus to networks' opinions regarding the most successful development actors undertaking social and economic development in Africa. Asked to select the three most successful actors, respondents chose community groups (47%), cooperatives (32%), local and international NGOs (both 32%). Other actors chosen were national NGOs (31%), development networks (30%) and religious organizations (29%). The actors cited least often were universities and professional associations (both 5%). Both international and national networks agree that community groups are the most successful actors carrying out such development actions.

As shown in the 1990 survey, one of the networks' major functions is to disseminate information about members' actions, especially those that have proven successful. Thus networks are helping to make better known the work of the community groups and other development actors in sub-Saharan Africa. "There are a lot of potential benefits to be gained through networking. It is through networking that NGOs (and networks) have realized the disadvantages of taking an inward-looking approach and mistrusting one another. African NGOs (and networks) have everything to gain by networking with each other and building solidarity among themselves. This solidarity will act in their favour against the forces that seek to undermine their role in developing their countries. All this points to the need to promote networking as a strategy for development." (Chitiga-Machingauta, 1990)

Improving Development Efforts

Although African networks play an active role in the social, cultural and economic development of sub-Saharan Africa, the results of this survey show that further efforts are needed at the national, regional and international levels to increase communication and co-operation between networks and help overcome the lack of knowledge of the variety and number of each others' actions. The networks would thus help strengthen the effectiveness and outreach of their members' actions, despite the low levels of funding available.

The results of the survey also indicate that African networks have begun to strengthen the links between exchanges of experiences, development initiatives and co-ordinated strategies to promote and stimulate social awareness and mobilize people to seek solutions to the problems they face. Despite current difficulties in information exchange, project implementation and funding, African networks seem to be in a position to provide a means of encouraging information exchange and community participation across the continent. Such exchanges and mobilization could further strengthen and encourage self-reliant development efforts.

"The idea that people - all people, the youth, women, the elderly - should be involved in the development process is an extremely important one, particularly at this time when Africa needs to marshal all its available resources for development. At the present time, the involvement of the wide spectrum of people in the development process is rather limited. Effective utilization of human resources at all levels and in all dimensions, is key to the promotion of real development in Africa." (Salim, 1990)

Improved contacts and information exchange between and among development networks active in sub-Saharan Africa will enable development practitioners to access important and practical development information, vital not only for applied purposes but also for reflection on development practices in the region. Furthermore, this pooling of resources and experiences will help people and communities throughout sub-Saharan Africa forge new links and partnerships based on common goals and aspirations, in order to face the challenges of sustainable development on the African continent.

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LIBRARY VISITS

*** *Ministère de la Coopération***

Information and Documentation Centre/Le Centre d'information et de documentation
57 boulevard des Invalides, pièce 171, 75007 Paris

Created in 1961, the Centre is the "living memory" of the ministry. It collects, analyzes and distributes the information that it receives from services, national and international organisations, and NGOs... or that it buys from the business sector. Since 1988, it has secured information for volunteers, a task which until that date had been the responsibility of CIFACE.

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Disposant de quelque 28 000 ouvrages (monographies, rapports, travaux universitaires...), 400 collections de périodiques, 1 000 cartes, 1 500 dossiers de presse, les journaux officiels français et de nombreux pays africains ainsi que divers documents destinés plus spécialement aux coopérants.

*** *Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques***

27 rue Saint Guillaume, 75007 Paris

The independent School of Political Science, which was founded in 1872, became, in 1945, the Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques. The information service consists of three sections: the library, the publications department, and the reference section. The current awareness files (15,000) and the press cuttings (more than 25,000 articles a year) are invaluable tools for researchers in economics, political and social sciences.

Fondée en 1872, l'Ecole libre des sciences politiques est devenue en 1945 Fondation nationale des sciences politiques. Trois entités : la bibliothèque, le service des périodiques et le centre de documentation forment les services de documentation. La constitution de dossiers de presse (15 000) et le dépouillement de périodiques (plus de 25 000 articles par an) sont pour les chercheurs en sciences politiques, économiques et sociales, des éléments précieux de travail.

Fonds: 500,000 volumes; 3,200 périodiques; 31,000 annuaires.

*** OECD Central Library/OCDE Bibliothèque Centrale**

*** Bibliothèque du Centre Internationale de l'Enfance**

Château de Longchamp, Carrefour de Longchamp, Bois de Boulogne
75016 Paris

The "International Centre of the Child" is a foundation which was set up through the initiative of Pr. Robert Debre and Dr. Ludwig Rajchman, at that time director of the UNICEF. Its information centre features a large reference library containing numerous volumes, publications by international organizations (WHO, UNICEF...) as well as works relating to different aspects of mother and child care, particularly in the developing countries. The Centre has created a bibliographical database (BIRD) which lists 90,000 entries.

Le Centre International de l'Enfance est une fondation créée en 1949, à l'initiative du Pr. Robert Debre et du Dr. Ludwig Rajchman, alors directeur de l'UNICEF. Son centre de documentation possède une importante bibliothèque de référence où sont collectés de nombreux ouvrages, des publications d'organisations internationales (OMS, UNICEF...), ainsi que des documents de littérature grise concernant les différents aspects de la santé de la mère et de l'enfant, notamment dans les pays en développement. Le Centre a créé une base de données bibliographiques (BIRD) qui propose actuellement 90 000 références.

Fonds: 15,500 volumes; 595 collections de périodiques en 12 langues provenant de 69 pays; 500 dossiers documentaires.

* *Bibliothèque Publique d'Information (Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou)*

19 rue Beaubourg, 75004 Paris

The BPI was conceived in 1967 to complete the Bibliothèque Nationale and to offer free access to multimedia collections for the public. It was opened in January 1977, at the same time as the Centre Georges Pompidou of which it is an associated organism. No loan is possible, all documents have to be referred to in the library. It is an encyclopedic and multimedia library. Opened for all, it tries to make its access easier to handicapped persons, especially to persons with a visual deficiency for whom a room with high technology materials has been opened.

A **Service de documentation** "Public info" completes the collection, going through the French newspapers. Its information desk registers more than a thousand questions per month.

The **Espace langue** welcomes daily 400 persons who can freely learn or improve 110 languages.

The **Salle d'actualité** presents the news on different media, offered by publishers as review copies.

The BPI organizes important events in collaboration with the Centre Georges Pompidou, exhibitions, debates about books (weekly), the yearly festival of documentary films.

La BPI a été conçue à partir de 1967 pour dédoubler la Bibliothèque Nationale et offrir des collections multimédia en libre accès à tous les publics. Elle a ouvert ses portes en janvier 1977 en même temps que le Centre Georges Pompidou dont elle est un organisme associé. On n'y pratique pas le prêt, tous les documents doivent être consultés sur place : elle est encyclopédique et multimédia. Ouverte à tous, elle s'efforce de favoriser son accès aux personnes handicapées, et plus spécifiquement aux déficients visuels pour les quels elle a ouvert une salle équipée d'un matériel d'une performance technologique de pointe.

Un **Service de documentation** "Public Info" vient compléter le fonds en dépouillant la presse française. Son bureau d'information enregistre plus d'un millier de demandes par mois.

L'**Espace langue** accueille chaque jour 400 personnes qui viennent s'initier ou se perfectionner librement dans la pratique de 110 langues.

La **Salle d'actualité** propose au public les nouveautés sur différents supports offerts par les éditeurs en service de presse. Enfin la BPI organise des manifestations importantes en liaison avec le Centre Georges Pompidou, des expositions, des débats hebdomadaires sur le livre, le festival annuel des films documentaires.

Fonds: 400,000 volumes; 2,300 abonnements de périodiques; 10,000 disques; 2,000 vidéos documentaires; 200,000 images fixes sur vidéodisques; 600 méthodes de langues; 250 didacticiels.

*** *Bibliothèque d'Art et d'Industrie Forney***
Hôtel de Sens, 1 rue du Figuier, 75004 Paris

Located since 1961 in an ancient "Marais" mansion, Forney library was founded in 1883 thanks to a Parisian manufacturer Samuel Forney, legacy to the township of Paris. Its collections are made up of books about arts, decorative arts, craft industries and history, and traditional techniques. It owns a very large iconographic collection which is particularly appreciated by craftsmen, draftsmen and arts students.

Installée depuis 1961 dans un ancien hôtel du Marais, la Bibliothèque Forney fut fondée en 1883 au moyen d'un legs fait à la Ville de Paris par un industriel parisien, Samuel Forney. Ses collections sont consacrées à l'art, aux arts décoratifs, à l'artisanat, à l'histoire des métiers et aux techniques traditionnelles. Elle possède un important fonds iconographique particulièrement apprécié des artisans, dessinateurs, stylistes ainsi que des étudiants en art et des élèves des écoles d'arts appliqués.

Fonds: 170,000 ouvrages imprimés; 2,200 titres de périodiques dont 1,000 courants; 15,000 affiches; 1,000,000 cartes postales; 20,000 estampes; 200,000 reproductions; 30,000 diapositives.

** Médiathèque de la Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie Ministère de la Recherche*
30 avenue Corentin Cariou, 75019 Paris

The resource centre is divided into two parts. One part is open to the general public and has a large collection of works for adults, a collection for children, a teaching resource centre, a cinema and a section for blind people (salle Louis Braille). The other part of the resource centre is specialized in history of science, the teaching of science, and a technical museum science. The part open to the public is automated and multimedia, and provides an open access to audiovisual documents which have been transferred to a unique medium, the videodisc. The material has been classified in such a way as to make it accessible to all. The children's resource centre, apart from its lending service, is involved in a wide range of activities, including film projections, the use of educational software, exhibitions, meetings and story reading. The part of the resource centre which is specialized in science has a contemporary collection of 10,000 reference volumes, which are on open access, as well as 500 periodical and scientific journals. There is also a historical collection of 85,000 scientific books (XVIth to XIXth centuries), from different countries.

La médiathèque comprend deux parties : d'un côté une médiathèque tout public offrant un fond documentaire très important pour les adultes, une section consacrée aux enfants, une didacthèque, une salle de projection et un espace réservé aux déficients visuels (Salle Louis Braille); de l'autre, une médiathèque spécialisée en histoire des sciences, didactique des sciences et muséologie scientifique et technique. La médiathèque tout public, automatisée et multimédia, propose en libre accès des documents audiovisuels transférés sur un support unique : le vidéodisque. Pour ses collections, elle a créé son propre mode de classement, accessible à tous. La médiathèque des enfants parallèlement au prêt de documents, propose tout un éventail d'activités : projection de films, utilisation de logiciels éducatifs, expositions, rencontres, histoires à écouter. La médiathèque spécialisée comprend un fonds contemporain de 10 000 volumes en libre consultation sur place, ainsi que 500 revues et journaux d'associations à vocation scientifique. 85 000 livres scientifiques anciens (XVIe - XIXe siècle) d'origines diverses constituent le fonds historique de cette section.

Fonds: 300,000 ouvrages; 6,000 périodiques courants; 9,000 vidéodisques; 200 didacticiels.

***OECD Development Centre/Centre de Développement de l'OCDE**

Demonstration of the MACROTHESAURUS/Démonstration du MACROTHESAURUS
94 rue Chardon Lagache, 75016 Paris

Created in 1963, the Centre's Library has built up a highly specialized collection of works on the social and economic problems of developing countries. At present, the collection comprises some 40,000 books and over 1,000 periodicals. The library receives documents and publications from the United Nations, the World Bank and other international and regional organizations.

Créée en 1963, la bibliothèque du Centre a rassemblé une collection hautement spécialisée de travaux sur les problèmes sociaux et économiques des pays en développement. A l'heure actuelle, elle comprend environ 40 000 ouvrages et plus de 1 000 périodiques (publiés par les services gouvernementaux, les organisations internationales et les institutions privées).

***La Documentation Française**

29 quai Voltaire
75340 Paris Cedex 07

Created in 1945 at the end of the Second World War, La Documentation française is an original creation. Placed under the authority of the Secretary General of the government (office of the Prime Minister), it has extended its documentalist functions through commercial activity as a publisher. To this end, in 1979 it was granted commercial status and today almost 55% of its budget is represented by this. With more than 400 staff, it collects and distributes in various forms (books, periodicals, CD-ROM, data banks, "vidéotex" services) complete information on the present administrative, political, economic, social and cultural situation in France and abroad.

Née en 1945 au sortir de la seconde guerre mondiale, La Documentation française est une création originale. Direction d'administration centrale placée sous l'autorité du Secrétaire Général du Gouvernement (Services de Premier ministre), elle prolonge ses fonctions documentaires de service public par une activité commerciale d'éditeur et de diffuseur. A cette fin, elle a été dotée en 1979 d'un compte de commerce, qui représente aujourd'hui près de 55% de son budget. Forte de 400 agents, elle collecte et diffuse sous différentes formes (livres, périodiques, CD-ROM, banques de données, services vidéotex) une information complète et objective sur l'actualité administrative, politique, économique, sociale et culturelle en France et à l'étranger.

***Bibliothèque Mazarine**

23 quai Conti, 75006 Paris

This library, which was originally the private library of Cardinal Mazarin, was, in 1643, the first library to be opened to the "gens de lettres". Designed by the famous architect Le Vau, and situated in the left wing of the Palais de l'Institut, the Bibliothèque Mazarine is richly decorated in the XVIIIth century style and contains a large collection of manuscripts and early printed books in Latin and Italian, and works of French regional and local history. The Bibliothèque Mazarine is open to researchers, and it is also used by connoisseur readers who appreciate "luxe, calme et volupté".

Ancienne bibliothèque personnelle du cardinal Mazarin, elle fut la première à être ouverte à tous les "gens de lettres", en 1643. Oeuvre du célèbre architecte Louis le Vau et abritée dans l'aile gauche du Palais de l'Institut, la bibliothèque Mazarine présente une riche décoration intérieure du XVIIe siècle et renferme un important fonds de livres anciens en latin et en italien, et d'ouvrages d'histoire régionale et locale de la France. La bibliothèque Mazarine accueille les chercheurs mais aussi les lecteurs connaisseurs qui apprécient "luxe, calme et volupté".

Fonds: 500,000 volumes, 700 périodiques; 4,600 manuscrits; 2,370 incunables, livres anciens en latin et en italien; 1,500 microformes.

***UNESCO**

7 place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris

The architectural plans for the UNESCO buildings were drawn up by Marcel Breur, Pierluigi Mervi and Bernard Zehrfuss. The buildings feature works by famous artists from all over the world: Picasso, Henry Moore, Miro, Calder, Afro, Tamasso, Apr, Bazaine, Giacometti, Lurcat, Le Corbusier, Soto, Childa. The collection in the library was begun in 1946; it is mainly in English and Spanish and deals with the following areas: education, science, and technology, social science and the humanities, communication, information, library and archive sciences, international relations.

Les plans de l'UNESCO ont été préparés par Marcel Breur, Pierluigi Mervi et Bernard Zehrfuss. La décoration est l'oeuvre d'éminents artistes du monde entier : Picasso, Henry Moore, Miro, Calder, Afro, Tamayo, Arp, Bazaine, Giacometti, Lurcat, Le Corbusier, Soto, Childa. Le fonds créé en 1946 et en large partie en anglais et espagnol touche les domaines suivants : éducation, sciences et technologie, sciences sociales et humaines, communication, information, bibliothèques et archives, relations internationales.

Fonds: 150,000 volumes; 1,500 périodiques; 60,000 microformes.

****Institut International d'Administration Publique***

2 avenue de l'Observatoire
75006 Paris

The IIAP pursues a research program in the area of comparative public administration. Its international Centre of documentation on administrative science and public enterprise manages a database on this area.

The Institute contributes to the spreading of administrative and economic sciences and techniques to France and abroad.

L'IIAP poursuit un programme de recherche dans le domaine de l'Administration publique comparée. Son Centre international de documentation sur la science administrative et les entreprises publiques gère une base de données sur ce domaine.

L'Institut contribue à la diffusion des sciences et techniques administratives et économiques en France et à l'étranger.

Fonds: 30,000 de volumes; 400 périodiques

****Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève***

10 place du Panthéon, 75005 Paris

Public and university library, its origin, in place of the actual Pantheon, is the library of the abbaye Sainte-Geneviève. Ecclesiastical library, fragmented during the religion wars, rebuilt at the XVIIth century, preserved during the French Revolution, administered by the City of Paris, attached to the University of Paris in 1934, the Sainte-Geneviève library has kept its special status and character of public library.

Bibliothèque publique et universitaire de Paris, elle a pour origine, sur l'emplacement de l'actuel Panthéon, la Bibliothèque de l'abbaye Sainte-Geneviève. Bibliothèque ecclésiastique, dispersée pendant les guerres de religion, reconstruite au XVIIe siècle, préservée sous la Révolution, prise en charge par la Ville, et rattachée à l'Université Paris en 1934, la bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève a gardé un statut spécial et son caractère original de bibliothèque publique.

Fonds: (Créé en 1634) 3 millions de volumes; 3,350 périodiques; 5,000 manuscrits; 1,600 incunables; 60,000 estampes; 8,000 microformes.

***ORSTOM/CEDID** Centre de Documentation et d'Information Scientifique pour le Développement
213 rue La Fayette, 75480 Paris Cedex 10

One of the first objectives of the documentation centre is to make available to the readers all the published works by scientists in the social sciences of ORSTOM, in anthropology, sociology, history, geography, economics, demography, archaeology, linguistics...

The library includes research works undertaken by the Institute and those undertaken in collaboration with Third World partners, according to the framework of co-operation. There are over 4,000 printed works, more than 200 collections of scientific periodicals and published information in France, Europe, the United States, and by African countries, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific.

Un des premiers objectifs de ce centre de documentation est de mettre à disposition des lecteurs tous les travaux publiés par les scientifiques en sciences sociales de l'ORSTOM, en anthropologie, sociologie, histoire, géographie, économie, démographie, archéologie, linguistique...

Dans la bibliothèque se reflète l'orientation des recherches menées sous la direction de l'Institut ou en collaboration avec des partenaires du tiers monde dans le cadre d'accords de coopération. Il y a plus de 4 000 ouvrages, 200 collection de périodiques scientifiques et d'information publiées en France, en Europe, aux Etats-Unis, et par des pays d'Afrique, d'Amérique latine et d'Asie-Pacifique.

***IBISCUS**

1 bis avenue de Villars, 75007 Paris

Created in 1983, IBISCUS, the information system on developing countries, has been opened to the public since 1 October 1986. This information will be of interest to those mainly concerned with countries in the third world, starting with the nationals of these countries themselves. While numerous data banks exist that contain information on these countries, their approach is, as a general rule, on the basis of subject matter and sector (agriculture, health, ethnology). None of them provides systematic cover from technical and economic point of views, neither do they make sufficient allowance for the specific needs of development experts involved in development action, financiers, administrations, companies, non-governmental organizations, etc. It was to fill this gap that IBISCUS system was set up through the offices of the French Ministry of Development and Cooperation.

Le système d'information sur les pays en développement IBISCUS a été créé en 1983 et depuis 1986, il est accessible au public. Il intéressera plus d'une personne concernée par le Tiers Monde. En effet s'il existe de nombreuses bases de données détenant des informations sur ces pays, elles sont plutôt destinées à des spécialistes de tel out tel secteur et sont d'un accès difficile pour les non documentalistes. IBISCUS ay contraire souhaite satisfaire les besoins en informations et en communication des praticiens impliqués dans des actions de développement, financiers, entreprises, administrations, associations d'entraide, collectivités territoriales,...mais aussi des personnes qui, à titre individuel, s'intéressent à ces pays ou souhaitent d'une manière ou d'une autre oeuvrer à leur développement.

GROUP 4 September 5

***INSEE - Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques**
18 blvd. Adolphe Pinard, 75675 Paris Cedex 14

Fonds: 150,000 volumes; 6,000 périodiques

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LIBRARY VISITS

On the Wednesday and Thursday afternoon visits, you will travel on your own to the first library. Directions to the nearest means of public transportation have been noted and maps are attached. You will be met at the door by an escort who will stay with you during the visit and will direct you to the next library.

Please bring some form of identification, as there will be security checks at some of the libraries.

Pour les visites de mercredi et jeudi après-midi, vous devrez rejoindre la première bibliothèque par vos propres moyens. A cet effet, vous trouverez, ci-joint, des plans d'accès ainsi que quelques indications pour les transports en commun. Vous serez accueillis à l'entrée de la bibliothèque, pour la visite, puis dirigés vers la suivante.

Certaines bibliothèques effectuent des contrôles d'identité, aussi, pensez à vous munir d'une pièce justificative.

*** *Ministère de la Coopération***

Information and Documentation Centre/Le Centre d'information et de documentation
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Directions/accès: Take the RER at La Muette to Invalides. Change to the metro, direction Châtillon-Montrouge, to stop St. François-Xavier.

Prendre RER La Muette aux Invalides; Prendre le métro en direction de Châtillon-Montrouge et descendre à St. François-Xavier.

Travel time/Temps: 30 min. Visit begins at 3:00

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27 rue Saint Guillaume, 75007 Paris

The independent School of Political Science, which was founded in 1872, became, in 1945, the Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques. The information service consists of three sections: the library, the publications department, and the reference section. The current awareness files (15,000) and the press cuttings (more than 25,000 articles a year) are invaluable tools for researchers in economics, political and social sciences.

Fondée en 1872, l'Ecole libre des sciences politiques est devenue en 1945 Fondation nationale des sciences politiques. Trois entités : la bibliothèque, le service des périodiques et le centre de documentation forment les services de documentation. La constitution de dossiers de presse (15 000) et le dépouillement de périodiques (plus de 25 000 articles par an) sont pour les chercheurs en sciences politiques, économiques et sociales, des éléments précieux de travail.

Fonds: 500,000 volumes; 3,200 périodiques; 31,000 annuaires.

GROUP 2 September 4

* *OECD Central Library/OCDE Bibliothèque Centrale*

2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris

The OECD Main Library was created at the origin of the OEEC and its aims are to provide documents to the Secretariat and all Directorates and services of the OECD, as well as Delegations of Member Countries, and to keep OECD documents and publications. Its holdings can be estimated at 100,000 monographs, several hundred series (such as working papers), and 3,500 current periodical titles (including yearbooks). Most of them are circulated in the organisation.

Reference services include online acces to various information files (DIALOG, MEAD-DATA, etc.). Some databases are also available through the French minitel service. Users can also search some CD-ROMs (PAIS, ABI on disc). The library functions are automated with the Canadian software MULTILIS (SOBECO). The online public catalogue (OPAC) is due to open to the public (in its first phase) in the forthcoming weeks.

The library is now part of the Division for the Management of Documentation Resources, whose mandate is to set up and administer internal and external documentation resources, including historical archives.

La Bibliothèque Centrale de l'OCDE créée aux origines de l'OECE, elle a pour mission : de fournir de la documentation à l'ensemble de l'organisation et aux Délégations des pays membres, et de conserver les publications et documents de l'organisation. Son fonds d'ouvrages est estimé à 100 000 unités, les séries de documents de travail, les périodiques vivants reçus (dont les annuaires) sont au nombre de 3 500. La plupart sont distribués directement dans les services concernés.

Les services d'information et de réféence permettent d'accéder entre autres à des bases de données externes (serveurs DIALOLG, MEAD-DATA etc.). Citons également les bases de données accessibles par minitel. Quelques CD-ROMs sont également à la disposition des usagers (PAIS, ABI on disc etc.). La gestion de la bibliothèque est informatisée à l'aide du logiciel canadien MULTILIS (Société SOBECO). La première phase mise à disposition du catalogue en ligne (OPAC) pour le public est prévue dans les semaines à venir.

Les projets de la bibliothèque s'inscrivent dans le cadre de la constitution et de la gestion des ressources documentaires internes et externes de l'OCDE. (Division gestion des ressources documentaires). Ceci comprend la gestion des archives historiques de l'organisation.

Visit begins at 2:00

*** Bibliothèque du Centre International de l'Enfance**

Château de Longchamp, Carrefour de Longchamp, Bois de Boulogne
75016 Paris

The "International Centre of the Child" is a foundation which was set up through the initiative of Pr. Robert Debré and Dr. Ludwig Rajchman, at that time director of the UNICEF. Its information centre features a large reference library containing numerous volumes, publications by international organizations (WHO, UNICEF...) as well as works relating to different aspects of mother and child care, particularly in the developing countries. The Centre has created a bibliographical database (BIRD) which lists 90,000 entries.

Le Centre International de l'Enfance est une fondation créée en 1949, à l'initiative du Pr. Robert Debré et du Dr. Ludwig Rajchman, alors directeur de l'UNICEF. Son centre de documentation possède une importante bibliothèque de référence où sont collectés de nombreux ouvrages, des publications d'organisations internationales (OMS, UNICEF...), ainsi que des documents de littérature grise concernant les différents aspects de la santé de la mère et de l'enfant, notamment dans les pays en développement. Le Centre a créé une base de données bibliographiques (BIRD) qui propose actuellement 90 000 références.

Fonds: 15,500 volumes; 595 collections de périodiques en 12 langues provenant de 69 pays; 500 dossiers documentaires.

Directions/accès: Navette from OECD
Visit begins at 3:30

*** *Bibliothèque d'Art et d'Industrie Forney***

Hôtel de Sens, 1 rue du Figuier, 75004 Paris

Located since 1961 in an ancient "Marais" mansion, Forney library was founded in 1883 thanks to a Parisian manufacturer Samuel Forney, legacy to the township of Paris. Its collections are made up of books about arts, decorative arts, craft industries and history, and traditional techniques. It owns a very large iconographic collection which is particularly appreciated by craftsmen, draftsmen and arts students.

Installée depuis 1961 dans un ancien hôtel du Marais, la Bibliothèque Forney fut fondée en 1883 au moyen d'un legs fait à la Ville de Paris par un industriel parisien, Samuel Forney. Ses collections sont consacrées à l'art, aux arts décoratifs, à l'artisanat, à l'histoire des métiers et aux techniques traditionnelles. Elle possède un important fonds iconographique particulièrement apprécié des artisans, dessinateurs, stylistes ainsi que des étudiants en art et des élèves des écoles d'arts appliqués.

Fonds: 170,000 ouvrages imprimés; 2,200 titres de périodiques dont 1,000 courants; 15,000 affiches; 1,000,000 cartes postales; 20,000 estampes; 200,000 reproductions; 30,000 diapositives.

Directions/ Accès: Take the metro at La Muette, direction Mairie de Montreuil, to stop Franklin D. Roosevelt. Change and travel direction Château de Vincennes to stop St. Paul.

Prendre le métro La Muette en direction de Mairie de Montreuil et descendre à Franklin D. Roosevelt. Changer et prendre le métro en direction de Château de Vincennes et descendre à St. Paul.

Travel time/Temps: 45 min. Visit begins at 3:00

* *Bibliothèque Publique d'Information (Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou)*

19 rue Beaubourg, 75004 Paris

The BPI was conceived in 1967 to complete the Bibliothèque Nationale and to offer free access to multimedia collections for the public. It was opened in January 1977, at the same time as the Centre Georges Pompidou of which it is an associated organism. No loan is possible, all documents have to be referred to in the library. It is an encyclopedic and multimedia library. Opened for all, it tries to make its access easier to handicapped persons, especially to persons with a visual deficiency for whom a room with high technology materials has been opened.

A **Service de documentation** "Public info" completes the collection, going through the French newspapers. Its information desk registers more than a thousand questions per month.

The **Espace langue** welcomes daily 400 persons who can freely learn or improve 110 languages.

The **Salle d'actualité** presents the news on different media, offered by publishers as review copies.

The BPI organizes important events in collaboration with the Centre Georges Pompidou, exhibitions, debates about books (weekly), the yearly festival of documentary films.

La BPI a été conçue à partir de 1967 pour dédoubler la Bibliothèque Nationale et offrir des collections multimédia en libre accès à tous les publics. Elle a ouvert ses portes en janvier 1977 en même temps que le Centre Georges Pompidou dont elle est un organisme associé. On n'y pratique pas le prêt, tous les documents doivent être consultés sur place : elle est encyclopédique et multimédia. Ouverte à tous, elle s'efforce de favoriser son accès aux personnes handicapées, et plus spécifiquement aux déficients visuels pour lesquels elle a ouvert une salle équipée d'un matériel d'une performance technologique de pointe.

Un **Service de documentation** "Public Info" vient compléter le fonds en dépouillant la presse française. Son bureau d'information enregistre plus d'un millier de demandes par mois.

L'**Espace langue** accueille chaque jour 400 personnes qui viennent s'initier ou se perfectionner librement dans la pratique de 110 langues.

La **Salle d'actualité** propose au public les nouveautés sur différents supports offerts par les éditeurs en service de presse. Enfin la BPI organise des manifestations importantes en liaison avec le Centre Georges Pompidou, des expositions, des débats hebdomadaires sur le livre, le festival annuel des films documentaires.

Fonds: 400,000 volumes; 2,300 abonnements de périodiques; 10,000 disques; 2,000 vidéos documentaires; 200,000 images fixes sur vidéodisques; 600 méthodes de langues; 250 didacticiels.

*** Médiathèque de la Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie (Ministère de la Recherche)**
30 avenue Corentin Cariou, 75019 Paris

The resource centre is divided into two parts. One part is open to the general public and has a large collection of works for adults, a collection for children, a teaching resource centre, a cinema and a section for blind people (salle Louis Braille). The other part of the resource centre is specialized in history of science, the teaching of science, and a technical museum science. The part open to the public is automated and multimedia, and provides an open access to audiovisual documents which have been transferred to a unique medium, the videodisc. The material has been classified in such a way as to make it accessible to all. The children's resource centre, apart from its lending service, is involved in a wide range of activities, including film projections, the use of educational software, exhibitions, meetings and story reading. The part of the resource centre which is specialized in science has a contemporary collection of 10,000 reference volumes, which are on open access, as well as 500 periodicals and scientific journals. There is also a historical collection of 85,000 scientific books (XVIth to XIXth centuries), from different countries.

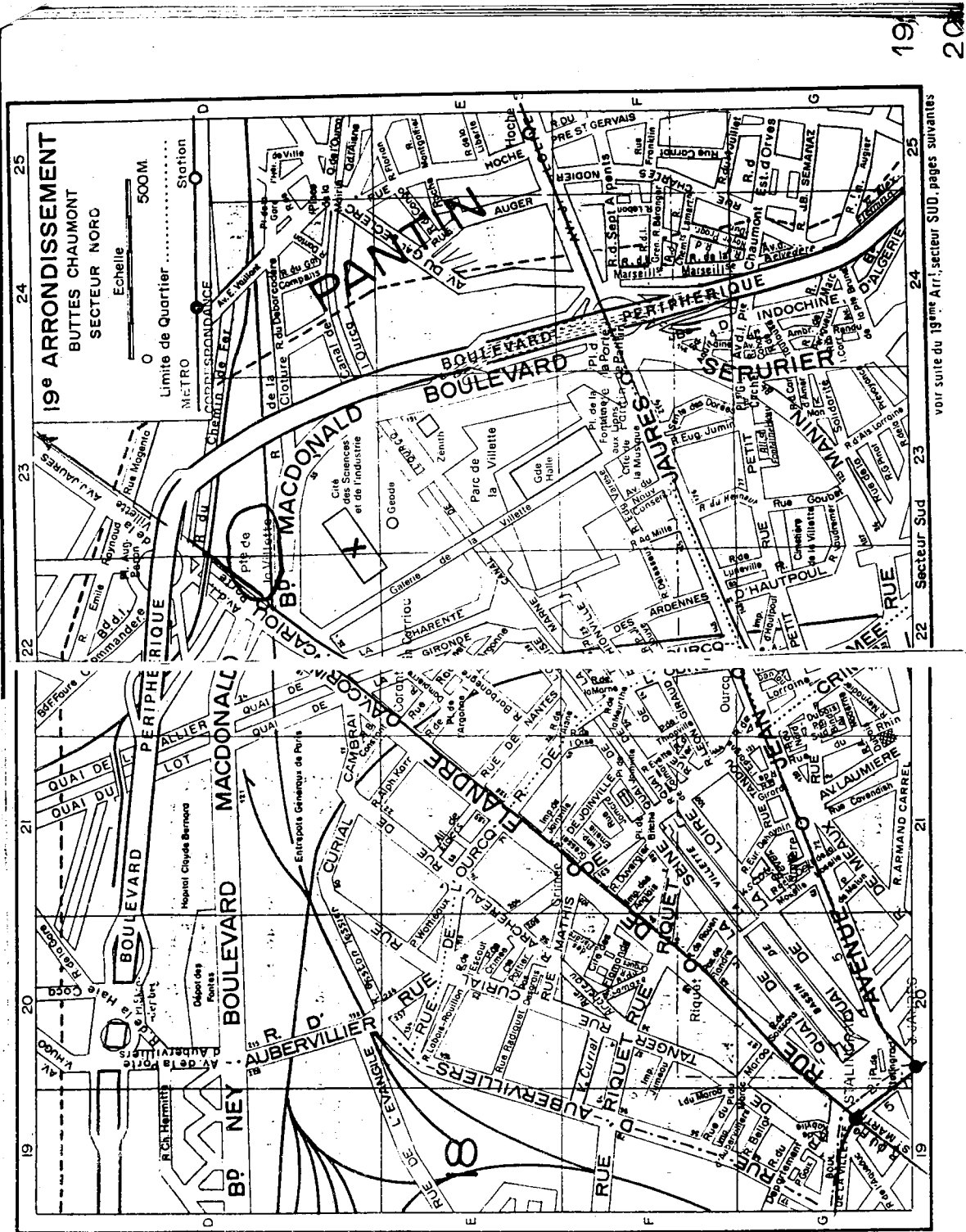
La médiathèque comprend deux parties : d'un côté une médiathèque tout public offrant un fond documentaire très important pour les adultes, une section consacrée aux enfants, une didacthèque, une salle de projection et un espace réservé aux déficients visuels (Salle Louis Braille); de l'autre, une médiathèque spécialisée en histoire des sciences, didactique des sciences et muséologie scientifique et technique. La médiathèque tout public, automatisée et multimédia, propose en libre accès des documents audiovisuels transférés sur un support unique : le vidéodisque. Pour ses collections, elle a créé son propre mode de classement, accessible à tous. La médiathèque des enfants parallèlement au prêt de documents, propose tout un éventail d'activités : projection de films, utilisation de logiciels éducatifs, expositions, rencontres, histoires à écouter. La médiathèque spécialisée comprend un fonds contemporain de 10 000 volumes en libre consultation sur place, ainsi que 500 revues et journaux d'associations à vocation scientifique. 85 000 livres scientifiques anciens (XVIe - XIXe siècle) d'origines diverses constituent le fonds historique de cette section.

Fonds: 300,000 ouvrages; 6,000 périodiques courants; 9,000 vidéodisques; 200 didacticiels.

Directions/accès: Take the metro La Muette, direction Mairie de Montreuil, to stop Chaussée d'Antin La Fayette. Change lines, direction La Courneuve, to stop Porte de la Villette.

Métro La Muette, direction Mairie de Montreuil, descendre à Chaussée d'Antin La Fayette. Prendre le métro en direction de La Courneuve et descendre à Porte de la Villette.

Travel time/Temps: 1 hour Visit begins at 4:00



GROUP 5 September 4

****OECD Development Centre/Centre de Développement de l'OCDE***

Demonstration of the MACROTHESAURUS/Démonstration du MACROTHESAURUS
94 rue Chardon Lagache, 75016 Paris

Created in 1963, the Centre's Library has built up a highly specialized collection of works on the social and economic problems of developing countries. At present, the collection comprises some 40,000 books and over 1,000 periodicals (published by government departments, international organisations and private institutions). The library receives documents and publications from the United Nations, the World Bank and other international and regional organisations.

Créée en 1963, la bibliothèque du Centre a rassemblé une collection hautement spécialisée de travaux sur les problèmes sociaux et économiques des pays en développement. A l'heure actuelle, elle comprend environ 40 000 ouvrages et plus de 1 000 périodiques (publiés par les services gouvernementaux, les organisations internationales et les institutions privées). La bibliothèque reçoit des documents et des publications des Nations Unies, de la Banque mondiale et d'autres organisations internationales et régionales.

Directions/accès: Take metro La Muette, direction Pont de Sevres, to stop Exelmans.
Prendre le métro, direction Pont de Sevres, et descendre à Exelmans.
Travel time/Temps: 15 min. Visit begins at 2:30

**La Documentation Française*

29 quai Voltaire
75340 Paris Cedex 07

Created in 1945 at the end of the Second World War, La Documentation française is an original creation. Placed under the authority of the Secretary General of the government (office of the Prime Minister), it has extended its documentalist functions through commercial activity as a publisher. To this end, in 1979 it was granted commercial status and today almost 55% of its budget is represented by this. With more than 400 staff, it collects and distributes in various forms (books, periodicals, CD-ROM, data banks, "vidéotex" services) complete information on the present administrative, political, economic, social and cultural situation in France and abroad.

Née en 1945 au sortir de la seconde guerre mondiale, La Documentation française est une création originale. Direction d'administration centrale placée sous l'autorité du Secrétaire Général du Gouvernement (Services de Premier ministre), elle prolonge ses fonctions documentaires de service public par une activité commerciale d'éditeur et de diffuseur. A cette fin, elle a été dotée en 1979 d'un compte de commerce, qui représente aujourd'hui près de 55% de son budget. Forte de 400 agents, elle collecte et diffuse sous différentes formes (livres, périodiques, CD-ROM, banques de données, services vidéotex) une information complète et objective sur l'actualité administrative, politique, économique, sociale et culturelle en France et à l'étranger.

Directions/accès: Take RER La Muette to Musée d'Orsay.
Prendre RER La Muette à Musée d'Orsay.
Travel time/Temps: 30 min. Visit begins at 3:00

***Bibliothèque Mazarine**
23 quai Conti, 75006 Paris

This library, which was originally the private library of Cardinal Mazarin, was, in 1643, the first library to be opened to the "gens de lettres". Designed by the famous architect Le Vau, and situated in the left wing of the Palais de l'Institut, the Bibliothèque Mazarine is richly decorated in the XVIIIth century style and contains a large collection of manuscripts and early printed books in Latin and Italian, and works of French regional and local history. The Bibliothèque Mazarine is open to researchers, and it is also used by connoisseur readers who appreciate "luxe, calme et volupté".

Ancienne bibliothèque personnelle du cardinal Mazarin, elle fut la première à être ouverte à tous les "gens de lettres", en 1643. Oeuvre du célèbre architecte Louis le Vau et abritée dans l'aile gauche du Palais de l'Institut, la bibliothèque Mazarine présente une riche décoration intérieure du XVIIe siècle et renferme un important fonds de livres anciens en latin et en italien, et d'ouvrages d'histoire régionale et locale de la France. La bibliothèque Mazarine accueille les chercheurs mais aussi les lecteurs connaisseurs qui apprécient "luxe, calme et volupté".

Fonds: 500,000 volumes, 700 périodiques; 4,600 manuscrits; 2,370 incunables, livres anciens en latin et en italien; 1,500 microformes.

GROUP 2 September 5

***UNESCO**

7 place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris

The architectural plans for the UNESCO buildings were drawn up by Marcel Breur, Pierluigi Mervi and Bernard Zehrfuss. The buildings feature works by famous artists from all over the world: Picasso, Henry Moore, Miro, Calder, Afro, Tamasso, Apr, Bazaine, Giacometti, Lurçat, Le Corbusier, Soto, Childa. The collection in the library was begun in 1946; it is mainly in English and Spanish and deals with the following areas: education, science, and technology, social science and the humanities, communication, information, library and archive sciences, international relations.

Les plans de l'UNESCO ont été préparés par Marcel Breur, Pierluigi Mervi et Bernard Zehrfuss. La décoration est l'oeuvre d'éminents artistes du monde entier : Picasso, Henry Moore, Miro, Calder, Afro, Tamayo, Arp, Bazaine, Giacometti, Lurçat, Le Corbusier, Soto, Childa. Le fonds créé en 1946 et en large partie en anglais et espagnol touche les domaines suivants : éducation, sciences et technologie, sciences sociales et humaines, communication, information, bibliothèques et archives, relations internationales.

Fonds: 150,000 volumes; 1,500 périodiques; 60,000 microformes.

Directions/accès: Take metro La Murette, direction Pont de Sevres, to stop Michel-Ange Molitor. Change lines, direction Gare d'Austerlitz to stop Ségur.

Prendre le métro La Murette, direction Pont de Sevres, descendre à Michel-Ange Molitor. Prendre le métro en direction de Gare d'Austerlitz et descendre à Ségur.

Travel time/Temps: 25 min. Visit begins at 2:00

***Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève**
10 place du Panthéon, 75005 Paris

Public and university library, its origin, in place of the actual Pantheon, is the library of the abbaye Sainte-Geneviève. Ecclesiastical library, fragmented during the religion wars, rebuilt at the XVIIth century, preserved during the French Revolution, administered by the City of Paris, attached to the University of Paris in 1934, the Sainte-Geneviève library has kept its special status and character of public library.

Bibliothèque publique et universitaire de Paris, elle a pour origine, sur l'emplacement de l'actuel Panthéon, la Bibliothèque de l'abbaye Sainte-Geneviève. Bibliothèque ecclésiastique, dispersée pendant les guerres de religion, reconstruite au XVIIe siècle, préservée sous la Révolution, prise en charge par la Ville, et rattachée à l'Université Paris en 1934, la bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève a gardé un statut spécial et son caractère original de bibliothèque publique.

Fonds: (Créé en 1634) 3 millions de volumes; 3,350 périodiques; 5,000 manuscrits; 1,600 incunables; 60,000 estampes; 8,000 microformes.

***Institut International d'Administration Publique**
2 avenue de l'Observatoire
75006 Paris

The IIAP pursues a research program in the area of comparative public administration. Its international Centre of documentation on administrative science and public enterprise manages a database on this area.

The Institute contributes to the spreading of administrative and economic sciences and techniques to France and abroad.

L'IIAP poursuit un programme de recherche dans le domaine de l'Administration publique comparée. Son Centre international de documentation sur la science administrative et les entreprises publiques gère une base de données sur ce domaine.

L'Institut contribue à la diffusion des sciences et techniques administratives et économiques en France et à l'étranger.

Fonds: 30,000 de volumes; 400 périodiques

***ORSTOM/CEDID Centre de Documentation et d'Information Scientifique pour le Développement**
213 rue La Fayette, 75480 Paris Cedex 10

One of the first objectives of the documentation centre is to make available to the readers all the published works by scientists in the social sciences of ORSTOM, in anthropology, sociology, history, geography, economics, demography, archaeology, linguistics...

The library includes research works undertaken by the Institute and those undertaken in collaboration with Third World partners, according to the framework of co-operation. There are over 4,000 printed works, more than 200 collections of scientific periodicals and published information in France, Europe, the United States, and by African countries, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific.

Un des premiers objectifs de ce centre de documentation est de mettre à disposition des lecteurs tous les travaux publiés par les scientifiques en sciences sociales de l'ORSTOM, en anthropologie, sociologie, histoire, géographie, économie, démographie, archéologie, linguistique...

Dans la bibliothèque se reflète l'orientation des recherches menées sous la direction de l'Institut ou en collaboration avec des partenaires du tiers monde dans le cadre d'accords de coopération. Il y a plus de 4 000 ouvrages, 200 collection de périodiques scientifiques et d'information publiées en France, en Europe, aux Etats-Unis, et par des pays d'Afrique, d'Amérique latine et d'Asie-Pacifique.

Directions/accès: Take the metro La Muette, direction Mairie de Montreuil, to stop Chaussée d'Antin La Fayette. Change lines, direction La Courneuve, to stop Louis Blanc.

Prendre le métro La Muette, direction Mairie de Montreuil, descendre Chaussée d'Antin La Fayette. Prendre le métro en direction de La Courneuve et descendre à Louis Blanc.

Travel time/Temps: 1 hour Visit begins at 3:00

***IBISCUS**

1 bis avenue de Villars, 75007 Paris

Created in 1983, IBISCUS, the information system on developing countries, has been opened to the public since 1 October 1986. The information will be of interest to those mainly concerned with countries in the third world, starting with the nationals of these countries themselves. While numerous data banks exist that contain information on these countries, their approach is, as a general rule, on the basis of subject matter and sector (agriculture, health, ethnology). None of them provides systematic coverage from technical and economic points of view, nor do they make sufficient allowances for the specific needs of development experts involved in development action, financiers, administrations, companies, non-governmental organizations, etc. It was to fill this gap that the IBISCUS system was set up through the offices of the French Ministry of Development and Cooperation.

Le système d'information sur les pays en développement IBISCUS a été créé en 1983 et depuis 1986, il est accessible au public. Il intéressera plus d'une personne concernée par le Tiers Monde. En effet s'il existe de nombreuses bases de données détenant des informations sur ces pays, elles sont plutôt destinées à des spécialistes de tel ou tel secteur et sont d'un accès difficile pour les non documentalistes. IBISCUS au contraire souhaite satisfaire les besoins en informations et en communication des praticiens impliqués dans des actions de développement, financiers, entreprises, administrations, associations d'entraide, collectivités territoriales,...mais aussi des personnes qui, à titre individuel, s'intéressent à ces pays ou souhaitent d'une manière ou d'une autre oeuvrer à leur développement.



Mairie de St Ouen

Garibaldi

St Ouen

St Ouen

Porte de St Ouen

Porte de Clignancourt

Jules Joffrin

Simplon

Porte de la Chapelle

Corentin Cariou

Porte de Clichy

Guy Môquet

Lamarck-Caulaincourt

Marcadet Poissonniers

Marx Dormoy

Crimée

Brochant

Pont Cardinet

La Fourche

Funiculaire de Montmartre

Château-Rouge

La Chapelle

Riquet

Place de Clichy

Blanche

Abbesses

Barbès Rochechouart

Stalingrad

Jaurès

Villiers

Rome

Pigalle

Anvers

Gare du Nord

Louis Blanc

Bolivar

Europe

Liège

St Georges

Notre-Dame de Lorette

Château-Landon

Colonel Fabien

St Lazare

Trinité

Chaussée d'Antin

Le Peletier

Poissonnière

Gare de l'Est

St Augustin

Havre Caumartin

Richelieu-Drouot

Château d'Eau

Jacques Bonsergent

Belleville

Madeleine

Opéra

Quatre-Septembre

Bonne Nouvelle

Strasbourg-St Denis

Goncourt

Champs-Élysées Clémenceau

Concorde

Bourse

Sentier

Temple

Republique

Pyramides

Tuileries

Réaumur-Sébastopol

Arts et Métiers

Filles du Calvaire

Parmentier

Assemblée Nationale

Musée d'Orsay

Les Halles

Etienne Marcel

Rambuteau

St Ambroise

Solférino

Musée du Louvre

Louvre Rivoli

Châtelet (1)

St Sébastien-Froissart

Richard-Lenoir

Varenne

Pont Neuf

Châtelet

Les Halles

Hôtel de Ville

Chemin Vert

Châtelet

Châtelet

Châtelet

Châtelet

Châtelet

Châtelet

GROUP 4 September 5

***INSEE - Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques**
18 blvd. Adolphe Pinard, 75675 Paris Cedex 14

The National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies centralises and co-ordinates the statistical information in France. It publishes statistical data based on its own research, censuses and the analysis of administrative documents. It also collects statistical data originating from other institutes, particularly from governmental departments and professional organisations. INSEE publishes the national accounts of France in collaboration with the "Direction de la prévision".

L'institut national de la statistique et des études économiques occupe une place centrale dans le dispositif français d'information statistique. Il a une mission de coordination au sein de ce dispositif. Il établit lui-même des données chiffrées au moyen de ses enquêtes, de ses recensements et du dépouillement de certains documents administratifs. Il collecte, d'autre part, les statistiques établies par d'autres organismes et notamment par les divers départements ministériels et par les organisations professionnelles. Il élabore les comptes de la Nation en collaboration avec la Direction de la prévision.

Fonds: 150,000 volumes; 6,000 périodiques

Directions/accès: Take the PC bus exterior to Porte de Vanves.
Prendre le bus PC extérieur à Porte de Vanves.
Travel time/Temps: 40 min. Visit begins at 4:00

***OECD Development Centre/Centre de Développement de l'OCDE**

Demonstration of the MACROTHESAURUS/Démonstration du MACROTHESAURUS
94 rue Chardon Lagache, 75016 Paris

Created in 1963, the Centre's Library has built up a highly specialized collection of works on the social and economic problems of developing countries. At present, the collection comprises some 40,000 books and over 1,000 periodicals (published by government departments, international organisations and private institutions). The library receives documents and publications from the United Nations, the World Bank and other international and regional organisations.

Créée en 1963, la bibliothèque du Centre a rassemblé une collection hautement spécialisée de travaux sur les problèmes sociaux et économiques des pays en développement. A l'heure actuelle, elle comprend environ 40 000 ouvrages et plus de 1 000 périodiques (publiés par les services gouvernementaux, les organisations internationales et les institutions privées). La bibliothèque reçoit des documents et des publications des Nations Unies, de la Banque mondiale et d'autres organisations internationales et régionales.

Directions/accès: Take metro La Muette, direction Pont de Sevres, to stop Exelmans.
Prendre le métro, direction Pont de Sevres, et descendre à Exelmans.

Travel time/Temps: 15 min. Visit begins at 2:30

Working Papers

Development Research and Action Programme — DERAP

- D 1990: 5 JERVE, Alf Morten and Jon Naustdalslid
Research on local government in Tanzania. Bergen, August 1990, 27 p.
- D 1990: 6 EADI - European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes. Working Group on Information and Documentation
Documentation and library cooperation with Third World countries. Bergen, September 1990, 208 p.
- D 1990: 7 EADI - European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes. Working Group on Information and Documentation
Working Group on Information and Documentation Session at the 6th EADI General Conference. Bergen, September 1990, 93 p.
- D 1990: 8 WIIG, Arne
Klesekspor fra Bangladesh. Informasjonssvikt og kvalitetsfelle. Bergen, desember 1990, 60 s.
- D 1990: 9 WIIG, Arne
Produktifferensiering og kvalitet. Bergen, desember 1990, 89 s.
- D 1990: 10 BLEIE, Tone
Dowry and bridewealth presentations in rural Bangladesh: Commodities, gifts or hybrid forms? Bergen, December 1990, 165 p.
- D 1990: 11 SKRAMSTAD, Heidi
Prostitute as metaphor in gender construction; a Gambian setting. Bergen, December 1990, 25 p.
- D 1990: 12 SKRAMSTAD, Heidi
The fluid meanings of female circumcision in a multiethnic context in Gambia. Distribution of knowledge and linkages to sexuality. Bergen, December 1990, 21 p.
- D 1990: 13 GEISLER, Gisela
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