



INFORMATION SOCIETY DIVISION

***INFORMATION***  
***INFORMATICS***  
***TELEMATICS***

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# EDITORIAL

## Information Literacy : A New Frontier

by *Philippe Quéau*  
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**I**NFORMATION literacy is essential in an ever-growing and complex information Society. Being literate in a world where the written word dominates not only requires good reading and writing skills, but also the ability to think critically, to read between the lines, to share ideas and to build collective action. Literacy in the Information Society also demands these skills but additionally, requires new mental and operational capabilities, enabling us to deal successfully with a highly fluid, evasive and yet strongly – though sometimes invisibly – structured environment. Not being able to attain the right level of literacy implies some degree of alienation, a dispossession of the right to fully and meaningfully participate in society. Conversely, being in command of the right mental tools engenders empowerment, the capacity to act and to think for oneself and for the common good.

Information literacy, or the lack of it, is perhaps the most crucial facet of the so-called digital divide. But because it has very deep roots in the social and economic inequalities that govern access to education, it is much harder to solve than the provision of access to networks or to hardware.

In a globalized world, any divide is a threat to all. It must therefore be high on any global political agenda that strives to bridge the various divides that menace us. Among these, the Literacy Divide seems to me the crucial one to address and fix, because it is a precondition for self-empowerment.

I see four aspects to Information Literacy:

- the ability to access meaningful information (and exclude garbage)
- the ability to develop a capacity for personal evaluation and critical thinking
- the ability to participate in the public or collective information spaces
- the ability to memorize and nurture roots.

Access to information carries technical, economic, but also legal, cultural, societal and political implications. In a given socio-economic context, developing access skills implies having the best possible command of the necessary tools and knowledge to get essential information. There is a



need for technical literacy, ranging from understanding the hidden layers of software to taking advantage of new standards like MPEG 7 or MPEG 21<sup>1</sup>. MPEG 7 is a “multimedia content description interface” capable of describing all types of information, from audio to video, from speech to 3D graphics, irrespective of technology and storage support. MPEG 21 goes even further and provides a “multimedia framework to enable transparent and augmented use of multimedia resources across a wide range of networks and devices.”

But a higher political level of action is also necessary. For instance, reinforcement of the public domain of information, a global information and software commons, is beneficial to access, as well as the adoption of laws, like the US Freedom of information Act, that oblige governments to provide access to publicly-funded data, information, reports.

Critical thinking is nowadays even more necessary than it used to be. Why? Because of speed, mass and force. The information society is now too powerful, too big, too fast. As a counterweight, each of us must develop personal standards of thought. Critical thinking is crucial to the

1. See MPEG Home Page, <http://www.cselt.it/mpeg>

survival of self and democracy. It implies, of course, an education policy resolutely oriented towards building independent-minded people. But there are also legal and political aspects. Consider for instance the presence or the absence of fair-use legal exemptions that allow for free use of quotes to comment upon copyrighted works, or the political enforcement of freedom of speech.

The ability to participate in the public or collective space is an essential condition for a sound democracy. It is also the only way to contribute to the new agora that the globalization process expects from us all. This is easy to say, but difficult to implement. Just take as an example the issue of multilingualism in the information space.

The ability to build memory, both personal and collective, is maybe the most important one. It has often been noted that our civilization will, paradoxically, leave far fewer traces of itself than, say

the Hittites, due to the impermanence of its storage tools. Archiving and retrieving information – while preserving privacy – are key aspects to building a common memory, reliable and independent of ever-increasing revisionisms. A civilization without memory has no future. It is not just a question of techniques. Our vision of our past is our guarantee of the future. It must therefore rely on certain values: fidelity, authenticity, but also choice. Making no choice in setting up an archive is like making the most dreadful one, and is equivalent to considering garbage as valuable as pearls.

UNESCO, together with the US National Commission on Libraries and Information Services, is organizing a consultation process on these issues and intends to provide guidelines and draft action plan to deal with this strategic issue to the World Summit on Information Society (Geneva, December 2003).

## INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMME

### Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme



- Draft Rules of Procedure
- Functioning of the Council
- Report on recent UNESCO activities in the area of ICTs
- Draft Recommendation concerning the



**T**HE Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) will hold its First Session at UNESCO Headquarters from 15 to 17 April 2002. Among the items on the agenda are:

### Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace

- UNESCO and international ICT initiatives (UN ICT Task Force, World Summit on the Information Society).

The 31st Session of the General Conference elected the 26 members to serve on the IFAP, Council/Committee. According to the Decision 162 EX/Decision 3.7.2 of the Executive Board amending the Statutes of IFAP the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme, thirteen members will serve until the close of the 32nd session of the General Conference.

The list of the twenty-six members is as follows:

Bahrain, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, France, Germany, India, Iraq, Japan, Madagascar, Mauritania, Nigeria, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

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## Draft Recommendation on Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace

**A**FTER an intensive debate on the draft Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, the 31st General Conference invited the Director-General to continue consultations with experts and update the document by organizing an experts meeting in March 2002. It also recommended obtaining professional inputs from international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations so that the redrafted text could be submitted to the 165th session of the Executive Board for comments prior to its resubmission to the 32nd session of the General Conference and to the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva in 2003.

Delegations to the General Conference stressed their conviction that UNESCO must play a leading international role in promoting

access to public domain information and in encouraging multilingualism and the expression of cultural diversity on global information networks. The importance of multilingualism in ensuring universal access to information, particularly to information that falls into the public domain, can only be obtained from the involvement of as wide a cross section of the community as possible. This will be achieved through consultations with the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) and the private-sector.

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## International Symposium On “Language In Cyberspace” 26–27 September 2001

**U**NESCO has given high priority to ensuring a balanced use of languages in cyberspace and has consequently been promoting measures to achieve this goal. In response to a request from the Korean National Commission and the Cyber Commission Academic Society of Korea, the Organization sponsored the International Symposium On “Language in Cyberspace” from 26 to 27 September 2001. Its objectives were to raise awareness of the significance of issues related to multilingualism in cyberspace at national, regional and international level and to seek international cooperation on these topics.





The conclusions of the symposium recommended that countries in the Asia-Pacific region undertake a number of actions related to the following issues:

- Policy challenges of multilingualism: bridging the language divide
- Content challenges of multilingualism: digitizing and providing e-contents

The major findings are summarized as:

#### **1. Policy challenges of multilingualism: bridging the language divide**

- Knowledge available in cyberspace is too often limited to the use of languages known to the user and gives rise to the "language divide". Expertise and resources must be mobilized in the Asia-Pacific region to formulate and implement a coherent strategy to address this issue, by the use of vernacular languages and the development of translation technologies, not to mention other means of communication.
- The respect and use of all languages in cyberspace should be reaffirmed in various formally adopted national and international texts, and compatible international norms and principles should be adopted to increase their accessibility on-line.

#### **2. Technological challenges of multilingualism: ensuring language interoperability**

- It is important that people at large have access to the information available on the networks in their mother tongue. Countries of the Asia-Pacific region must be encouraged to support the development of multimedia community centres that would reach all segments of society in their local language;
- However, ensuring the "intercommunication" of languages on networks is an area for which technological solutions are being actively sought. Numerous research and development projects are being carried out to ensure automatic quality translation of languages and machine use and recognition of different scripts.

#### **3. Content challenges of multilingualism: Digitizing and providing e-contents**

- Increasing the number of languages and scripts on-line and the creation of multilingual e-contents on websites will ensure that language diversity is broadened. All public domain information (laws, regulations, statistics, etc.) locally relevant and informative to the citizens for their health, security and participation in public life should be accessible in the national and/or local language. Countries of the Asia-Pacific region should adopt programmes to develop these freely accessible websites.
- Moreover, a great part of the national physical, written and oral heritage which is already freely accessible by all should be produced in a digitized form and made available through the application of ICTs in the various local languages.
- In this regard, countries should mobilize resources to assist their major cultural institutions such as libraries, archives and museums in preserving and making their collections accessible with appropriate measures of security in several languages on the global information networks, through multilingual portal conception and digitization.

#### **4. International challenges: promoting and disseminating policy experiences**

- A reliable international comparative survey on the use of languages on the Internet and more particularly on the related policies, norms and standards adopted in different countries is much needed. International organizations, in particular UNESCO, should work out a plan for the collection and sharing of such information. This could be achieved through the mobilization to collect, maintain and diffuse information on the multilingual resources and services produced in each country and on existing policies related to these resources and to disseminate information on the best practices.

UNESCO needs to support mechanisms preventing exploitation of knowledge derived from indigenous language e-contents.

*For more information please contact Mr Montviloff at the above address.*

# LIBRARIES

## IFLA/UNESCO Pan African-Arab Conference on Public and School Librarianship

SOME 50 experts from 25 African and Arab countries from Anglophone, Francophone, Lusophone and Arabophone librarianship traditions, were invited to the *Ecole des Sciences de l'Information* to attend the conference held in Rabat, Morocco, from 19 to 21 September 2001. The conference provided a good opportunity for participants to exchange experience and gain better understanding of the latest developments in public and school librarianship in the new information era and to become better acquainted with the IFLA/UNESCO Public and School Library Manifestos, the new Public Libraries Guidelines, the draft School Library Guidelines and the Information for All Programme.

The primary objective of the Conference was to present the IFLA/UNESCO Public and School Library Manifestos and respective Guidelines to the African and Arab professional librarians who work on or are experienced in policy formulation or training in public and school librarianship. It was a useful opportunity for a review of the state of public and school libraries in the various countries through the presentation of country reports. Participants debated issues which need to be addressed by African and Arab countries, for the Manifestos and Guidelines to facilitate development of the public and the school library systems and meet the needs of communities in the various countries.

The participants separated into Anglophone and Francophone linguistic and librarianship traditions to discuss defined topical public and school librarianship issues before meeting in a plenary discussion on Lifelong Learning: Bridging the Digital Divide and Planning for the Future. The report on the Conference will highlight thoughts that were put forward at this session considering the different influences affecting the practice of information delivery to communities, participants considered the following areas to be fundamental to planning of libraries if they are to be effective in the development of an information society.

### Information as the Core Business of Libraries

The main content of the library is information and not the book. The public library and the school library form a community of users, whose

knowledge creation needs are met through the information provided by the library. Partnerships between the public and school libraries are essential if communities' needs for information are to be met seamlessly and effectively, since the majority of public library users in Africa are of school-going age. Librarians need to utilize all opportunities to put the library in the centre of the world of information and knowledge.

### Development of Library Associations

Bridging the gap in African and Arab contexts begins with the self empowerment of library professionals through the establishment of Library Associations and their strengthening into efficient and effective organizations, whose members share the core values of their profession: the right of all individuals to information. It is therefore essential to:

- Sensitize governments and communities to the fact that the school library is fundamental to national economic development. School libraries should be provided with access to digitized information at affordable cost in order to facilitate independent learning and the democratization of information;
- Influence policies and practice in teacher training institutions to support and facilitate development of attitudes and provide skills through which teachers appreciate the usage of information resources in their facilitation of learning processes;
- Promote the teaching of information literacy skills in schools as a basis for life long learning.

### Human Resource Development

The development of human resources must be undertaken to bridge the digital divide through the provision of sustained access to local content as well as the elaboration of policies leading to the democratization of access to information.

Librarians must develop an appreciation of IT capabilities and organize themselves to exploit available ICT facilities for the creation of local information content. It would be useful to establish a niche through which the application of librarians' expertise and knowledge organization skills within sectoral applications and in support

of the rural areas becomes a central area of professional practice, and provides access to local content to the global information environment.

Librarians should also research capabilities to facilitate needs analysis, strategic planning and iterative evaluation of services and exploitation of factual data for enhancement of information services and advocacy activities.

### Cooperation and Networks

Cooperation among librarians should be promoted through the use of ICTs for networking of sectoral information sources through listservs which are linked to existing regional infrastructures such as COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, etc.

### Marketing

Librarians agreed there was a need to commit themselves to marketing the UNESCO Manifestos for the Public and School Libraries and the respective Guidelines to librarians as well as to stakeholders. When applicable, this would involve providing translations into local languages.

### Training and Library Schools

Librarians, IFLA and UNESCO urge Library Schools to teach the principles defined in the Manifestos and the core values of the profession, to facilitate the necessary paradigm shifts in attitude and in practice.

### Post-War Rehabilitation of National Information Infrastructures

Considering the devastation of a large number of African countries by wars, librarians should advocate that national programmes which are supported by international organizations such as IFLA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP etc., assist in the rehabilitation of national information infrastructures and culture, as well as facilitating the setting up of digital libraries to preserve and conserve local collections and indigenous information sources and systems.

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## 67th IFLA General Conference

**A**TTEENDANCE at IFLA's 67th General Conference reached the record number of 5,330 participants from 150 countries. This confirms even more the role of IFLA as the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. This was further emphasized through the Conference theme 'Libraries and Librarians: Making a Difference in the Knowledge Age', in which over 160 papers were presented.

Of particular interest to UNESCO was the Conference of Directors of National Libraries, (CDNL). The CDNL is growing in number and significance, and consists of the heads of the national libraries of more than 100 countries. It meets annually to discuss issues of mutual interest, which include library legislation, legal deposit of publications, preservation of cultural heritage including digital heritage, bibliographic databases, electronic publishing and utilization of new information technology. It also undertakes projects to help national libraries adapt to technological change and play their role in developing information infrastructures in their countries, often in

collaboration with major national libraries and partners such as IFLA, UNESCO and the European Union.

This year, its Agenda contained several items relating to cooperation with UNESCO. These include 'Guidelines on Legal Deposit', the new 'Information for All' Programme and the Slave Trade Archives project.

The meeting reviewed progress made by the CDNL Committee on Digital Preservation, a small working group set up to discuss technical issues related to the preservation of digital heritage and make recommendations. This was in pursuance of NEDLIB, a European project on preserving digital heritage. Supporting the mission of national deposit libraries to ensure that electronic publications of the present can be used now and in the future. The results of the project suggest mainly two strategies for long-term preservation of digital heritage: the Emulation Strategy (emulation of both hardware and software) and the Migration Strategy (converting regularly records to new formats and media).

The CDNL Committee also submitted a draft



resolution to the General Conference calling on Member States to underscore the principles of digital preservation and to support national memory organizations, such as national libraries and archives, in their efforts to preserve our digital

heritage. An awareness raising campaign will also be launched in close cooperation with UNESCO on this issue.

*For additional information please contact Mr A. Abid at the address above.*

## The Public Library Service: IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Development

**T**HIS publication also was launched on the occasion of the IFLA Conference in Boston. The guidelines have been framed to provide assistance to librarians in any situation to develop an effective public library service meeting the needs of their local community.

A distinctive feature of these guidelines is the inclusion of examples of provision from around the world. They provide snapshots of what is

happening in public libraries in many different countries and a glimpse of imaginative solutions to specific challenges. These guidelines are essential reading for everyone involved in the provision of public library service. They will become an essential reference tool for public library development and planning.

*Please see the above address for additional information.*

## Kay Raseroka Wins Presidential Election

**K**AY Raseroka, Director of Library Services at the University of Botswana, has been voted President of IFLA. She began her two-year term as President-elect during the IFLA Conference in Boston this August. She will succeed Christine Deschamps as President in August 2003 for a two-year term.

This was the first time an IFLA President had been elected by postal ballot, under the new Statutes adopted by council in Jerusalem last year.

Speaking about her election, Ms Raseroka said: "I am honoured and deeply appreciative of the confidence that my colleagues in IFLA have shown in me. Above all I believe the IFLA Membership has demonstrated its belief in the global nature of our profession by electing a candidate from Africa. I pledge to give of my best in all of my responsibilities."

UNESCO joins other colleagues throughout the world in congratulating Ms Raseroka on her appointment.

# TELEMATICS

## New Research Challenges for Technology supported Learning

**E**-LEARNING has become crucial to education and dissemination of knowledge, especially in the increasingly more important context of long-life learning in a multicultural environment. In these circumstances, an analysis of the long process of evolution leading from computer-assisted education to the present status of e-learning shows that further improvement must be made to facilitate access to knowledge through multilingual learning content, functionally rich and easy-

to-use learning systems, and knowledge-based data mining tools.

E-learning concepts and tools are spreading both in developed and developing countries, although not at the same pace and the same conditions. Personalized access to learning environments is a must, taking into consideration the extreme variety of cultural, economic, and technological situations of prospective learners.

One of the greatest challenges of e-learning is

how to disseminate high quality education and training that is valued by public authorities, education and training institutions, employers and learners. Many universities and other learning institutions have taken initiatives to ensure that their e-teaching facilities and programmes lead to recognized diplomas. These institutions have clearly demonstrated the feasibility of inclusion of e-learning in their curricula.

Various modalities can be envisaged for this purpose, ranging from internal recognition to inter-institution recognition of e-training, and from self-training validation to a diploma corresponding to an e-training curriculum. The questions and choices concerning these modalities include some which can be partially answered with e-learning technology, such as those deriving from the confidentiality of examination procedures, the authentication of learners at their exams and the confidentiality of their test results.

Three principal R&D thrusts could be considered to meet the challenge of accessible and quality e-learning:

- the development of new functionalities for learning systems
- the quality improvement of learning contents for e-learning services
- the facilitation of learning content and knowledge mining

### Development of new functionalities for learning systems

The challenge for a research and development programme on technology supported learning is to respond to this large range of situations by developing, validating and disseminating new e-learning systems which support modern concepts of learning and are economically viable. The major target audience for such systems will initially continue to be higher education, including teacher training, and vocational education, but at the same time the means to extend the benefits to other learners including basic education should be explored and tested.

A large number of e-learning platforms have been created based on a number of functionalities for teachers, tutors and learners. Most of them are Web based and designed in large part to reproduce paper-based training material in electronic form. Few of these platforms really use the interactive capabilities of technology, for example in modelling and simulation for teaching and learning purposes.

New teaching and learning functionalities should be introduced in e-teaching and e-learning platforms so that the learner is more actively involved in the

learning process. Some of these functions and platforms may require remote and local technical resources and communication facilities to be mainly provided through networks not yet available in rural and disadvantaged communities or in developing countries. But new technical and operational organizations should also be designed, tested and evaluated, based not only on the Internet, but also on off-line technologies so that synchronous and asynchronous data transactions can be merged within the same learning process, so that only a small amount of data has to be transferred in real time. The utilization of off-line media, such as DVD, offers great potential for storage of multilingual and interactive training material in a form which can be disseminated in locations where high speed networks are not implemented.

### Quality improvement of learning contents for e-learning services

Wide availability of a diversity of educational content is at the heart of the problem of quality improvement of e-learning. To facilitate such access, research and development on e-learning applications could be undertaken in the following areas:

- Design, development and evaluation of methodologies and tools to improve and to measure the quality of e-learning contents, to be put at the disposal of training material designers and producers, with emphasis on methodologies and tools based on collaboration among individual actors and institutions;
- Design and development of multilingual distributed, shared repositories of high quality e-training materials accessible on line, on other electronic media (CD-ROM, DVD, etc.), or as on-demand hard copy with a view to improving the offer to learners and facilitating inter-institution e-learning cooperation in exchange of contents and mutual accreditation.

### Facilitating learning content and knowledge mining

Access to learning content and tools by individuals and institutions depends on their ability to identify and locate them, which is made easier by standardizing their descriptions using metadata similar to the bibliographic descriptions of library holdings.

Standardization must be introduced at different levels to facilitate multilingualism and the use of different alphabets, the reusability of components and modules, the interchange of learning modules, access to research facilities and teaching infrastructure.

Such standardization is also required for the efficiency of search engines and data mining, especially because of the rapid increase in the number of e-learning material libraries, their geographical dissemination, and the large variety of content and cultural origin. Data mining concepts should be adapted and applied to e-learning to overcome discrepancies in data description and to facilitate access to the corresponding e-learning materials.

In this area, two major lines of action could be

considered: on the one hand, the continuation of the definition of standards specific to e-learning, similar to those of digital libraries, and to specific data mining tools, and on the other hand, the development of a cartography of e-learning materials in the world.

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## Public Service Telematics Infrastructure in Ghana

**G**HANA and UNESCO have successfully completed a US \$250,000 project empowering Ghanaian public sector institutions to employ telematics services and to develop a local access infrastructure. The project, funded by the World Bank's infoDev programme, was implemented by the Ghana National Committee on Internet Connectivity (GNCIC), a consortium of public service institutions operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Education.

The project started in 1998 as a follow-up to UNESCO-supported Internet training workshops and a national survey and conference on Internet usage in the public service area in Ghana. It has established a pilot public sector Internet backbone inter-connecting four of the five main university campuses in Accra, Cape Coast, Kumasi and Winneba since May 2001.

In addition to founding academic and research

users, the network is open to access by libraries, schools, community telecentres, government agencies and other public service institutions in Ghana, of which 100 will be provided with free Internet access for a pilot period of one year while the mechanisms for network governance and sustainability are being finalized.

Two internet workshops were organized by the GNCIC to train employees in academic and research institutions, government ministries and other public sector organizations, secondary schools and some private sector institutions. Over one hundred persons responsible for computing in their organizations were trained during the workshop.

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## CD-ROM Anthology for development in the Sahel

**U**NESCO has updated the "SAHEL point DOC" CD-ROM, produced as part of its "PUBLIC@" series. The CD-ROM contains approximately 730 documents in French on development in the Sahel, documents, comprising nearly 60,000 pages on various themes, such as agriculture, social and human development, State and public information.

Following a resolution of the General Conference at its 29th session requesting UNESCO to facilitate access to information in the public domain, as well as to make efforts to increase the diversity of



content on the information highways with particular emphasis on African content, in 1998, UNESCO

initiated "PUBLIC@", a collection of electronic publications. "SAHEL point DOC", a digital anthology on the Sahel developmental issues, was the first produced in 1999.

The second edition involves the same countries as in the first: Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. This project is largely driven by user demand, as defined by local partners identified in the initial stages of the project. A similar CD-ROM has been published, in English and Kiswahili, focussing on East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda).

The CD-ROMs contain various kinds of documents such as practical and technical guides, technical sheets, proceedings and reports, etc., coming from the immense stock of local and international information and literature dedicated to development problems in Africa. The CD-ROMs contents are from the public domain, that

is to say without copyright, or in some cases, the rights were released by the owners for inclusion in the collection. They are distributed free of charge, particularly to public information centres such as national libraries and community telecentres.

UNESCO is cooperating with the University of Waikato (New Zealand), which has developed the interface software, Greenstone, used to build these African digital libraries, to enhance the Greenstone open source software to enable it to be easily used by any potential public service user or library institution in developing digital library applications on CD-ROM or the Web. This software will be made widely available free of charge by UNESCO.

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## UNESCO Publishes Community Telecentre Cookbook for Africa

UNESCO has published "The Telecentre Cookbook for Africa: Recipes for Self-sustainability". The publication, which is also available online, is a step-by-step guide on implementing community-based telecentres in an African environment, complete with examples of telecentre infrastructure, baseline questionnaires, business plans etc.

The Cookbook was written in cooperation with telecentre practitioners and experts in Africa and abroad. With the Guide, UNESCO aims to evaluate and integrate the experience gained through the various telecentre programmes in Africa, including the Multipurpose Community Telecentres sponsored by IDRC, ITU and UNESCO/DANIDA, and to share it with a wide range of African communities.

"The aim of this manual is to draw upon existing knowledge and materials and adapt them to the African context in a style, which is user-friendly and makes few assumptions about the user's knowledge", say the authors. "This manual is aimed at any person or organization that is interested in setting up a community-based Telecentre, such as a telecom operator, an NGO, a community group, a local government or a small business."

Printed copies are available from UNESCO field offices in Africa or from the Communication and Information documentation centre. The French version will be published shortly.

*For additional information please contact Mr John Rose at the above address.*

## UNESCO Explores Use of ICTs to Preserve Silk Roads Culture

THE Digital Silk Roads Project came closer to reality with a 3-day International Symposium held in Tokyo, Japan from 11 to 13 December 2001. Organized by UNESCO, the National Institute of Informatics of Japan and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, the symposium allowed specialists and scholars to explore the possibilities of using digital technologies for the preservation and

maintenance of cultural artworks, masterpieces and archaeological sites and monuments in the so-called Silk Road countries.

It was designed as the first step to tap the innumerable resources of Cultural and ICT institutions and centres by converging their forces to find better ways of preserving cultural heritage of the so-called "Silk Roads Countries" in the framework of UNESCO's Digital Silk Roads initiative.



The Digital Silk Roads initiative is based on UNESCO's observation that invaluable cultural testimonies in the Silk Roads region have been rapidly deteriorating over the past centuries. Applying adequate preservation and conservation techniques has become a high priority for the Silk Roads community. The Organization has devised as a solution, closer cooperation between the Silk Roads countries in order to guarantee the preservation of their masterpieces in the digital era.

The preliminary objectives of the initiative are to: improve IT capabilities in Silk Roads countries by establishing a worldwide Digital Silk Roads network and Digital Image System (DIS) centres to digitize cultural heritage objects, and training of trainers, thus opening up a new avenues in exploiting new digital technologies for cultural heritage preservation in Asia, Europe and Africa; restore selected cultural artworks and masterpieces; to reconstruct archaeological sites/monuments virtually, by using new technologies such as the DIS technology in the region; build a world museum of digital images in Japan as UNESCO's hub for digital images preservation as well as national digital museums covering their artwork images in Silk Roads countries; promote intercultural dialogue among civilizations.

The Symposium aimed to identify methodologies for realizing the Digital Silk Roads project that provide support for both preservation and intercultural dialogue through ICT applications, for example, the preservation in digital archives and possible reproduction for display, of the content of certain types of Silk Roads artwork.

The Symposium first examined past and current initiatives including UNESCO's work in the framework of the "Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue" project which lasted from 1988 to 1997. The huge variety of the cultural heritage of the Silk Roads region was also underlined. Digital opportunities were of course also at stake, such as the possibilities to create a real



*Mr Abdul Waheed Khan, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information*

"Virtual work heritage". Other possibilities raised included the creation of an inventory on the Internet, and multimedia digital art galleries. The proceedings of the meetings should be available by the end of February 2002.

The participants in the Symposium endorsed UNESCO's Digital Silk Roads initiative, stressing the need for follow-up in key areas such as networking of leading cultural institutions and centres in the region, setting up Digital Image System centres (DISC) in selected countries, and creating national and international digital image museums of cultural heritage.

The meeting was a success, bringing together some 340 experts in Cultural heritage and professionals in ICTs from over 50 countries and organizations.

Apart from formulating future orientation of the Digital Silk Roads initiative, the Symposium also issued the Tokyo Declaration below:

### **Tokyo Declaration On Digital Silk Roads 13 December 2001**

**S**CHOLARS and specialists met in Tokyo on the occasion of the International Symposium on Digital Silk Roads from 11 to 13 December 2001. They exchanged and shared experiences and views about the recent experiments and its future needs, notably in the appropriate applications of new technologies to culture, and close relationship and reflection between new technologies and cultures. They unanimously noted the following:

1. The Routes known as the Silk Roads have been serving East-West trades and cultural exchanges since unknown past to the present, enriching cultures and ideas and ensuring plural- and multi-identity. The Silk Roads, with many cities, villages and their surroundings along them, have also carried, and passed on to the present generation, rich memories, records and cultural and natural heritage,



which all together have helped continuing creations. These records and cultural and natural heritage, however, have been constantly damaged and dispersed by natural and human-made calamities to the ultimate losses of heritage of humanity.

2. It is natural and appropriate that the irreplaceable heritage and traditions of the Silk Roads, which are irreplaceable cultural and natural heritage of humanity, should be further enriched and succeeded (inherited) to the future generations. In retrospective, UNESCO successfully carried out the Silk Road Project for the benefit of inter-cultural dialogues from 1988 to 1997. As a result, the United Nations declared the World Year of Inter-Cultural Dialogue in 2001.
3. Digital New and Multi-media Technologies have capacities in storing large volume of multi-faceted records and information and they can facilitate barrier free communications world-

wide. They can also easily be used for negative human actions, such as international terrorism, which should be avoided by all possible means.

Finally, an idea of the 21st Century Silk Roads, namely the Digital Silk Roads, can be opportune to explore further possibilities of close collaboration between New Technologies and Cultures with a view to facilitating and promoting effective multi- and trans-cultural exchanges, contributions, sharing and coexistence, among others, keeping and further developing diverse languages and traditions, in the public and private domains. The use of and easy access to New Technologies should further be encouraged for the protection and promotion of the common heritage of humanity, e.g. the World Heritage and their authenticity.

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## AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVES

### Archiving, restoration and new methods of recording

UNESCO was invited to deliver the keynote address at the Audio Engineering Society 20th International conference held in Budapest, Hungary from 5 to 7 October 2001. Its theme was "Archiving, restoration and new methods of recording". AES has long been associated with developments to preserve the legacy of sound recordings to make them accessible for present and future generations.

UNESCO shares similar goals and presented its view through a presentation entitled *Promoting Global Access to the Audiovisual Memory of the*

*World*, an overview of the Organization's action in preserving the audiovisual heritage of humanity.

The Conference examined the latest developments relating to carrier degradation, perspectives brought about by technological advances as well as strategies to promote preservation, digitization and restoration of audiovisual recordings.

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### New NGO

THE Southeast Asia Pacific Audiovisual Archive Association (SEAPAVAA) has been admitted to operational relations with UNESCO. SEAPAVAA has worked closely with the Organization since its creation in 1996 and has undertaken a number of activities in the region in the field of audiovisual archiving in cooperation with UNESCO. Most recently in November 2001, SEAPAVAA, with funding from UNESCO,

organized a regional workshop in Suva, Fiji to, inter alia, develop a comprehensive overview of the state of archiving in the Pacific Region and to prepare a policy document outlining the resources and skills required for the development of archiving in the subregion.

*For more information please contact Mrs J. Springer at the above address.*

# ARCHIVES

## Standard for Archives Access in Electronic Environment

**I**N response to a UNESCO request, the International Council on Archives (ICA) has put forward recommendations on the development of a standardized tool to encode archival finding aids, based on the application of already existing international archival standards (ISAD(G) and ISAAR(CPF)). ICA contracted experts whose report outlining their findings, propose the development of a modular, open source software tool that could be used by archives worldwide to control their holdings through standardized descriptive data.

Individual archives would combine their data with that of other institutions in regional, national or international networks. Researchers could access this data either via a stand-alone computerized system or over the Internet. The suggested model for this software is CDS/ISIS, UNESCO's software package for libraries, which has been widely used in developing countries for many years. The software,

with appropriate supporting documentation, would be freely available via UNESCO's and ICA's websites and on CD-ROM.

The report of the expert group, entitled "Ad Hoc Committee for Development of a Standardized Tool for Encoding Archival Finding Aids" includes:

(a) a preliminary design model for a prototype system for encoding archival finding aids based on the application of ISAD(G) and ISAAR(CPF),

(b) cost estimates associated with personnel necessary to finalize the functional requirements of the preliminary design model and the development and delivery of a working prototype.

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## First Film Listed on Memory of the World Register

**F**RITZ Lang's masterpiece Metropolis is the very first motion picture to be added to the Memory of the World Register. It is a testimony of the German silent film era with an innovative style and a unique artistic expression. The film is one of the great works of the cinema and has had profound worldwide impact, as it contains one of the first elaborate urban imaginations of the 20th century.

After its première in Berlin, on 10 January 1927 in Berlin, the film was substantially shortened from its original length of 4,189 metres and duration of approximately 153 minutes.

Building on a fragmentary copy of one of the original negatives held by the German film Archives, and copies held elsewhere, the Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau Foundation produced for the Berlin Film Festival in February 2001, a recon-

struction that comes as close to the original as possible.

This new digitized version nominated for the Memory of the World Register by the Foundation, was approved by the International Advisory Committee who agreed with exceptional value of this film and called for it to be protected for the benefit of all humanity.

In a ceremony held in Munich in November 2001 to mark this achievement, UNESCO presented an official certificate to the Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau Foundation.

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# INFOYOUTH PROGRAMME

## GIFFONI International Film Festival For Youth

**T**HE film festival was organized as part of the follow-up to Third World Summit on Media for Children. It was attended by the President of the European Children's Television Centre (ECTC), as well as the President, the Executive Director and several representatives of the International Centre of Films for Children and Young People (CIFEJ). It was an occasion to review various concrete initiatives, and to define the respective role of each organization in the follow-up action plan to the Summit.

Cooperation between INFOYOUTH and the CIFEJ was initiated in 1992 and with the ECTC in 1994. This has had a tremendous impact on the Programme and was instrumental in the organization of the first meeting of Central and Eastern European countries – Balkan Encounter on TV for Children and Youth. The substantial commitment of all parties has been important in shaping the way youth information and media policies and programmes are dealt with at regional level.

In recent years, there has been a shift towards improving the quality of youth-oriented contents and access of youth to audio-visual means and ICTs. UNESCO has given priority to:

- Internet networking at national and regional levels to facilitate collaboration in coproduction, exchange of available TV programmes and on-line marketing.
- Introduction of ICTs to strengthen networking of producers, experts and researchers, since regional networking is still in its early stages.

The overall goal and main challenge is to further mobilize decision-makers, representatives of broadcasting companies, film producers, TV programme directors, media research and training specialists in order to ensure the sustainable empowerment of children and youth through the design and implementation of appropriate policies and programmes focusing on using new media as a tool in developing quality non-formal education schemes. This would also reinforce the capacity to disseminate messages reflecting the main values promoted by UNESCO through the various audio-visual products destined for youth.

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## Fourth World Youth Forum of the United Nations System and Working Group on Education and Information and Communication Technologies

**T**HE forum was held in Dakar, Senegal from 6 to 9 September 2001 and was organized by the United Nations Youth Unit with support from the Government of Senegal. The attendance of some 390 young participants, representing more than 120 countries provided UNESCO with a prime opportunity of disseminating information on the INFOYOUTH Network.

During the forum a Working Group on Education and ICT was co-convened by the Dutch National Youth Council and UNESCO. Its objective was to explore how information and communication technology can contribute, in formal, non-formal and informal contexts, to the education and empowerment of young people. The scope of the discussion was divided into three

major modalities of action – capacity building, policy advocacy (including regional strategies) and awareness raising.

The main goal was to prepare a strategy in the field of Education and ICT, for approval by the plenary. With the Declaration of the New Technologies Day adopted during the Third World Summit on Media for Children (see Vol. 29, No. 1), these documents on Youth and ICTs, provide a sound basis for discussion on the role and aspirations of young people in the Information Society during the forthcoming World Summit on Information Society (2003).

*For more information please see the above address.*

## First Regional Conference for Eastern and Central Europe on "Voluntary Service Organizations and Aids Prevention" 23-26 September 2001 Tallinn, Estonia



**S**OME 30 participants, representing 15 countries from the region, attended the conference, organized by the Estonian member of Eastlinks/INFOYOUTH with support from the Estonian National Commission for UNESCO. Its main goal was to create the conditions for the practical involvement of voluntary service organizations from Eastern and Central Europe in the national and international HIV/AIDS preventive effort in favour of and with young people.

Eastlinks members and partner organizations, activists and volunteers, along with specialists and experts, were invited to propose and examine new proposals, ideas and methodologies in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention by means of voluntary service. More specifically the Conference sought to:

- raise awareness of the problems of HIV/AIDS prevention in the region;
- discuss possible ways of promoting efficient

preventive work as well as concrete steps for the involvement of voluntary service organizations;

- identify existing good practices from service organizations and specialist bodies working in the area of HIV/AIDS preventive education;

- develop a common strategy and elaborate a follow-up action plan that would be used to mobilize young volunteers in concrete measures for containment of the disease.

The Conference examined possibilities for the use of new ICTs by youth organizations and young people in the design and implementation of HIV/AIDS preventive schemes. In seeking to mobilize voluntary service organizations to contribute more actively to the overall AIDS prevention effort undertaken in the region, an overview depicted the real dangers especially for the youth population, one of the most vulnerable risk groups. Socio-economic problems are significantly hampering efficient containment schemes since problems related to unemployment and social insecurity, criminality, use of drugs, prostitution etc. considerably affect young people and have a direct incidence on their behaviour.

Final recommendations included the development of regional collaboration to:

- design a long-term common regional strategy to combat HIV/AIDS by means of voluntary service;
- elaborate proposals for bilateral and multilateral projects at sub-regional and regional levels,
- plan cooperation activities including a follow-up seminar involving representatives of voluntary service and professional organizations on the increased use of ICTs in HIV/AIDS preventive education activities.

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## SOFTWARE

### UNESCO Launches Free Software Portal



UNESCO has launched a Free Software Portal, which is a gateway to Open Source resources. With the Portal, UNESCO intends to provide a single interactive access point to information for users who wish to understand and follow the Open Source movement, to learn why it is important and to apply the concept.

Under the main category "Open Source Technology Resources", the portal lists annotated links to associations, initiatives, and other related websites. Furthermore, it gives access to online developer collections, developer publications and websites on security issues. The main feature of the new website is the directory of annotated links to websites giving free access to software in the areas of

communication, science and education, to development tools, operating system and productivity tools.

The website also provides much information on the open source technology movement, its history, open source licenses, development processes and case studies.

Visitors to the UNESCO Free Software Portal can browse through pre-established categories or search for specific words. They can also add a new link or modify an already existing one.

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### First Regional Seminar of IDAMS Distributors in Latin America and the Caribbean

THE Ecuadorian National Foundation for Science and Technology (FUNDACYT), in cooperation with the UNESCO Caracas Office, organized and hosted a three-day seminar on IDAMS from 19 to 21 September 2001. Representatives of IDAMS distributors from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador and Peru as well as 16 specialists from various Ecuadorian institutions attended all sessions of the seminar and, successfully, undertook individual work and obtained certificates.

The Seminar was opened by the Director of the UNESCO Office in Quito. The first working session concentrated on the presentation of UNESCO Information Processing Tools, and the WinIDAMS software package in particular, since almost all participants expressed their great interest in a tool for statistical analysis.

During the seminar, participants worked together and concentrated on IDAMS concepts and techniques. They became familiar with the WinIDAMS User Interface and succeeded in executing a number of functions.

The meeting provided a good opportunity to review distributors' activities involving the IDAMS software, and to discuss current and future cooperation between UNESCO and IDAMS distributors in LAC as well as among distributors. Agreement on the following activities was reached:





- Setting-up a regional distribution and training centre for IDAMS in Escuela Colombiana de Ingeniería (ECI), Bogota, Colombia.
- Translation of the “Web-bases learning of statistical data analysis techniques using IDAMS” computer-assisted training material by Professor Bernardo Lievano from ECI, Colombia. (Professor Bernardo Lievano has cooperated with UNESCO in translation of IDAMS material for a number of years).
- Development of an application for libraries using CDS/ISIS, IDIS and IDAMS software by Colombia (ECI), Chile (CONICYT), Ecuador (FUNDACYT) and Peru (CONCYTEC).
- Development of an application for handling Science and Technology indicators using IDAMS

software by Argentina, Colombia (ECI), and Ecuador (FUNDACYT).

- Setting-up an IDAMS discussion list at CONCYTEC, Peru, and its maintenance during one year.

As for the distribution policy, it was agreed that each national distributor would be allowed to place the IDAMS software and its documentation on a server for downloading, but a register of requests should, nevertheless, be kept.

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## Arabic Version of UNESCO's CDS/ISIS Free Software Released

UNESCO has released the first official Beta version of “Winisis 1.4 Arabic Enabled”, developed in close cooperation with the Documentation and Information Centre of the League of Arab States (ALDOC). ALDOC has cooperated with UNESCO in the past on the Arabization of previous versions of CDS/ISIS.

The new version, available from January 2002, supports:

- Right to Left interface
- RTL display and hypertexts
- Arabic language support for inverted file and search operations
- Mixed language support: Arabic, English (and French)
- Conversion from Arabic DOS CDS/ISIS with all types of Arabic code-pages
- RTL data entry

- RTL data base definition, etc.

Micro CDS/ISIS is an advanced non-numerical information storage and retrieval software developed by UNESCO since 1985 to satisfy the need expressed by many institutions, especially in developing countries, to streamline their information processing activities by using modern (and relatively inexpensive) technologies. The software was originally based on the Mainframe version of CDS/ISIS, started in the late '60s, and is therefore built on several years experience acquired in database management software development.

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## REGIONAL OFFICES

### Africa

#### Strategy of Communication and Information Sector for Africa

UNESCO through its intergovernmental *Information for All Programme* (IFAP), together with ECA, is the lead agency for the United Nations Special Initiative for Africa (UNISA) programme cluster on Harnessing Information Technology for

Development (HITD). The Programme deals with the promotion of information and communication technologies for socio-economic development for Africa and is closely tied to the African Information Society Initiative (AIS), launched in 1996 as the action framework approved by ECA Conference of Ministers for elaboration and implementation of National Information and

Communications Infrastructure (NICI) plans in Africa.

Much of UNESCO's action is implemented through the Regional Information Society Network for Africa (RINAF), a framework for cooperation within UNESCO's Information For All programme. RINAF was initiated in 1992 to strengthen the capacity of the public sector and the civil society in Africa to exploit information and communication technologies for development. RINAF is working to include all sectors of society including rural, isolated and other disadvantaged communities. Forty-three African countries currently participate in RINAF through national focal points.

Building on the success achieved through RINAF, IFAP has proposed several new initiatives. These include RINAF Virtual Multimedia Academy.

The main objectives of this virtual education and training academy in emerging multimedia technologies project are to:

- Achieve a better understanding of underlying processes in the shift from printed media to online services.
- Carry out research on user-friendly information design.
- Identify powerful and affordable Web tools.
- Establish a new university degree in Multimedia.

The Virtual Multimedia Academy will be developed by the Technical University of Sudan in Khartoum, the Sheikh Diop University in Dakar and the University of Pretoria. The learning and teaching materials developed for the academy will be validated by UNESCO's International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA).

### RINAF Web site design competition

RINAF will organize in 2001-2002 a Website competition in order to strengthen competences in African universities in Website design. The competition will be implemented in three steps, at the national, sub-regional and regional level. The three best sites from each country will participate in a sub-regional competition and the winners of the sub-regional competitions will participate in the regional competition.

### RINAF Distance Education Project

The main goal of this RINAF project is to promote Distance Education programmes focused on

ICTs in order to improve education access, equity and quality in Africa. The project will identify and describe current and planned distance education programmes that are based on the use of ICTs, including new wireless media. The project will integrate databases from UNESCO, the World Bank, French Ministry of Cooperation, INTIF (the ICT training institute of the Francophone community) and ICDE (the International Council for Distance and Open Education).

The project's objectives are to:

- Disseminate information on current distance education programmes and to strengthen them.
- Promote national distance education policy formulation and support the implementation of such policies.
- Promote human resources development in distance education (management of programmes, curricula and content development, evaluation of teaching/learning methodologies, etc.).
- Promote information exchange and resource sharing between distance education programmes.
- Support, on a collaborative and concurrent basis, new distance education content development.
- Encourage collaborative research and fellowships in the field of distance education, with sensitivity to the educational context of African countries.
- Support the integration of ICTs in the distance education content development and knowledge delivery.
- Promote students' application to ICT-based distance education programmes in Africa and outside.

The funding mechanism will depend on the mobilization of national, bilateral and multilateral resources, including UN funds.

### RINAF PC recycling project

At the University in Lomé, a workshop unit is transforming old and damaged PCs into a 'new' recycled version, capable of performing basic office functions including accessing the Internet. The recycled PCs are passed on to universities and educational institutions at a low price, and with the income generated from these sales, a new shipment can be acquired. In addition, the PC recycling workshop offers computer science students practical experience with PC trouble shooting and upgrades.

The aim is to build this project into a financially sustainable regional resource, mainly through an initial investment in a shipment of old

PCs. The project will be driven by the demand for cheap PCs that can facilitate Africa's participation in the global information society.

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### **International Expert Meeting on E-Governance for African Municipalities 8-9 October 2001 Nairobi, Kenya**

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are currently generating new ways to address challenges to universal access to information largely faced by the developing world. With the advent of these new technologies, traditional methods of rendering services to citizens and local communities are being drastically challenged, thus requiring reforms in public policy and governance practices. Virtually all issues of public concern such as environmental degradation, human settlements, education, social inequality, health, business as well as governance, among others, have experienced the impact of information and communication technologies.

The concept of e-governance is centred on the participatory approach to public governance, where electronic service delivery and electronic democracy are harnessed in order to strengthen open dialogue and closer interaction between public administrations and the communities they serve. It is a strategic framework for public services in the Information Age, which should improve and transform government services to meet the needs of citizens and businesses. In Africa, the principles of e-governance are expected to initially play a major role in supporting decision-making processes; reinforcing standardization of government procedures and minimizing corruption. These should translate directly to remarkable benefits at the community level where government services are most needed. It is imperative therefore that the public sector in Africa embrace the introduction of e-governance as a guiding principle for public administration.

There is no doubt that African municipalities are among the key public institutions that could compare their services and public image through the use of more efficient public information systems. African municipalities are generally

perceived as heavy bureaucratic structures with unclear procedures and processes for treating requests from city residents. Further more, municipalities tend to function in isolation and hence do not benefit from the experiences and best practices of sister municipalities within the country or the region. The vision that African municipalities should have in the Information Age is "integration" of information and communication systems and resources. This calls for inter-operability of various information and communication infrastructures, which can only be achieved through the development and implementation of appropriate in-house policies. These policies would define internal and external information as well as communication strategies thus accelerating efforts to restructure these entities to become more "citizen centric" in their service delivery.

In pursuit of the need to promote efficient, open and transparent governance in the African public service in particular, and in keeping with the principle of e-governance – based on the use of ICTs, UNESCO and DANIDA have initiated a project on "E-governance for African Municipalities" in the following five selected African countries: Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Tanzania and Zambia. The main objective of the initiative is to promote free information interchange and open dialogue between the municipalities and their communities.

The joint UNCHS (Habitat)/UNEP Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) has been promoting the use of ICTs at local, national and global levels since its inception in the early 1990s. The SCP's ICT strategy had resulted in activities such as "CityLink" (connecting SCP partner cities through the internet) and the Environmental Management Information System (EMIS). Today, the EMIS is a strategic tool to support the participatory working group process in strategy and action planning through up-to-date spatial information. The EMIS uses Geographical Information System (GIS) for analysis of environment-development interaction. The EMIS is used in some 35 cities worldwide. The SCP contributes to Habitats Campaign on Good Urban Governance and is involved in an activity on e-governance within the Campaign.

It is within this context that the International Expert Meeting on E-governance for African Municipalities was held from 8-9 October, 2001, at the United Nations Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the UNCHS (Habitat). It brought together representatives of the selected municipalities to brainstorm and share their

various experiences, successes and challenges with regards to E-governance and to chart the way forward in the effective implementation of e-governance principles in their respective municipalities.

The meeting recognized that there is a general lack of appropriate policy framework in African municipalities, and hence produced five recommendations that should guide in its initial stages, the development and practice of e-governance in these administrations.

The recommendations are:

1. developing a common understanding of E-Governance through advancement of collective experiences;
2. conducting needs and resources assessment, and identifying appropriate technology;
3. building continuous awareness within municipal/city authorities on e-governance regarding:

- Funding
- Training
- Capacity building

4. Integrating information services and technology through an information office to enhance interaction between municipality and community by creating:

- an internal information sharing strategy
- an internal/external communication strategy

5. Mobilizing national and international agencies to bring E-Governance on the national policy agenda.

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## Arab States

### Cairo

#### Bibliotheca Alexandrina

The construction of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has been completed and the inauguration of the Library is scheduled to take place on 23 April 2002.

After its opening, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina will be a major complex for knowledge dissemination and, as a foremost digital library in the region, it will be an important centre for distance education in support of UNESCO's goal of lifelong learning.

UNESCO is continuing to implement project activities such as (i) acquisitions, which now total approximately 480,000 volumes (ii) setting-up of the Library Information System and the different Departments of the Library (iii) establishment of a Library for the Visually Impaired (iv) training of library staff at major international libraries and institutions is continuing to implement project activities.

UNESCO provided financial support for the training of four librarians at the Library of Congress in the U.S.A., in collection development and library management. An additional eight persons also received training through a UNESCO subsidy.

UNESCO also funded the missions of two experts to Alexandria to review and evaluate proposals concerning the new Library Information System and the International School of Information Studies at the Library.



A new Funds-in-Trust Agreement has been negotiated among UNESCO, Italy and Egypt to continue support for the Conservation and Restoration Laboratory of the Library, particularly through grants for training, as well as money to help assure that effective, competent professional staff and leadership is in place for the operation of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, once it is opened to the public.

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In Cairo, please contact Mr Tarek G. Shawki, Adviser for Communication and Information in the Arab States region, UNESCO Office, 8 Abdel Rahman Fahmy Street, Garden City, Cairo 11511, Egypt. Tel: (202) 354 30 36 or 354 55 99. Fax: (202) 354 52 96. E-mail: tshawki@mail.unesco.org.eg

### IT in Higher Education

A “Regional Training Workshop on System Administration & Networking Principles” is planned to take place in Cairo, Egypt early in 2002. This, first workshop of this kind, will target the key staff dealing with network management within governmental educational institutions.

The proposed workshop is the result of requests by member states to provide advisory support in some common areas related to the utilization of IT in education applications.

For further information please contact: Mr Tarek G. Shawki at the above address.

## Asia and the Pacific

### Bangkok

#### ICT's and Gender

Most existing disparities have been reinforced by the formal school system, which educates boys and girls according to societal dominant norms and culture. In the majority of countries, formal school systems are designed to meet the needs of upper-or middle-class boys of the mainstream population. Girls, minorities, the disabled, children from poor or otherwise marginalized communities may – to the extent they are enrolled in school – attend classes but in many cases without full participation and maximum learning outcome.

With regard to ICTs, there is documented evidence that gender discrimination affects interest in computers, Internet and IT. Unless these issues are taken into consideration when deciding on how to use computers and information technology in schools, girls will continue to turn their back on ICTs and, as adults, will be reluctant to enter this field either as producers or users.

Despite an increase in the number of women using ICTs in recent years, they still continue to lag behind men, thus creating a widening gender digital gap. Access to information and communication technologies, especially the Internet, is particularly difficult for women in poorer and less urbanized areas where telecommunications infrastructure is poor. The problem is not only poor access to computers, telephones and other resources, it also involves the lack of educational, training and application opportunities for women and girls. This places an additional handicap on women in the workforce as the information economy demands an increasing level of technology literacy.

In the Asian region, measures are afoot to increase the participation of women in the information revolution and to promote gender equality with respect to ICTs. A series of activities were organized in the latter half of 2001 to help to identify training needs for women in the region.

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) organized a workshop on “Equal Access of Women to ICT's” in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 22 to 26 October. Women from different countries from the region presented the ICT situation in their country from a gender point of view. Reliable statistics on Internet use in developing countries are very difficult to obtain as standard indicators are not usually sorted by sex. However, it is clear that the numbers are small, and that female Internet users in most developing countries are not representative of their gender in the country as a whole, but rather are usually part of a small, urban, educated elite.

With a view to promoting women's rights and enhancing their social position in the dramatically changing information age, UNESCO, the Asian Pacific Women's Information Network Centre (APWINC) and the Association for Progressive Communications Women's Networking Support Programme (APCWNSP) are currently examining the possibilities of building a regional ICT Centre for Women, which can be further expanded to become a global ICT centre. The Online Learning Centre (OLC) project is designed to build an operational learning cyber hub in Seoul as the first step in building the regional centre aimed at facilitating the development of women and ICT communities in the region. OLC will provide information on:



- (a) ICT training materials for women, translated to various languages
- (b) Resources for ICT trainers in the region
- (c) Directory of women ICT trainers in Asia Pacific
- (d) Calendars of ICT training, Gender and ICT related symposium and workshop
- (e) Gender and ICT Policy issues.

To this end, a Trainers' Workshop was held in November 2001 to further assess the learning needs of women in the region and to enhance women's ICT capacities. The design and features of the OLC will be based on the recommendations made and results of the workshop.

Finally, an Expert Group Meeting to Review ICT Policy from a Gender Perspective was held in Bangkok from 18 to 19 December 2001. It was organized by the Women in Development Section of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

*For additional information please contact Mrs Susanne Ornager, Adviser for Communication and Information in Asia and the Pacific region, 920 Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok, 10110, Thailand. E-mail: s.ornager@unesco-proap.org*

### State of Knowledge on Palm-leaf Manuscripts in Isan

Much of Thai culture and history is contained on palm-leaf manuscripts which need to be both preserved and made accessible to researchers and other interested persons.

A seminar to identify problems and raise awareness of issues relating to preservation was held in Mahasarakham, Thailand from 22 to 23 September 2001. It resulted in agreement about the necessity for a centre for palm-leaf manuscripts where students and lay people can study the contents of the manuscripts and learn the ancient language.

The seminar was attended by 150 people, half of whom were monks, whose temples are the traditional custodians of a huge variety of the manuscripts.

Consensus was reached on the need for cooperation between the temples and academics. The first should preserve the manuscripts by storing them in good conditions, the latter were to take care of restoration. A third partner would be the private organizations to be approached for funding.

Among the difficulties identified, was that most Thais believed the palm leaf manuscripts to be religious. Trainers need to be instructed in the reading of palm leaf manuscripts, in order to pass this indigenous knowledge of the Isan script to children. Elective courses in manuscript reading are already provided at Mahachulalongkorn University and it would be useful to extend this activity to the curriculum in general elsewhere.

All agreed there was a need to preserve the manuscripts. However, to do so, greater efforts have to be made to locate the manuscripts, then to register, clean, classify and preserve them according to a specific schedule.

*For additional information please contact Mrs Susanne Ornager at the above address.*

### IT Awareness Seminar, Cambodia

Approximately 400 people attended an IT awareness seminar in Phnom Penh from 10 to 14 September 2001 designed to raise awareness among high-level government officials of the need to develop a national information plan.

UNESCO's Information Adviser of Asia and the Pacific presented a paper at the seminar, organized by the National Authority for Information Technology (NIDA) in partnership with UNDP and UNESCO. NIDA had been requested by the government to formulate a national plan to develop the country's technology sector.

The Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia opened the meeting which was also attended by technology experts and government officials from India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

Recommendations proposed concerned the promotion of language skills in Cambodia as a means of ensuring a comparative advantage. It was also agreed that legislation should be enacted stipulating the requirements for an Internet service provider, as well as a clearly defined policy on access to information in view of other cultural policies.

Finally, it was believed that creating an ICT industry in Cambodia is possible despite the current situation with respect to the work force, poor infrastructure and limited number of Internet users.

*For further information please contact Mrs Susanne Ornager at the above address.*

## Latin America and the Caribbean

### ABINIA in transition

Directors and representatives of national libraries in Latin America, Portugal and Spain met in Lisbon at the National Library of Portugal for the 12th General Assembly of Abinia from 17 to 19 October 2001.



*Directors of Ibero-American National Libraries: Ramon Budet (Puerto Rico), Sinesio Lopez (Peru), Vicente Quirarte (Mexico) and Marlio Argueta (El Salvador)*

The meeting undertook a review of projects in progress, including the *Novum Regestrum*, the *Union Catalogue of Incunables*, the *Iberian Union Catalogue of Cartographic Heritage of the 16th – 19th Centuries*, the *Union Catalogue of Latin-American and Caribbean Hispanic Microforms*, the *Digitization of 19th Century Latin-American Newspapers* and the ABINIA project of Central America. The Host Country Treaty proposal was also submitted to the assembly and members were asked to send their opinions to the Executive Secretary.

A number of reports were also presented including the *Manual of Planning and Preventing Disasters in Archives and Libraries* which has been recommended for use by Ibero-American National Libraries. It contains important preventive rules and treatment for disasters.

The National Libraries approved the resolution on Digital Heritage from the Conference of Directors of National Libraries.

The meeting also recommended that national libraries, archives and museums establish “Blue Shield Commissions” as a means of creating databases to be updated frequently.

*For more information, please contact Mr Isidro Fernández-Aballí, Adviser for Communication and Information in Latin America and the Caribbean region, UNESCO Office Quito, Foch #265 y de Diciembre, piso 2, Quito, Ecuador. Tel.: (593-2) 252 90 85, 256 23 27. Fax: (593-2) 250 44 35. E-mail: quito@unesco.org or E-mail: i.fernandez-aballi@unesco.org*

### INFOLAC: A Change of Name



Delegates from twenty-four Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean met in Trinidad and Tobago for the biennial Consultative Meeting of INFOLAC, UNESCO’s regional programme to strengthen cooperation among national information networks and systems for development in the region. One of the main outcomes of the meeting was the decision that INFOLAC will in future be known as the “Information Society Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean”.

This change of the name reflects the wish of the delegates that the programme concentrate on furthering the development of the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean within the framework of UNESCO’s Information for All Programme. Countries in the region have repeatedly declared their aspiration to become full-fledged partners in the global information society, with efficiency, equity and sustainability, within the framework of a global economy based on knowledge.

They had previously advocated the creation of a Regional Information Society Programme, through the declarations adopted at meetings in Florianopolis, Brazil (20-21 June 2000), Itacuruca, Brazil (26 -27 October 2000) and in Margarita, Venezuela (27-28 November, 2000).

Since 1995 UNESCO, through its INFOLAC Programme, has been convening the 29 Member States, represented by national information authorities, whose stated intention is to widen the scope of their action to ensure that all people benefit from the advent of the digital era.

INFOLAC’s primary objective has also been reformulated to *Furthering the development of the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

*For more information please contact Mr Aballi at the above address.*

### UNESCO Masters Theses Prize Awarded to Scientist from Brazil

Initiated seven years ago, UNESCO and the Centro Latinoamericano de Estudios en Informática (CLEI), recently awarded their annual Masters Theses Prize to a student at the Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil, for his thesis on "Hybrid Column Generation Approaches for Solving Real World Crew Management Problems". It consisted of an invitation to the 2001 CLEI Conference, which took place from 24 to 28 September 2001 in Merida, Venezuela.

The annual UNESCO Master Theses contest takes place in connection with the annual CLEI Conferences. Its main objective is to promote the

dissemination of research work of young scientists from Latin America. Twenty-eight master theses from young scientists from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Paraguay and Venezuela were submitted in 2001. Prizes were also attributed to students from the Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina and the Pontificia Universidad Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Staff Movements



*Mr Abdul Waheed Khan  
Assistant Director-General for Communication  
and Information*

#### Assistant Director-General

On 2 July 2001, Mr Abdul Waheed Khan assumed duties as the Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information. Mr Khan comes to UNESCO from the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in New Delhi where he was Vice-Chancellor (President and Chief Executive Officer). He was particularly responsible for the strategic planning, resource mobilization and management of a knowledge network that included a consortium of 72 universities. Mr Khan was also Founding Director and Professor of the Communications Division of IGNOU, where he developed and managed one of

the largest state-of-the-art electronic media centres in Asia.

Born in 1947, Mr Khan is widely experienced in the communications field ranging from the development of a modern multi-media centre for the communication of agricultural innovations to farmers, to being the Director of the "All India Radio" (AIR) in New Delhi where he headed a national broadcasting network for the dissemination of innovations in agriculture and rural development and also pioneered "Farm School on the Air", a programme for the training of farmers through distance education.

As a Communications Consultant with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in Bangladesh, he developed strategic initiatives for the integration of population education in agricultural extension prior to becoming a Communications Specialist with UNESCO in Dhaka.

He subsequently joined the Commonwealth of Learning in Vancouver, Canada, firstly as Senior Programme Officer, then as Acting Head of the Communications and Information Technologies Division and finally as Principal Communications Specialist (1996-1998).

During his career, Mr Khan has provided consultancy services to a number of international agencies such as the Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development in Kuala Lumpur, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, the Asian

Productivity Organization in Tokyo, the World Bank in Washington and the Asian Development Bank.

He has actively contributed to the boards of various national and international bodies and is a member of a number of professional associations including the International Institute of Communications of the United Kingdom. He has published papers and articles in his field of specialization. He is also the recipient of several awards and distinctions such as the "Distinguished Service Award", Commonwealth of Learning, as well as the "India 2000 Millennium Award for Education and World Peace".

Mr Khan welcomes his appointment as an opportunity to reinforce UNESCO's action in developing countries and to contribute to its mission of reducing the digital divide. He considers the Sector to be the main growth area of the Organization and strongly believes that the judicious use of ICTs is the key to meeting the challenges of the information society. His vision is equitable and universal access to information but this can only be achieved if UNESCO plays a leading role in assisting all nations of the world to construct, and fully benefit from, the knowledge society.

While admitting that his appointment carries enormous responsibilities, Mr Khan is confident that his Sector has the capacity to develop strategies and implement activities that will empower citizens in developing countries, in particular, to take full advantage of benefits that ICTs can bring.

### Headquarters

CI/INF is pleased to announce the arrival of Jean Gabriel Mastrangelo as an Associate Expert. Jean Gabriel, who worked on communication issues in the French National Commission for UNESCO prior to joining the Organization in September 2001, was instrumental in organizing the international colloquium at UNESCO Headquarters from 9 to 10 March 2001 on "Plurilingualism in the Information Society" (Vol. 28.2).

His new responsibilities include helping to mobilize NGOs and the civil society as part of the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society. He is therefore a key element in the four consultation meetings to be held in February 2002 on the themes "Infostructures in developing countries", "Cultural diversity, public domain and fair use", "Freedom of expression" and "Education in and for the Information society".

With the launch of a French version of the Webworld in December 2001 (<http://www.unesco.org/webworld/fr/index.shtml>), his assignments also entail research and translating the daily news into French as well as researching new French content especially for the Point of View section.



*Mr Jean Gabriel Mastrangelo  
Associate Expert*

### Field Offices

As part of UNESCO's decentralization policy seeking to improve the Organization's presence and capacity in its Member States, the Communication and Information Sector has recently reorganized its Field Offices. In the new structure, which will be gradually put into place over the next few years, two Regional Information Bureaux have been created in Quito and New Delhi respectively.

As a result, certain members of staff of the Information Society Division will be transferred to new offices, although they will maintain the same programme and responsibilities. Among these are Mr Isidro Fernandez-Aballi who will be moving to Quito, Ecuador with effect from January 2002 and Ms Susanne Ornager, transferred to New Delhi as of 2003. In Africa, Mr Gunther Cyranek will move to Dar es Salaam whereas Mr Hezekiel Dlamini will transfer to Accra. Mr Tarek Shawki is expected to remain in Cairo for the present.

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All documents may be consulted at the premises of each of the institutions mentioned above. Copies may be obtained on a cost recovery basis at prices set out by the distributing institutions. UNESCO is in the process of digitizing its documents and a full text selection of these can be consulted at: <http://ulis.unesco.org/>

Below is a list of new publications:

- LARRIVIERE, Jules. *Legislacion sobre deposito legal: directrices*. Paris: UNESCO, 2000. 51 p. (CII.2000/WS/7). Also available in English and French.
- *Estudio Mundial sobre el Ejercicio del Gobierno en Linea. Informe final preparado por la Fundacion COMNET-IT*. Paris: UNESCO, 2000. 74 p. (CII.2000/WS/9). Spanish version of Global Survey on Online Governance. Also available in French.
- *Les Services de la bibliothèque publique : principes directeurs de l'IFLA/UNESCO*. Paris : UNESCO, 2001. 91 p. (CII.2001/WS/01). Available in Arabic, Russian and Spanish.
- "Memory of the World" Programme. *Fifth Meeting of the International Advisory Committee of the Memory of the World Programme*. Cheongju City, Republic of Korea. Paris: UNESCO, 2001. 30 p. (CII.2001/WS/03).
- *Public Service Applications of the Internet in Developing Countries*. Paris: UNESCO, 2001. 86 p. (CII.2001/WS/04).
- *2nd International Memory of the World Conference: Proceedings*. Colima, Mexico, 27-29 September 2000. 227 p.

The Newsletter provides information on the activities of the UNESCO Division of Information Society and other related issues. Published twice a year in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, the Newsletter is distributed free of charge by the Division.

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INFORMATION SOCIETY DIVISION

***INFORMATION***  
***INFORMATICS***  
***TELEMATICS***

UNISIST Newsletter  
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# EDITORIAL

## E-Heritage

by Philippe Quéau

Director of the Information Society Division  
UNESCO

**H**OW big is the Web? Is the world digital heritage archivable using current technologies? Can we seriously envisage universal and cheap access to our digitized documentary heritage?

In spite of its immense societal and economic impact, the World Wide Web is dwarfed by the mass of e-mails and other instant messages. According to a recent survey, in 2000, the World Wide Web consisted of about 21 terabytes of static HTML pages and was growing at a rate of 100% per year. The “deep web” is even considerably larger.

Despite the apparently large size of the Web, the current volume of e-mails generated is about 500 times more than Web pages. Approximately 610 billion e-mails (equivalent to 11,285 terabytes of data) are sent annually and instant messaging grows at an annual rate of 140%. In 2004, more than 180 million people will use this evanescent form of instant communication, which leaves no apparent trace.

May be not for long.

For one thing, governments are trying to better control the flow of messages in order to fight cyber-crime. The project of a European Convention on Cyber-Crime, prepared in cooperation with the United States, Japan and other non-European countries, shows this growing concern.

Another aspect is the technical feasibility of mass storage. A new storage technique, Anti-Ferromagnetic Coupling (AFC), has recently been announced. It uses a “sandwich” made of a three ruthenium atoms-thick layer and two magnetic layers. Scheduled for commercialization in 2003, this technique allows an information density of 15 billion bits per cm<sup>2</sup>.

If someone were to write 100,000 bytes of text (the equivalent of one chapter of a book) every day for 100 years, this could easily be stored on 1 cm<sup>2</sup>.

Moreover, the cost of storage is falling rapidly. In the autumn of 2000, a gigabyte of storage cost less than \$10 and it is predicted that this will fall to \$1 by 2005.



What can we infer from these facts? First that the personal and professional data produced by every human being is now potentially recordable and storable at a very low cost, on a head of a pin. Secondly, the issue of a systematic global recording of all kinds of “born digital” archives for all sorts of use is no longer just a technical or economic question: it has also become a deeply political and ethical issue. Protection of personal data and privacy, regulation of data-mining practices, regulatory framework of Internet service providers are burning issues.

Within the framework of its new Information For All Programme, and with a view to contributing the World Summit on the Information Society to be held in Geneva in December 2003, UNESCO intends to sensitize decision-makers, information professionals and the world civil society to the importance of ethical management of fast growing e-archives.

E-Heritage is no longer a luxury, reserved for the happy few. It has become an essential part of the global heritage and will be a key aspect of a world policy on universal access to information.

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# INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMME

## Interim Committee for the Information for All Programme

**T**HE new Information for All Programme (see Vol. 28, No.1, 2000) came into being in January 2001 in accordance with Decision 3.6.1. of the 160th Executive Board. The 31st Session of the General Conference will elect the Council to guide the new Programme and oversee its implementation.

An Interim Committee set up with caretaker responsibilities to supervise the programme the election met from 14 to 15 May 2001 at UNESCO Headquarters.

The meeting was opened by Mr Alain Modoux, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information whose opening remarks stressed the important role of UNESCO in representing the interests of education, culture and science in a world which is strongly dominated by economic interests. He foresaw that the future Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme would be an important instrument to face international competition, and he further emphasized that the future Council would be the sole inter-governmental body within the UN system exclusively devoted to the application of ICTs, thus assigning a special position for UNESCO in this field.

It was stressed that crucial to the future success of the Programme was the need for representatives of Member States serving on its

Intergovernmental Council to combine ICT competence with proven expertise in at least one of the field of UNESCO's programmes. Also important was experience in international work in order to efficiently guide the planning, implementation and promotion of the Programme.

The Committee discussed in depth the possible national support structures for the Information for All Programme such as National Focal Points or National Committees. Although one country reported that it has already established a National Committee for the Information for All Programme to co-ordinate the respective activities of all ministries and institutions in his country, it was felt that UNESCO should not suggest a model, but that each country should establish its own structure according to national requirements and circumstances.

The Committee invited the Director General to ensure that the Programme is involved in the international debates and initiatives related to ICTs (e.g. World Summit on the Information Society and ECOSOC Task Force).

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## Meeting of Experts to examine the Draft Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace

**A**s a follow-up to the initiative to formulate a draft Recommendation promoting multilingualism in cyberspace (Vol. 28.2, 2000) as a means of ensuring equitable access to information by all global citizens, UNESCO organized a meeting of experts at its Headquarters in Paris from 9-10 April 2001.

It is planned to present the draft Recommendation on Universal Access and Promotion and Use of Multilingualism in Cyberspace to the General Conference of UNESCO in October 2001 for adoption by its Member States. The Recommendation is also an essential part of UNESCO's contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society.

The twenty-four experts were selected for their ability to bring their experience and focus to the task of formulating widely accepted principles on multilingualism and universal access to information; principles that would also contribute to promoting cultural diversity on the Web thereby generating, enriching and disseminating knowledge by opening access to digital information for all.

A draft preliminary text on the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace, circulated to Member States in December 2000 and incorporating their comments and suggestions, was used as the background document for discussion by the experts during the two-day meeting.

Participants all agreed on the merits of and urgent need for the recommendations and many stressed their importance and timeliness. The meeting was characterized by the openness of the debates and a genuine desire to reach consensus while not losing focus of the need to address individual specificities of each region. In this, the experts found it necessary to define more precisely certain key concepts, definitions and basic principles in acknowledgement of regional considerations.

Attention was focussed on strategies for overcoming financial and technical hurdles to universal access and the necessity to explore new models such as private-public partnerships. The need for special measures to ensure access by disadvantaged groups received strong support.

Four new measures, which had not been foreseen in the earlier draft, were formulated and

introduced to respond to critical issues raised and discussed at length by several speakers. The new recommendations identified the following:

- Member States should develop information strategies and models that reach out to communities at all levels so as to foster the emergence of local ICT leaders and mentors and ensure the uptake of ICTs by communities.
- Member States should establish the right of universal access to "public domain information" within each nation. The need for a clearer, universal definition of this concept and its promotion was specified.
- The importance of establishing measures to provide training in best information practices, ethical behaviour and respect for community standards and values online as a necessary complement to ongoing training in areas of technical competency.
- The necessity of a revision of current intellectual property regulations so that the rights of people to benefit from scientific and technological progress are respected.

Finally, it was decided to reorder the draft recommendation and present it in four parts: a preamble, list of definitions, general principles and the recommended measures to be undertaken by Member States and/or international organizations including UNESCO.

At its final session the plenary adopted the preamble and the recommended measures and agreed that the revision of the "definitions" and "basic principles" would be completed through an on-line forum set up by the Institute of Library Science, Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. It was agreed that all amendments that had been identified would be incorporated into the revised draft recommendation after consultation with the members of the experts group and its Chairman.

### Multilingualism in the Information Society

The Experts meeting was preceded by an international colloquium organized at UNESCO Headquarters from 9-10 March 2001 to debate inequalities in access to cyberspace in

different countries, as well as the need for preservation of about 6,700 world languages.

The colloquium was organized by the French National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with UNESCO and the Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie, with the support of the French Foreign Ministry and the Cultural and Communication Ministry. The three main themes of the meeting were: Multilingualism and the use of Electronic networks, Educational and Cultural issues, Legal and Geopolitical issues.

The Internet is a limitless source of information with a huge potential benefit to development which raises the issue of equitable access to the Internet especially in developing countries.

Many participants focused on the huge amount of information that can be obtained via the Internet and on the variety of languages, which make it impossible for a single person to translate and access it all. This problem is

especially crucial in multilingual countries, such as India, and in Africa and requires more research into the use of automatic translation tools.

In discussing the question of linguistic diversity, the dangers of excessive multilingualism was raised as it can limit the sharing of knowledge due, for example, to different alphabets and incompatible scripts. At the same time, linguistic diversity in itself cannot guarantee cultural diversity: national values will remain the same no matter the language in which they are translated.

Finally, the experts discussed the problem of open source and creating public spaces to allow access to the Internet. The copyright reform on the Internet was underlined in this context.

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## MEMORY OF THE WORLD

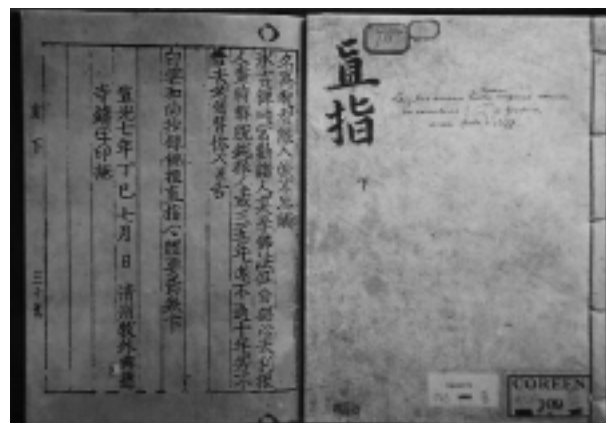
### Fifth Meeting of the International Advisory Committee of the Memory of the World Programme

**T**HE Fifth Meeting of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Memory of the World Programme took place in Cheongju City, Republic of Korea from 27-29 June 2001. Cheongju was selected to host the meeting as it was the birthplace of the printing press in Korea. In fact, the Jikji, the oldest existing book printed with movable metal type, was printed here in 1377, some 70 years before the Gutenberg Bible. Interestingly, both documents were among this year's nominations for inclusion on the World Register.

The IAC also considered 40 other nominations. The proposals were of very high quality and covered a range of formats such as Hittite Cuneiform Tablets, Papyrus, musical archives of Beethoven and Schubert and film.

The 21 new recommendations are listed below:

the *Endeavour Journal of James Cook* and the



*Korean Jikji, the oldest existing book printed with movable metal type.*

*Mabo Case Manuscripts (Australia); Papyrus Erzherzog Rainer and Schubert Collection (Austria); Business Archives of the Officina Plantiniana (Belgium); Ludwig van Beethoven -*

*Symphony No. AE9, d-minor, the Estate of Goethe, the Gutenberg Bible and Metropolis (Germany); Kalman Tihanyi's 1926 Patent Application "Radioskop" (Hungary); Seung-jeongwon Ilgi, the Diaries of the Royal Secretariat and Buljo jikjisimche yojeol (vol. II) (Republic of Korea); Dainu skapis - Cabinet of Folk songs (Latvia); Correspondence of the late Sultan of Kedah (1882-1943), Hikayat Hang Tuah and Sejarah Melayu (the Malay Annals) (Malaysia); the Leprosy Archives of Bergen and Henrik Ibsen: A Doll House (Norway); the Historical Collections (1889-1955) of St. Petersburg Phonogram Archives (Russian Federation); the Hittite Cuneiform Tablets from Bogazkoy and Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute Manuscripts (Turkey). These projects will all be granted the use of the Memory of the World Logo.*

The IAC also considered and adopted revised guidelines for the Memory of the World Programme which will be published by UNESCO.

Funding remains a key concern of the Programme and participants recommended a number of measures to raise its profile as a means of obtaining extrabudgetary funding and greater publicity.

Publicity could include the display of items on the World Register, such as the Korean Jikji (currently preserved by the French National Library) and the Gutenberg Bible at UNESCO Headquarters. Moreover, a two-year plan of action for funding and marketing of the Programme prior to the next IAC meeting should be developed to facilitate the acquisition of resources for regional and national committees. The next IAC is tentatively scheduled to meet in Poland in 2003.

### Regional Arab Symposium on 'Memory of the World'



A REGIONAL meeting for the Arab Gulf States was held in Doha, Qatar, from 4-6 February 2001. It was attended by about 20 experts who reviewed the development of 'Memory of the World' Programme and made recommendations for improved conservation of and access to the documentary heritage in the region. The meeting recommended the setting-up of national committees in all represented Member States and a Regional Committee to be hosted by the Gulf Centre for Folklore Heritage (Doha) to co-ordinate their work in conjunction with the UNESCO Doha Office.

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to review preservation and access conditions in the region and draw lessons for future collaboration based on the country reports presented by all participants. Participants pledged to co-ordinate work in his/her country, prepare new nominations for the 'Memory of the World' Register at national, regional and international level along with national and regional project proposals.

The representative from the University of Qatar presented the challenges facing the programme and argued for a wider definition of the concept of heritage, limited not to national or Gulf sub-regional boundaries but open to the whole Arab world and to universal cultural contacts. She also strongly recommended that UNESCO enable countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to participate fully in the digital revolution and the preservation of their cultural identities.

A regional project was outlined during the consultation. This projects relates to the preservation of and access to the Arab Gulf rich maritime heritage, including archives, travel accounts, songs, and oral history.

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## Preservation of and access to Timbuktu manuscripts

THE historic city of Timbuktu, now an administrative centre, was as much a city of learning as it was a city of commerce and was home to many library collections compiled by the scholars who settled there. To this day the city still boasts some 60 private collections handed down through generations, with an estimated 300,000 manuscripts scattered throughout the region. The largest of these is the Mamma Haidara Memorial Library which contains some 5,000 items, including historical documents of the 18th-20th centuries. It has received assistance through a grant from the Mellon Foundation, while a catalogue of its contents is being published by Al-Furqan Islamic Foundation.

Another major library is the Mahmoud Kati Library owned by the 16th century historian of Timbuktu whose name it bears. This unique library has survived for over 500 years and contains some 3,000 Arabic manuscripts dating from as early as the 14th and 15th centuries.

In recognition of the need for a regional centre to promote the exploitation of written sources from African history and promote the generation of new work, as far back as 1970, UNESCO provided financial assistance for the establishment of the *Centre de Documentation et de la Recherche Ahmed Baba* (CEDRAB). CEDRAB has now been transformed into an autonomous institute of higher learning (*Institut des Hautes Etudes et de la Recherche Islamique Ahmed Baba - IHERI*).

In cooperation with several partners, UNESCO is currently seeking to preserve the manuscripts (most of which are conserved under poor physical conditions), train both existing

and prospective research staff to undertake high-level research and provide wide access to this documentary heritage through digitization and dedicated web sites. The project will increase the capacity of CEDRAB to perform its essential missions of restoration and conservation, in addition to scientific exploitation and dissemination of the content of the manuscripts currently in its possession.

Both physical conservation and electronic access are prerequisites in facilitating the exploitation of the manuscripts for research purposes. Specific project objectives particularly for these two components are currently being tested in the field through a pilot project funded by NORAD and the Ford Foundation for the period 2000-2001. The project was presented to a wide range of stakeholders in the Timbuktu arena including researchers, private collectors, religious leaders, the press and representatives of the Malian Government during the launching of the pilot project in October 2000.

During the first week of April 2001, a team of experts from Norway, USA and UNESCO went to Timbuktu to finalize a project proposal for the preservation of and access to manuscripts held by public and private libraries. The project is fully in line with UNESCO Memory of the World Programme and enjoys a strong political support in Mali.

More information on the project and the manuscripts can be found on the Timbuktu Manuscripts web site at: <http://www.sum.uio.no/uk/mali/timbuktu/>

☞ For additional information please contact Mr A. Abid at the address above.

## Regional Workshop on Safeguarding African Documentary Heritage South Africa

CAPE TOWN, South Africa was the setting for two meetings on preservation in Africa. From 26 February to 2 March 2001, a Regional Workshop on Safeguarding African Documentary Heritage and the annual Joint IFLA/ICA Committee on Preservation in Africa (JICPA) enabled 21 invited experts from 15 African

countries to gain better understanding of the objectives of the 'Memory of the World' Programme, the Slave Trade Archives project, the principles of conservation and preservation work and digitization for access. The JICPA meeting in particular enabled the formulation of recommendations for improved conservation



and digitization of and access to documentary heritage in the Region. A web site and a discussion list were launched as a result of the meeting.

Participants were directors or individuals in charge of preservation in English-speaking African archives and libraries invited with the support of UNESCO, in cooperation with IFLA and partial funding from NORAD through the Slave Trade Archives project. Sessions dealt with methodology for setting up a preservation policy; preservation of traditional library/archive materials; proper handling and storage; microfilming and digitization (processes, practice, implementation, policy). Great interest was shown in the slave trade archives project which may assist archives in obtaining copies of colonial records pertaining to the Trade.

A proposal was mooted to create a single national committee comprising JICPA, "Memory of the World" and "Blue Shield" national committees to harmonize local efforts to preserve cultural heritage even though each committee has its own specific objectives. Co-operation among African museums, archives, libraries, monuments and sites is the key for implementing concrete actions and the JICPA web site (<http://epa-prema.net/jicpa/>) can be used to disseminate information on preservation.

There is a pressing need to work together to create a network among partners from different backgrounds in order to be more active and more effective in safeguarding the African documentary heritage.

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## LIBRARIES

### 6th Annual Conference of the Russian Library Association

THE conference, which gathered some six hundred participants, comprising librarians from most of the regions of the Russian Federation in addition to foreign guests, had as its central theme the development of a single information and cultural space among Russian libraries. The key issue dealt with was the accessibility and sharing of the still mostly untapped resources in regional, school, public, rural and specialized libraries using new technologies in cooperative systems and networks.

Participants were introduced to Russian initiatives to develop and promote library collections in the country. Among these, are the project for the creation of a portal called **Auditorium.ru** on various humanities disciplines, an initiative of the Russian branch of the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation). This portal is intended to be a freely-accessible, comprehensive electronic library on the Internet. Still under construction, and currently only in Russian, the portal was launched on 2 June 2001. Many Russian institutions and scholars have already agreed to participate in the construction of this portal and to contribute

to its content. The site is located at: <http://auditorium.ru/index-project.htm>

The "Pushkin Library" megaproject is a large scale programme to strengthen Russian libraries collections. Several thousand libraries are participating in this project which is also funded by the Open Society Institute and special attention is given to scientific, university and central libraries which have a large number of readers. It is now being expanded to the numerous rural libraries in the country. This project is supported by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Printing and Mass Information and several national periodicals.

The Russian Archives on-line (RAO) (<http://www.russianarchives.com/rao/>) is a unique source of "public domain" information and for this reason sought by many as a source of revenue. UNESCO is promoting measures to improve access to the collection while protecting the material from being exploited to the detriment of the archives.

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## UNAL Network



### *Reading for Peace*

**T**O commemorate the International Decade for a Culture of Peace, the UNESCO Network of Associated Libraries (UNAL), in cooperation with the UNESCO Centre in Florence, is organizing a "Reading for Peace" project whose goal is to encourage international understanding among young people through reading.

Using the opportunities offered by new technologies in libraries, young people from the Mediterranean region will examine issues related to peace in global contemporary society and prepare for publication a bibliography of works which encourage the building of a culture of peace.

A planning meeting was held in Florence, Italy from 8-10 March 2001 for potential partners of the Reading for Peace project to harness the synergies between different partners from the Mediterranean region, identify the working methodologies including the selection criteria for reading material and to promote closer collaboration between the UNESCO Clubs and libraries of the UNAL Network.

The project was presented to participants by its coordinator Mrs Marialuisa Stringa of the UNESCO Centre in Florence. Although participants had differing ideas about the implementation of the project with sharply diverging views on ICTs and reading, all agreed that educating for peace was essential and that every means should be employed to ensure that UNESCO's message reaches young people whether this was through books in their traditional format or the use of more recent technologies.

Two working groups were set up to debate the issues in more detail. The first examined the topic: *What to read? Criteria for selection*. Their recommendations concentrated, among others, on the age limits of the target groups, the choice of appropriate reading materials under the guidance of the Clubs and Libraries as well as obtaining wider support for the

project. The second working group examined *Methodology, which technologies to employ?* Its conclusion was that although there were major differences from one country to another, the Internet would facilitate project implementation by enhancing access to a wider range of contents but would be supplemented by use of other tools such as audio and video cassettes, CD-Roms, television and radio programmes, newspaper articles, etc. Emphasis needed to be placed on content rather than format and would underpin the role of the library as an information manager with its capacity to organize and provide access to information in a variety of formats.

More information on the project can be found on the website: <http://associazioni.comune.firenze.it/unesco/copertina.htm>

### **UNAL Sub-regional workshop on the Integration of ICTs in Library and Documentation Centres**

With a view to setting up an integrated programme on the use of ICTs in libraries and documentation centres in Central Africa, a regional workshop was organized by the National Coordinator of the UNAL Network in Kinshasa from 28 to 31 March 2001.



*Participants at the UNAL Sub-regional Workshop, Kinshasa, Congo.*

The goal of the project was the development of a programme which would allow sub-regional libraries to link to the information highway in order to lay the groundwork for conditions conducive to development, peace, democracy and human rights.

African countries are hampered in their efforts to obtain information relevant to their needs through the high cost of access both to the Internet and to traditional means; insufficient access points and the lack of African content on the information highway. In seeking to prepare a regional programme, the aims of the workshop were to sensitize and provide an overview of ICTs in library applications as a means of

establishing inter-library co-operation and creating a public domain of African content. Libraries and documentation centres are therefore in a privileged position in the actual context to become key players in the development of the community.

Participants came from Angola, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo in addition to the provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kinshasa.

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## TELEMATICS

### The Trans-European Tele-Education Network TEN Project (TEN Network)

**T**HE Trans-European Tele-Education Network TEN Project, started in January 1996 within the Education and Training sector of the Telematics Application Programme of the European Commission, has now terminated having achieved its objective of setting up a VSAT backbone network consisting of seven remote classrooms in Europe connected through satellite communications with the hub station or central node of the network. The network is configured in a star-shaped fashion and all courses and seminars were broadcast to Belgium, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom from the teacher's classroom located in the hub station in Madrid, Spain. TEN offers as a standard feature the possibility of combining videoconference and transmission of learning materials (slides, video, images, and text) in all courses.

The project was later expanded by the integration of four new remote classrooms in Eastern Europe: in Warsaw, Kaunas, Prague and Budapest. Its extension to Eastern Europe was to demonstrate the economic viability of the TEN system to provide flexible distance-learning all over Europe.

One outstanding feature of TEN is the high level of interactivity between teachers and learners. The system integrates a return channel through ISDN, which can be used by distant

learners at any given time to communicate with the teacher (lecturer) by videoconference. This system will contribute in the long-term to giving all European citizens equal opportunities in gaining access to the centre of excellence. In future it will be possible to manage more courses with more students, knowing in advance all the details of a thorough costs-and benefits analysis that will allow the successful commercial exploitation of the system.

After the installation of the remote stations in September 2000 in the four Eastern European universities, a general network test was performed between the central HUB station located in Madrid and all 10 remote stations in Europe concerning the operationality of the system. Four course modules totalling 40 hours of synchronous transmission were synchronously broadcast via satellite using the DVB technology. The courses were as following:

1. Introduction to electronic commerce;
2. Digital images for multimedia;
3. Basics of digital images;
4. Satellite networks and multimedia services, from VSAT to DVB technology.

The results of participation from Eastern Europe countries have not only confirmed the

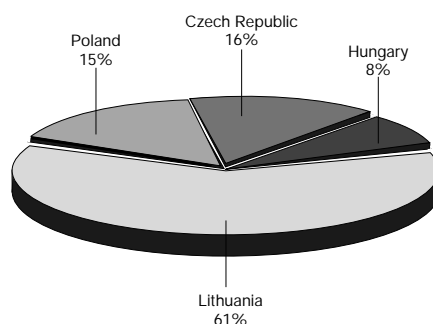
initial expectations but also proven the opportunities of their participation in this project. The expectations have been largely surpassed since the student participation from eastern universities reached 328 students completing the sessions, instead of the 120 originally foreseen.

UNESCO's objectives in the project were also largely met and will be concretized through the establishment of the TEN foundation to ensure the continuation of the relation established between its partners as long-term accompanying measures in developing and transitional countries.

#### Distribution of participants in this project:

	Participants ages	(Average)	Computer skill
Czech Republic	53	31,83	97%
Hungary	26	24,58	96%
Lithuania	195	23,76	96%
Poland	49	23,3	97%
	<b>323</b>	<b>25,5</b>	<b>97%</b>

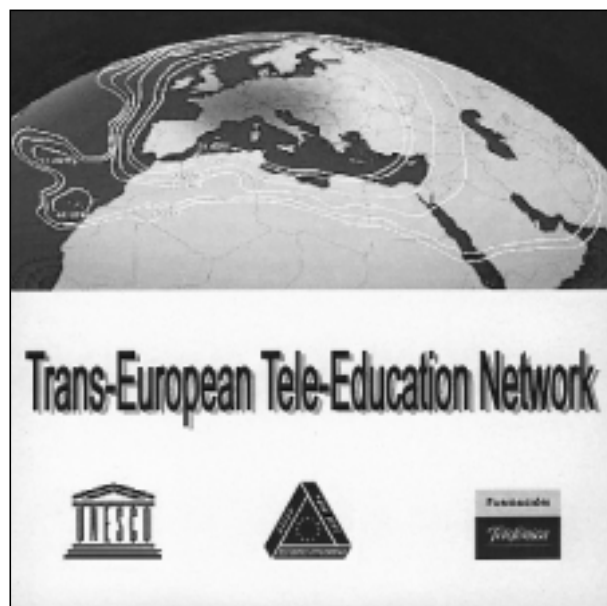
#### Distribution of TEN Participants



#### TEN CD-ROM

One integrated TEN CD-ROM has been produced, merging 3 VHS videos. A limited number is available and can be obtained from CI/INF.

☞ Additional details can be found at: [http://www.unesco.org/webworld/build\\_info/ten.html](http://www.unesco.org/webworld/build_info/ten.html) or from Mr René Cluzel, CI/INF, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel.: (33-1) 45.68.38.85. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.83. E-mail: [r.cluzel@unesco.org](mailto:r.cluzel@unesco.org)



## International Seminar on Integrating Modern and Traditional Information and Communication Technologies for Community Development

**T**HE Seminar was held in Kothmale, Sri Lanka, from 22-27 January 2001. It consisted of two parts: a technical Workshop (22-25 January) in which the main participants were 21 community radio or telecentre managers and organizers from Africa, Asia, (including three from the host country) Latin America and the Caribbean, most of whom were associated with UNESCO-sponsored projects, and a Round Table (26-27 January) in which the main participants were 15 representatives of bilateral or international development support agencies, most of which are associated with GKP (Global Knowledge Partnership). Action Item "championed" by UNESCO or the G-8 DOT Force Initiative.

In general, the quality of the discussions in the Workshop was very high and provided an ideal opportunity for exchanges of experience and joint synthesis on possibilities for integrating a range of communication and information technologies for community development. While most of the radio and telecentre experts were initially uncertain of the modalities and advantages of integration, there was at the end a general agreement and enthusiasm for proceeding in this direction.

The results of the Seminar in eliciting substantive discussions and conclusions on the needs and possibilities for applying an integrated multimedia to community development were excellent. Although no formal agreement was reached on a programme of interagency cooperation in this area, greater understanding among the participating international partners was achieved.

Recommendations on addressing the digital divide were formulated and took into consideration areas such as community mobilization, mainstreaming, outreach, networking, training, human resources, contents and sustainability. A summary of these recommendations is provided below:

- Community multimedia centres, combining broadcasting with the Internet and related new technologies, have the potential to reach, serve, involve and improve community life in developing countries by supporting needs relating to education, health, food security, peace and other priority development goals.

- They should therefore improve their ability to meet community needs by integrating information and communication technologies (ICTs) which are complementary to those already deployed. In order to fulfil the potential of integrated community facilities, innovative strategies and creative approaches are required to ensure that these facilities are fully inclusive and participatory.

- Community involvement must be clearly defined to ensure the inclusion of all and especially disadvantaged and marginalized groups at the same time as strategic priority groups are targeted.

- Networking of community radios, telecentres and multimedia centres with similar facilities locally, nationally, regionally and even globally should be encouraged as this can enable them to meet some of their needs more effectively than in isolation. It is essential that they network around common goals of training, content development activities, operations and management where their interests as stakeholders encourage them to contribute fully to, as well as benefit from networking activities. These activities should contain opportunities to generate revenue from a variety of sources such as attracting larger advertisers through the sharing of community radio programmes.

- The integration of a range of ICTs by community multimedia centres creates new training and human resource needs at many different levels offering new opportunities to meet those needs. The centres must introduce extensive and continuing ICT sensitization and training designed to ultimately reach all members of the community. This can be achieved through:

- networking to exchange experience on training programmes and institutions and to facilitate the development of tailor-made training programmes for the centres. The sharing of training programmes and materials should be promoted by encouraging the availability of these materials in the public domain via community websites.

- When integrating traditional and modern ICTs, multimedia centres have far broader possibilities for creating a range of complementary



multimedia materials to meet the community's information needs.

- In local content development, continuing multifaceted, participatory needs assessments should be undertaken to understand the characteristics of the community and the users' information needs. Based on this, strategies and mechanisms should be elaborated in such areas as gathering, evaluation, interpretation, repackaging and regular updating of information and putting information in context, and appropriate information and communication techniques should be applied to produce timely, reliable and targeted development content and services.

- Priority should be given to creating content in local and minority languages as well as to identifying, translating and interpreting the information carried by the new ICTs into the languages used in the community. Another priority is promoting open access to information made available in the public domain, particularly information produced by government, non-governmental organizations and other public service institutions.

- Sustainability problems can be expected but, as multimedia centres are often helping to implement official national policies for universal

access to information and communication, they should therefore receive support. Sustainability should not be restricted to commercial viability. However, all centres should seek a degree of self-reliance and formulate effective business or long-term operating plans.

- Efforts should also be made to sensitize the private sector to the fact that investments which favour the success of community radios, telecentres and multimedia centres will also open potential new markets.

- Finally, disadvantaged communities need appropriate scalable technologies for access to production and presentation of information suitable to their local, cultural and development contexts. These needs, including ancillary technologies for the provision of power and other basic infrastructure support, can mainly be met through innovative combinations and modifications of existing technologies which may not be immediately available but can be readily developed and shared through special efforts.

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## COMPUTER-BASED VISUALLY INTERACTIVE TRAINING MATERIALS

The emergence of still more powerful PCs and sophisticated new software development tools is opening opportunities for a new type of user friendly computer-based visually interactive applications for training as well as for creating and sharing local content.

These applications can present learning materials in a format that takes full advantage of a broad range of media techniques in order to convey the topic in the most appropriate way. A visually interactive application can include text, audio, pictures and video, in an interactive



*Rural water sanitation training area.*

three dimensional computer model that adapts itself to the needs of the user. The nature of the interactive interface allows the user to approach the topic from a personal angle and at an individual pace. Thus the learning process becomes individualized and based on personal experience rather than the traditional series of facts presented in predefined sequence. A visually interactive training application takes advantage of highly developed computer gaming techniques in order to make the learning process both challenging, attractive and entertaining.



*Fruit tree and buildings in a 3D visually interactive training model.*

Across Africa, a growing number of PCs are being installed in schools, community centres libraries and so on. UNESCO is actively involved in facilitating this roll-out through programmes such as the Multipurpose Community Telecentre programme and RINAF (Regional Information Society Network for Africa). With the computer roll-out comes an increasing demand for specialized content relevant to an African environment rather than applications developed for the international market. Computer-based visually interactive applications developed in Africa for Africa could here play an important role.

UNESCO, in partnership with Naledi 3D Factory (South Africa) and the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO, is exploring the potential of these new interactive techniques through a pilot project developing training application specifically for a rural community in Uganda. The aim is to explore how the new technology could be applied in creating local

content as well as to study how such an application would be received by the community.

A capacity building and technology transfer component was introduced in parallel with application development. A software developer from the Institute for Teacher Education in Kyambogo, Uganda, took part in the application development at Naledi 3D Factory. Part of the development software for the institute was kindly funded by realityBUY Inc.

The community of Nakaseke was selected for the pilot project by UNESCO, since its Multipurpose Community Telecentre has the necessary platform for testing the application. The outline of the project was first presented in a preparatory meeting with representatives from the community. The representatives were interested in the project and suggested “rural water sanitation” as the area that would have the greatest impact on their community.

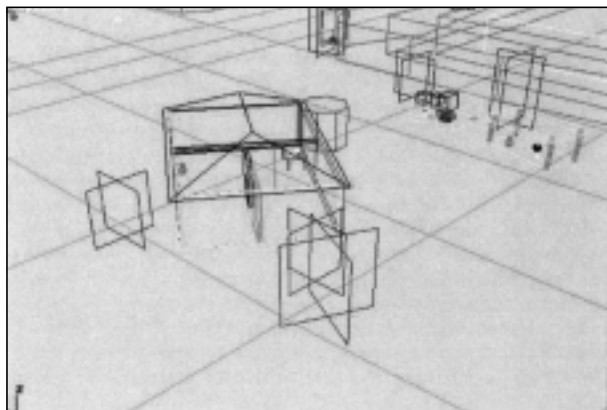
A base line study was conducted on which water sanitation related-problems were occurring in Nakaseke. The data were collected through interviews with local clinics, health workers and representatives from the community.

A storyboard for the application was developed in broad co-operation with the community, application developers, water sanitation experts, communication experts and other stakeholders. The final storyboard was based on two typical homesteads (traditional and modern) and



*Video of water collection in Nakaseke in the interactive model.*

the content was developed as a series of dialogues, monologues and video clips related to different aspects of rural water sanitation. A 3D model was developed on the basis of pictures,



*Early design layout of the computer model.*

video footage and audio recordings from Nakaseke. The narration was recorded both in English and Luganda and incorporated into the application.

The application is currently being tested in Nakaseke MCT where the telecentre staff is registering the different user experiences. The result of these questionnaires together with a log of the user interaction will form the basis of UNESCO's evaluation of the visually interactive applications and how they can be applied in training.

The application is developed with the tools 3D Studio Max, EON Studio as well as text, html and picture editors. The application requires as a minimum a Pentium II, 64 MB with a multimedia graphics card (e.g. GeForce 2000 DDR 2 with 32 MB RAM or RIVA TNT2), and 800x600-screen resolution. The application requires at least 100 MB available storage space on the hard disk.

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## Multipurpose Community Telecentres

**T**HREE years after the launch of the Multipurpose Community Telecentres pilot project in Uganda (Vol. 27 No. 1, 1999), an evaluation of their impact on the local community was carried out in January 2001 by International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of the MCTs in Nakaseke, a rural village 50 km north of Kampala; Nabweru, peri-urban to Kampala, and Buwama, a rural town 64 km southwest of Kampala. The evaluation showed that the Nakaseke MCT was the most heavily used of three in terms of absolute numbers and percentage of the population reached (61% versus about 40% for Buwama and 30% for Nabweru).

Nakaseke MCT, sponsored by IDRC, ITU and UNESCO, has an impressive range of

services from library, computer training and telecommunications to outreach activities such as a "learning centre", a women's empowerment group and the production of videos for development.

ITU funding in December 2000 enabled the acquisition of a modern switch providing 250 fixed lines for Nakaseke through a radio link to the district seat. Internet training and use started immediately evoking wide interest in the community, but the switch was recently incapacitated by lightning and is currently awaiting repairs.

A survey has shown that despite promotional efforts, the MCT is still seen as elitist by the poorer, more isolated and less educated segments of the population, and as yet relatively few

farmers and women make use of its services. Paradoxically, the percentage of users who do not make use of computers (71%) is higher than in the other MCTs, reflecting perhaps the mix of services offered. Its success is seen as deriving from strong community ownership, management and participation through the Local Steering Committee, the Core Users Group and local government. A major development has been the opening this year of an important potential partner and client – Nakaseke University – whose courses in major fields such as nursing, social work and journalism combine academic with community training.

Although the IDRC-sponsored Nabweru and Buwama MCTs have similar equipment to Nakaseke, their overall infrastructure and services are considerably less extensive, limited essentially to traditional telecentre services. Of the two, Nabweru has more regular Internet usage, along with a developing resource centre with extension literature and a local development newspaper about to be launched. Local government provides a continuing grant for security and utilities. In Buwama, there is no regular telephone; a cellphone provides for voice and email services but is too expensive and slow for regular Internet access.

Although none of the MCTs are as yet self-sufficient going into their final year of assistance, they are developing rigorous business approaches to become so. In Nakaseke, a proposed final “Structure and Business Plan” has been prepared. It foresees the establishment of a local technical Management Committee, appointed by the different community associations and professional groups and having a certain degree of statutory autonomy, to replace the Local Steering Committee.

### Community Multimedia Centre (CMC) Network

The Ugandan government is also proposing to launch a CMC Network and has set up a Task Group comprising representatives of the Department of Information, Uganda National Commission for UNESCO as well as managers of community radios and MCTs to develop guidelines for preparing the CMC project.

In addition to the Buwama, Nabweru and Nakaseke MCTs which will add radios, the other

centres proposed to participate in the network are the Apac and Kagadi Kibaale community radios which will add MCT facilities.

The management and users of all three MCTs are very enthusiastic about the incorporation of community radio which is seen as the ideal way to reach unreached users with appropriately packaged and community crafted development information as well as to more effectively promote the services of the centres.

Apac, in the north of the country, started in 1999 with a Canadian briefcase radio donated by Commonwealth of Learning (COL). It broadcasts programmes on a wide range of development issues, and is entirely solar powered. Apac already has 20 PCs and is waiting for sufficient space to install them in July. Kigadi Kibaale Community Radio (KKCR) in the western part of the country is operating with a more powerful (2 kW) transmitter within an NGO concerned with human development in rural areas: Uganda Rural Development and Training Project (URDT). It has received support from SIDA, IDRC and UNDP. There are three computers and e-mail at the URDT office in the district seat, and two PCs in the radio in Kigadi which were purchased to support, *inter alia*, a future radio browsing programme.

It is clearly essential that the CMC network project aim at sustainability by the end of the proposed assistance. Ideally this would mean that the project should be inserted in an enabling national policy and action plan for universal access to communication and information facilities. However, the national policies on communication and information for development and on information and communication technologies are still in the formative stage, and they do not, except for a sparse reference to traditional libraries, archives and documentation centres in the former and to the role of indigenous and local knowledge in the latter, include a reference to policies on the generation, dissemination and use of information for and by all citizens, especially concerning disadvantaged communities and multilingual content.

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## PUBLIC DOMAIN

### Public domain digital libraries on CD-ROM in the Publica Collection

**F**OLLOWING a resolution of the General Conference at its 29th session requesting UNESCO to facilitate access to information in the public domain, as well as to make efforts to increase the diversity of content on the information highways with particular emphasis on African content, UNESCO initiated in 1998 a collection of electronic publications entitled "PUBLICA".

The first production in the "PUBLICA" collection was the publication in 1999 of a digital anthology on the Sahel developmental issues for ordinary citizens, including about 20,000 pages of full text documentation in French, entitled "SAHEL point DOC" (see Vol. 26 No. 2, 1998). The current project aims to publish two CD-ROMs of the same kind: a new one in English and Kiswahili focused on East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda), and a new edition for the Sahel, both with special emphasis on local publications. The second edition of "SAHEL point DOC" involves the same countries as in the first one: Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. This project is largely driven by user demand, as defined by local partners identified in the initial stages of the project, notably the participation of the National Co-ordinators.

The CD-ROMs contain various kinds of documents such as practical and technical guides, technical sheets, proceedings and reports, etc., coming from the immense stock of local and international information and literature dedicated to development problems in Africa. The subject coverage is organized under the following headings:

- Agriculture, Fishing, Breeding
- Environment, Water, Energy

- Social and Human Development
- Co-operation, Financing, Enterprise
- Culture, Information, Communication

The CD-ROMs contents are from the public domain, that is to say without copyright, or in some cases, the rights were released by the owners for inclusion in the collection. The CD-ROMs are to be distributed free of charge, particularly to public information centres such as national libraries and community telecentres.

In all, 369 documents from East Africa and 407 from the Sahel countries were received for the production of the new CD-ROMs. These 776 documents totalled more than 78,000 pages. About 50,000 pages were retained for publication on the criterion of greatest relevance.

National diffusion centres have been selected in the targeted countries and are provided with computer equipment in order to support a wide dissemination process of these digital libraries. The release of the new CD-ROMs is expected by mid 2001.

UNESCO is cooperating with the University of Waikato (New Zealand) which has developed the interface software, Greenstone, used to build these African digital libraries, to enhance the Greenstone open source software to enable it to be easily used by any potential public service user or library institution in developing digital library applications on CD-ROM or the Web. This software will be made widely available free of charge by UNESCO.

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### Virtual Library of Polish Literature

**A** Virtual Library of Polish Literature is now available worldwide on the web. The site features more than 100 full texts of Polish literature. Edited by Marek Adamiec, Institute of Polish Philology at the Faculty of Languages and History of the Univer-

sity of Gdansk, the project has been implemented within the framework of the UNESCO project "Virtual library of Classic Texts of World Literature", in co-operation with the Polish National Commission for UNESCO.



According to its editor, the library aims to “present Polish literature in its richness and originality and to show the various connections linking it to world literature”. Modern technology is viewed as an excellent tool to popularize this spiritual heritage.

The Virtual Library of Polish Literature presents significant works of Polish literature. The texts presented are free from copyright and, therefore, in the public domain. Their selection was made by experts in the field of the history of Polish literature, from Gdansk University and members of a specially appointed Consultative Council representing various academic centres in Poland.

The texts are accompanied by illustrations, mostly portraits of the authors or reproductions of the covers of the first edition, a biographical entry prepared especially for the Virtual Library of Polish Literature, and a detailed bibliography. Whenever possible, the texts have been presented in their full form; poetry selections represent the entire poetic output of the given writer.

The principles behind the organization of the texts and the conception of the general outline were simplicity and the intuitiveness of accessing the library sources. The contents of the Virtual Library of Polish Literature should be easy to explore by anyone with a rudimentary knowledge of the Internet and can be read by users with basic computer equipment (Netscape 2.0 and MS IE 3.0). They are encoded in Central European standard ISO-8859-2. Polish fonts or their substitutes have been installed in the system.



This new website is part of UNESCO's “Publica” series in which the Organization promotes a strong public domain of information and knowledge accessible for all. Communication and information technologies can largely facilitate this access, particularly with respect to classic works of world literature.

More about UNESCO's virtual library of classic works of world literature at [http://www.unesco.org/webworld/public\\_domain/public\\_inf.html](http://www.unesco.org/webworld/public_domain/public_inf.html)

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## UNESCO Sponsored Symposium on Electronic Theses

“ETD 2001: The Fourth International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations” was held at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena (USA) in March 2001. The UNESCO-sponsored event brought together approximately 160 experts, mainly librarians and other information specialists, to look at the development of projects to electronically create and disseminate theses and doctoral dissertations, a genre considered an important element of scientific and scholarly information.

Development of procedures, workflow models and document formatting and metadata

standards as well as training are the main issues in electronic theses and dissertations projects.

One of the main topics discussed during the three-day meeting was the “International Guide for the Creation of Electronic Theses” currently being prepared for UNESCO by an international group including experts from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute (USA) and the University of Montréal (Canada).

The Guide will present standards and best practices for the creation and enhancement of ETD projects, particularly in developing countries and will provide information on hard

and software requirements, legal issues, data formats, metadata archiving, access tools model workflow, budget and funding. The Guide should be published in the second half of 2001, in both on and off-line versions in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian.

ICTs have the potential to advance universal access to information and thus to reduce inequalities in favor of social justice and economic well-being. ICTs help scientists, universities and research institutions keep up with global developments and discoveries. Yet, the flow of scientific information between developing countries and from the South to the North is often hampered by poor communication and publication channels and by limited knowledge of the possibilities of using ICT in scientific information exchange.

Scientists in particular require access to information and are concerned with issues such as: the free flow of scientific information and its accessibility; the relation between public and private knowledge; intellectual property and copyright issues; changing practices in scientific communication; the growth of science in terms of the number and complexity of research programmes; poor communications and the lack of resources, particularly in developing countries.

Therefore, scientific communities, particularly those in developing countries, expect guarantees permitting the free flow of scientific information and support for concrete projects based on this principle. One such concrete project is the international ETD initiative which

supports a co-ordinated international approach to harmonize ETD methodologies and ensure their transfer to developing countries.

An international ETD workshop, organized by UNESCO in September 1999 in Paris to prepare the framework for the ETD initiative, (see Newsletter Vol. 27 No. 2, 1999) identified some of the main problems in accessing research results as limited access through traditional publishing enterprises, cost escalation for the acquisition of printed material, limited access to multilingual development and inadequate preservation and archiving measures for traditional (paper) material.

UNESCO was encouraged to continue promoting and supporting ETD initiatives and their coordination at the international level, and more particularly, making national ETD projects accessible to developing countries.

The "Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations" (NDLTD) was considered as an important element in federating various ETD projects. It was suggested to further internationalize NDLTD, taking account of the many technical, linguistic and cultural approaches. It was also suggested that NDLTD evolve into a non-governmental organization serving as an umbrella for ETD projects worldwide.

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## SOFTWARE

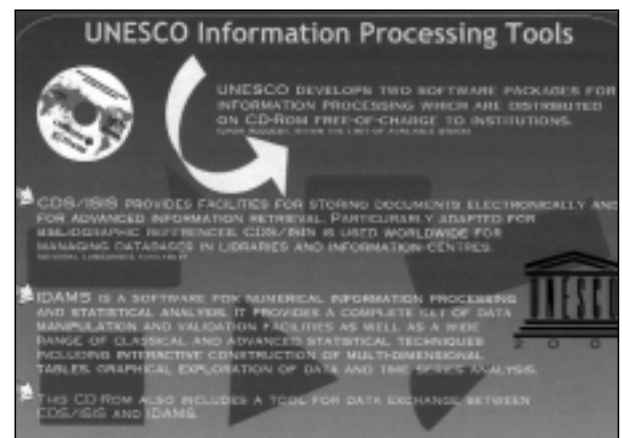
### UNESCO Information Processing Tools

#### CDS/ISIS

UNESCO announces the availability of the following products:

#### *Javaisis 3.5*

A new version of the successful Client/server suite for remote management of CDS/ISIS databases has been launched. Javaisis 3.5 is an Open-source Java 2 compatible application delivered for Windows, Linux and Macintosh platforms. It extends the capabilities of Winisis



(the Windows version of CDS/ISIS) from the local network to the Internet. In particular, it is strongly oriented to facilitate work within existing networks having access to the internet.

The latest version includes enhanced data-encoding capabilities for a better multilanguage support. As almost all CDS/ISIS software, the user-interface can be easily translated into your native language. It is available at: <http://www.unesco.org/webworld/isis>

### GENISIS 2

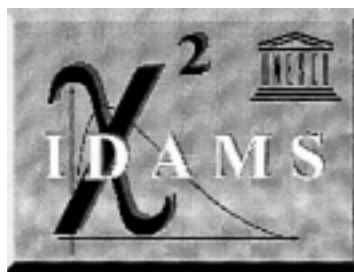
GENISIS 2 (for Windows) is a Web-page construction Wizard for CDS/ISIS. It makes it extremely easy to produce Web-database search

applications which may run on several platforms (i.e. Windows/Unix/Linux). It is based on the CDS/ISIS Web engine developed by WWWISIS from Bireme (Brazil) and can be tested (in French) at: <ftp://ftp.unesco.org/pub/winisis/genisis>

GENISIS 2 is the product of co-operation between the Association IBISCUS (France) and the UNESCO Secretariat. The final product will be released in 3 languages (English, French and Spanish) as an Open-source software.

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## IDAMS



### International Seminar on IDAMS

**T**HE Russian State Hydrometeorological University (RSHU) in Saint Petersburg organized and hosted a one week seminar on IDAMS from 14 - 19 May 2001. Almost 50 participants from Cameroon, China, Colombia, Mauritania, Peru, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Viet Nam attended different sessions of the seminar. These included scientists and students from various faculties of the University and other institutions located in St. Petersburg in addition to a group of 18 researchers and students who successfully followed the full training seminar, and obtained appropriate certificates. All participants had an excellent knowledge of numerical data processing and statistical analysis. They quickly acquired an understanding of basic IDAMS concepts and were able to work individually after two half-day sessions of introduction.

The programme of the Seminar and training material in English and Russian were prepared

jointly by UNESCO and RSHU. In addition to the presentation of basic IDAMS concepts and features, participants received two interesting background papers on the use of WinIDAMS in oceanography and economy.

The Seminar was opened by the Rector of the University and in the first working session participants were introduced to the Russian version of IDAMS, a tool for statistical analysis of their data. Further sessions enabled them become familiar with the WinIDAMS User Interface as they were exposed to IDAMS concepts and techniques.

The rest of the seminar was devoted to the application of WinIDAMS to management and analysis of hydrological and meteorological data. Participants worked in small groups, using their own data and practicing mainly Time Series Analysis.

The seminar provided a good opportunity to review and discuss current and future co-operation between UNESCO and RSHU concerning IDAMS. The Department of Tele-

communication of RSHU became an official distributor of IDAMS in the Russian Federation in October 2000. Since then, a number of presentations and seminars on IDAMS for various audiences have been organized at the University. A group of professionals has translated IDAMS release 4.0 for DOS along with its User Manual into Russian. These are available on the University server in DOC and HTML formats. The translation of the WinIDAMS Reference Manual is progressing well and the Manual in Russian should be published shortly. Of particular interest is Part VI "Statistical Formulas and References" which has been enriched by references to Russian literature in relevant subjects. It has often been stressed that IDAMS is the only statistical software package for which statistical algorithms are clearly presented and described, thus providing the possibility of better understanding the methods being used.

UNESCO and RSHU also discussed the possibility of further co-operation. One area being examined is the setting-up of a distribution



and training centre for IDAMS either at national or regional level.

Another area is the publication of papers on the use of WinIDAMS in research work in hydrology, meteorology, and in other connected fields. This could lead to a publication to be used in teaching and which provides examples of IDAMS applications.

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## ARCHIVES

### Primary Sources of the Nations' History

**A**LTHOUGH more and more National Archives worldwide are becoming connected to the Internet, at least through e-mail and in some cases through institutional websites, the publication of archival content is less frequent. UNESCO is currently examining the feasibility of an international programme to help Member States make key documents of their history, usually kept by National Archives, available online.

This new initiative, slated to become one of UNESCO's flagship projects, was discussed during a two-day consultation in Val David, Canada. The meeting, co-organized by UNESCO and the International Council on Archives (ICA), brought together directors of National Archives from all five regions of the world and

experts in the area of digitization and on-line publication of archival documents to discuss the project.

The programme to be known as "Primary Sources of the Nations' History Online" has widely ranging objectives which include: creating greater awareness of the importance of archives, strengthening the online availability of information in the public domain and providing a service to the scientific community and to the public at large.

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## Slave Trade Archives Project

UNESCO has launched a new website presenting its Slave Trade Archives Project established within the framework of its Memory of the World Programme. Funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the project seeks to provide access to and preservation of original archive materials concerning the transatlantic slave trade.

The project is being implemented as part of UNESCO's Slave Route Project which examines the slave trade and its economic and political impact. Slave trade original records must be ensured adequate preservation while being made available as a basis for further studies and to commemorate the world's common bondage of history.

A questionnaire has been designed to identify archives and other institutions holding slave trade related material, and to establish a clear picture of the conditions under which these are conserved as well as provisions for access to these documents.

The project will concentrate to a large extent on formulating a strategy for access. It will develop on- and off- line access to databases on slaving expeditions, wrecks of slaving ships, researchers and institutions studying the slave trade and the African diaspora.

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## INFORMATICS

### Meeting the challenges of an increasingly networked information age

A well-developed capacity in the field of information and telecommunication technologies (ICT) is becoming an indispensable tool for, and a key factor in the development of a nation and is considered vital to economic growth in the nations of Central Asia, Caucasus region and Eastern Europe.

The emerging information economy will demand an unprecedented level of networking technologies from tomorrow's Information Technology (IT) specialists and workers and could foreshadow a potential crisis in the workplace.

Since the end of the cold war, in keeping with ongoing economic reforms in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Internet and networks have widely been introduced into the public and private sectors. However an adequate number of network administrators is available to meet the increasing demand of local communities for effective network management.

Currently many mid-to-large range public and private institutions in the region expect to increase their network coverage and applications in the next decade but the majority of technology institutions cite a lack of skilled network administrators as a barrier to growth. Education institutions face the same shortage of network-support personnel as teachers around the region begin to integrate the vast resources available to them on the Internet and as networks become important tools in boosting administrative efficiency and communication.

Education institutions are therefore under pressure to prepare students with the necessary networking skills to be successful in the 21st century.

To better meet the above challenges, the Information Society Division of UNESCO has recently initiated a regional academy project. The UNDP/UNESCO project "Regional Academy for Advanced Network administration and Design" or called as "RAANAD" will



shortly be launched by UNESCO in partnership with UNDP-Ukraine, Kiev National Taras Shevchenko University and Cisco Systems on the basis of existing human resources and infrastructure of the University, which have considerably been reinforced under assistance provided by another UNDP/UNESCO project.

The Academy will provide training in network administration and design on the basis of the Academy Training Programmes for the purpose of producing qualified network administrators and designers capable of undertaking variety of network administration assignments and design of computing networks.

While building an environment to conduct research activities in future in line with emerging local needs for co-research activities in the region, the Academy is expected to organize regional events in key areas of ICTs, such as workshops, seminars, conferences and meetings

to promote the exchange of information and expertise.

At the primary stage, the Academy will be of benefit to IT institutions in Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Ukraine through training of trainers in new networking technologies. In the long-term and in line with growing regional needs, it is expected the Academy will expand its coverage of activities into other nations in the region.

The University will play a leading role in running the Academy and managing its activities, particularly in maintaining its sustainability in the long run.

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## INFOYOUTH PROGRAMME

### Third World Summit on Media for Children

**T**HE 3rd World Summit on Media for Children was organized under the auspices of the Director-General of UNESCO, the President of the Hellenic Republic and UNICEF. Participants included broadcasting companies, producers, television programme directors, media research, training specialists, staff from UN agencies and decision-makers.

During the preparatory work for the Summit UNESCO stressed the need for better representation of developing countries. This was agreed to, and with co-funding from UNICEF, some eighty-eight countries participated, an increase over the two previous summits in 1995

and 1998. UNESCO's commitment and involvement permitted a greater role in shaping the way the various subjects related to youth information and communication policies and programmes are dealt with.

A Virtual Kids World session, was one of the highlights of the Summit. During this session "virtual" (TV and Internet) live connections were established with young people and experts involved in projects in developing areas around the world using new technologies in order to reach children and youth. The next World Summit will take place in Brazil, in 2004.

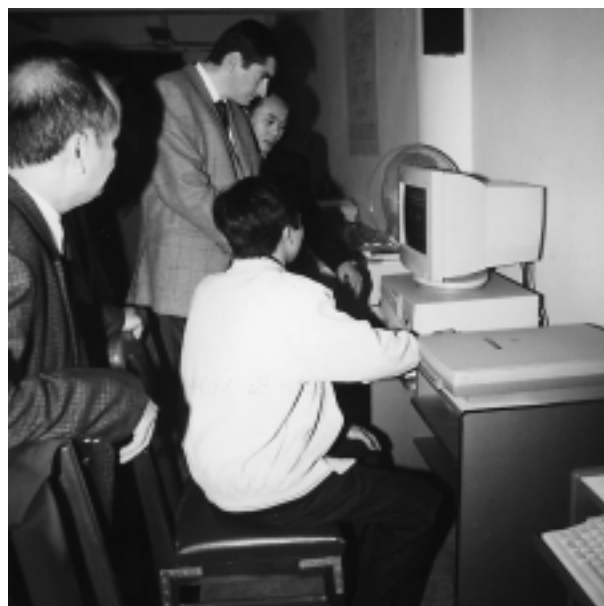
## First National Youth Information Centre opened in Viet Nam

**I**N Viet Nam, the first national youth information centre was opened in January. This was an excellent opportunity for discussions with the national authorities on expanding Infoyouth activities within the country as well as within the context of the new Information For All Programme.

It is expected that at least two information centres will shortly be opened in rural areas along with the creation of a website and database on youth information.

Support was also provided to projects for HIV/AIDS prevention through better information and non formal education of youth and in Peru, for the fifth consecutive year, the national INFOYOUTH competition "Haz realidad tu negocio", was organized for young people willing to launch their own business.

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## REGIONAL OFFICES

### Bangkok

#### UNESCO ASTINFO Working Group Meeting: ASTINFO, RINSEAP and RINSCA

Hosted by the National Centre for Scientific and Technological Information and Documentation (NACESTID), the UNESCO Working Group Meeting was held from 12 to 14 March 2001 in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

In welcoming participants, the Director of NACESTID stressed the importance of creating and maintaining universal access to information for all. Viet Nam has greatly benefited from UNESCO's support for library and information services, in particular the CDS/ISIS software which is used in every library in Vietnam. Equitable access to information was seen as a tool to combat poverty and enable less developed countries to progress.

The meeting was convened to discuss a possible updated and expanded network, comprising ASTINFO and the two Informatics networks RINSEAP and RINSCA in the light of the new Information For All Programme (IFAP) whose focus would be more on the use of ICT's in development, particularly in the information and library area, and less on the technologies themselves.

The two informatics networks had been inactive for some time so there was need for refocusing and reorganization to support the new Programme fully. Since the three networks would now be governed by the same Programme, the feasibility of a merger was examined in detail and focussed on questions relating to the structure and content of a new network.

One of the main thrusts of the IFAP will be information content. RINSEAP and RINSCA's objectives concern developing, establishing and improving informatics, whereas ASTINFO already has a strong focus on content. After extensive discussions it was agreed by the participants that as the ASTINFO objectives broadly encompass those of the three Networks:

(a) the three networks be merged and ASTINFO's current objectives become more generic, with detailed sub-objectives or strategies outlined

(b) a new name be identified for the new network

(c) the new objectives be linked to the IFA Main Programme Areas.

These objectives would include:

- Developing appropriate information policies to guide the overall progress of national information infrastructures and services, and promote ICT applications in the support of national development plans and programmes.

- Improving education and training of human resources (professionals and users).

- Developing methodologies and facilities for multilingual content management and strengthening the information content base, especially on indigenous knowledge, folk wisdom, cultural heritage and other subject areas of interest to the region.

- Developing the technical and organizational infrastructure to promote the flow and the sharing of information resources.

- Promoting of ICT literacy and the application of ICT in education, science, culture and communication.

The Working Group next discussed several names for the proposed new expanded network. The majority of the Working group voted for Asia and Pacific Information Network (APIN), although a minority preferred Asia and Pacific Knowledge Network. It was suggested that the new name be discussed at the proposed joint meeting of ASTINFO, RINSEAP, RINSCA representatives. The Working Group considered that it was very important to use the opportunity of the creation of a new network to widely publicize its name, aims and objectives.

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### Expert Meeting on Digital Content Development for Information Societies with Special Reference to the Asia/Pacific Region

The Expert Meeting was held from 26-28 March 2001 in Tokyo, Japan. It was organized as a part of the Study on the Strategic Planning for the Promotion of Computerization in Asia and the Pacific, a two-year joint project by selected countries in the region, and funded by the Japanese government.

The meeting was organized to examine how to stimulate the creation of digital content in order to assist the development of information societies in Asia and the Pacific region, by identifying the factors that:

(a) constrain the development of digital content and identifying how these constraints can be overcome;

(b) stimulate the creation of digital content, and determining how this can be enhanced.

Seven key factors were identified. These can be listed as:

clear vision and a sense of strong leadership; cheap, reliable and high-capacity telecommunications networks; an active private sector, a range of public sector digital information services; legal and regulatory framework; appropriate information skills; awareness of information needs.

However, these seven factors cannot be regarded in isolation as there is a high degree of inter-relationship and countries should try to address them all as they strive to develop their strategies for a knowledge-based society.

The eighteen participants were mainly from countries in the region and were welcomed by the Ministry of Education and Science. A representative of the European Commission, Information Society Director spoke on the role of digital content in the EU information society and explained that the EU leaders have put digital content firmly on the political agenda by asking the European Commission to propose new actions to foster market development and ensure user take up.

The EU has put in place a comprehensive set of actions through a number of programmes covering both the technological aspects and the market applications of digital content. The Europe action plan provides an umbrella for all these actions, giving the highest political visibility to the process. The EU programmes are complemented by a review of the legal framework for telecommunication, data protection

and intellectual property rights. The expectation behind this effort is to achieve a rapid implementation of research results into marketable products and services generating economic returns comparable with the investments made by the operators in the emerging fields.

Country presentations from China, Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Viet Nam on the situation of digital content development within their respective countries provided a specific focus on the:

- competence of the existing content creation industry,
- legal and regulatory framework,
- availability of skilled and experienced staff,
- sophistication and reliability of networks for distributing and accessing digital content,
- level of development of a market for digital content, particularly the level of demand,
- access to innovation and product development techniques,
- linguistic and cultural barriers to information use,
- extent to which the public and private sectors can work together.

Following the discussions of the country reports and field studies, it became clear that the development of knowledge-based societies is a complex, multi-faceted process. There were, however, two over-riding conclusions.

- First, the divide within and between countries in the Asia-Pacific Region is growing and is being exacerbated by the uneven growth of knowledge-based societies.

- Secondly, digital content is an essential component of knowledge-based societies. Information and communication technologies are important but they alone cannot bring about the transition to information or knowledge-based societies.

It is, therefore, extremely important to stimulate a vibrant digital content development sector in each of the countries of the Region. Drawing on the evidence the meeting concluded that the seven factors identified earlier will determine the development of digital content.

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## Caracas

### “Iberoamerican and Caribbean Digital Library Policy”

Since 1997, the Regional Information Adviser in Caracas has been working on the implementation of a project to create an Iberoamerican and Caribbean Digital Library. This project was discussed by INFOLAC and ABINIA and approved for financing under a funds-in-trust agreement with the Government of Spain.

Several Iberoamerican National Libraries are also participating in the projects by the University of Alicante, to develop the *Miguel de Cervantes Virtual Library*, which today contains 7,000 full text digitized classics in Spanish, and are published on the Internet portal: <http://cervantesvirtual.com>. The project aims to include 30,000 works. The website is outstanding for its graphic design, user-friendliness, and above all, for the first-class

contents available to anyone studying Hispanic language and literature.

In April, 2001, funding for *Iberoamerican and Caribbean Digital Library* was approved and 1 May 2001 was chosen as the date to initiate this project. A Collaboration Agreement between UNESCO and the University of Alicante was prepared on the co-ordination of the digital library projects of both institutions: “Iberoamerican and Caribbean Digital Library Project” and “Miguel de Cervantes Virtual Library” for discussions among the 34 National Iberoamerican Libraries, Spain and Portugal concerning conditions of their participation.

☞ *For more on regional information activities in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, please contact Mr Isidro Fernández-Aballí, Regional Adviser, UNESCO/INF/LAC, Apartado postal 68394, Caracas 1062-A, Venezuela. Tel.: (582) 286 15 25. Fax: (582) 286.04.60. E-mail: i.fernandez-aballi@unesco.org*



## Montevideo

### 2nd International Forum on Free Software

UNESCO participated in the Second International Forum on Free Software held in Porto Alegre, Brazil from 29-31 May 2001 and was responsible for the co-ordination of the Panel *International Initiatives to strengthening the Open Software Movement and its development in Social Areas* (<http://www.softwarelivre.rs.gov.br>). The Forum was promoted by a number of Brazilian institutions and received support from the UNESCO Montevideo office.

Representatives from international institutions associated with free software initiatives participated in the forum and in the round table in which "UNESCO and the Development of Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean" was presented. Of particular interest was the presentation of CIPGSCA (Committee for the Incentive to GNU and alternative software production) <http://www.cipgsc.org.br> and the Linux Group from Uruguay. CIPGSCA is promoting the wide dissemination of free software through activities such as campaigns, publications, training, success stories, and others.

Discussions were held with potential partners to set up a Latin America and Caribbean Network of Free Software Developers and Users. Additional work will have to be done to prepare by-laws, statutes, objectives, partners as well as financial aspects. UNESCO-Montevideo will act as the nucleus in organizing the envisaged network. This initiative will be launched as soon as the preparatory work is finalized and will take into consideration similar on-going initiatives such as the *Association Francophone des Utilisateurs de Linux* ([www.aful.org](http://www.aful.org)).

Participation in the forum provided an opportunity for a large number of specialists and state authorities to become more familiar with the Organization's action. This will open new doors for future activities regarding free software activities such as policy adopted by the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul in cooperation with the State Government and many partners. A state policy is being elaborated to support activities relating to free enterprise, free school network which will include 2000 schools by end of year 2001 and many other spin-offs. Universities, both public and private, are also highly involved in the free software policy.

☞ Please contact Mr Claudio Menezes, Regional Adviser for Informatics and Telematics

for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNESCO Office, Avenida Brasil 2697, P. O. Box 859, 11300 Montevideo, Uruguay. Tel.: (59-82) 707 20 23. Fax: (59-82) 707 21 40. E-mail: [cmenezes@unesco.org.uy](mailto:cmenezes@unesco.org.uy)

### Electronic Theses Training Seminar

The third Latin-American training course for managers of electronic theses and dissertations programmes (ETDs) was held in Recife, Brazil from 10-12 April 2001. The three day seminar was organized by the UNESCO Montevideo Office and Universidad Católica de Pernambuco (UNICAP), under the auspices of the Ibero-American Science and Technology Education Consortium (ISTEC) and the Programa Iberoamericano de Ciencia y Tecnología para el Desarrollo (CYTED).

In recent decades remarkable advances made in many fields of science, together with revolutionary developments in ICTs, have been of great benefit to humankind. However the fruits of research are unevenly distributed and, under the impulse of rapid globalization, the "gaps" are widening between those who have the means to benefit effectively from scientific advances and those who do not.

UNESCO's ETD initiative aims to contribute to enhancing equal access to scientific information, through the use of ICT for the production, access and archiving of theses and dissertations. In particular, it aims to establish internationally accepted norms and procedures, to train project managers and students and to establish pilot projects at selected universities/university libraries which will become regional centres of excellence for ETD programmes.

☞ You may also contact Mr Claudio Menezes, Regional Adviser for Informatics and Telematics for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNESCO Office, Avenida Brasil 2697, P. O. Box 859, 11300 Montevideo, Uruguay. Tel.: (59-82) 707 20 23. Fax: (59-82) 707 21 40. E-mail: [cmenezes@unesco.org.uy](mailto:cmenezes@unesco.org.uy)

### Regional Workshop in Kingston and Mexico City

The Regional Adviser in Montevideo participated in two regional workshops in



Kingston, Jamaica and Mexico City, Mexico and took the opportunity to present the new Information for All Programme of the Information Society Division.

In Kingston, the **Workshop on Sectoral Planning for Information Technology: A Regional Initiative for Informatics Strategies** was held from 3-5 April 2001. It was organized by the Ministry for Industry, Commerce and Technology, and was sponsored by the Caribbean Development Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the COMNET-IT Foundation and UNESCO.

The Government of Jamaica has completed the first phase of its National Strategic Plan for Information Technology and is starting the second phase which calls for the formulation of a detailed plan for each sector.

In Mexico, the **Workshop on establishing a UNAM-UNESCO Virtual Campus Observatory** was held from 24 - 25 June 2001.

It was organized by the *Coordinación Universitaria Académica de Educación a Distancia* (CUAED), and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and its main objective was to promote co-operation between UNESCO, INEGI (National Institute for Statistics, Geography and Informatics, the CAIBI Focal Point in Mexico) and university specialists participating in the workshop, as a means of setting up the Observatory.

In addition to UNAM, four universities were reached through videoconferencing and took an active part in the debate. UNESCO also took advantage of this meeting to prepare the preliminary groundwork for the forthcoming Simplic 2002 Conference scheduled to be held in Havana, Cuba, 24-28 February 2002.

☞ Please contact Mr Claudio Menezes, Regional Adviser for Informatics and Telematics for Latin America and the Caribbean at the above address.

## Cairo

### Syrian Higher Education and Research Network (SHERN)

Since its inception in 1999, the SHERN project has achieved considerable progress. Its objective is to build core infrastructure and capacity in networking and intranet technologies for the purpose of developing electronic exchange of information between universities and research centres as well as e-learning and e-administrative applications within academic networks. The theoretical and practical training that local teams receive during the course of this project should lead to enhanced capacities and capabilities in these technologies as well as to the modernization of academic programmes and development of new methodologies in teaching and research. It is essential to the success of the project that it is completed by the start of the next academic year to help universities make use of the network and expertise.

Despite some initial delay in implementing the project, steady progress has now been achieved and all its objectives should shortly be reached. Local teams in the universities have gained much needed experience in networking and should be able to pursue future expansions independently. At the same time, universities

should be encouraged to provide more incentives to the technical teams in order to avoid the brain drain in the high technology field of information while making appropriate selections, based on technical qualifications, that will ensure that the stability of the team is maintained.

The universities, their academic and support staff as well as students are waiting eagerly the completion of the pilot project in order to make effective use of the new environment and particularly the Internet for academic applications. Local technical teams feel that they have greatly enhanced their necessary skills and expect to be fully operational by the end of the project to serve the academic community. Female engineers are involved in the local technical teams for the design and implementation of the network on an equal footing with their male counterparts. This project will allow female students graduating from universities to get jobs more easily and having used technologies permitting distance working, can work from their homes.

The Cairo Office has also been involved in the development of novel pilot project *Bi-lateral Distance Education Project* between Helwan University (Egypt), United Publishing

Inc. and the University of Berlin, Germany. This consists in the web delivery of a course jointly developed by the Egyptian and German faculties of electrical engineering to graduate students in both universities. UNESCO provides financial as well as advisory assistance by training faculty and providing advice with respect to the software platforms and actual details of courseware delivery. Most important is the design of appropriate evaluation criteria for

the assessment of this "actual" distance education pilot project which should be concluded by December 2001.

✉ *Postal Address: Mr Tarek G. Shawki, Regional Information and Informatics Adviser for Arab States, UNESCO Office, 8 Abdel Rahman Fahmy Street, Garden City, Cairo 11511, Egypt. Tel.: (202) 354 30 36 or 354 55 99. Fax: (202) 354 52 96. E-mail: tshawki@mail.unesco.org.eg*

## New Delhi

### Regional Meeting on Interchange and Exchange of Scientific Information among S & T Information Centres/Libraries

The meeting was held from 29-30 January 2001 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It was sponsored by the UNESCO New Delhi Office and was hosted by the Sri Lankan Scientific and Technical Information Centre of the National Science Foundation. Participants came from six countries of the region.

The main objectives are to:

- Design a mechanism to exchange information among Asian countries.
- Promote co-operation among libraries and information centres in the region.

In the keynote address delivered by the representative of the Minister of Science and Technology, mention was made of the fact that information could be transformed into a powerful tool for the benefit of people in all countries and would enable them to keep pace with the global phenomenon. He stressed that all countries have to keep updating the knowledge and skills of their scientific and technical personnel on a regular basis to be on par with the developed world.

Individual country reports highlighting significant activities were presented by each participant. Technical papers also presented during the meeting gave rise to an examination of certain key issues affecting the region. One of these concerned the high cost of subscription to electronic databases. Considering the economic

situation of the region it was suggested that a co-operative programme among countries could reduce the cost of access in addition to the possibility of exchanging periodicals in printed form. Another issue discussed was the development of a mechanism to create a union catalogue as well as databases accessible via the Internet.

Recommendations adopted include the:

- Establishment of a regional committee.
- Establishment of regional consortia to access scientific and technical information in the region.
  - Identification of an institution in each country to act as clearing house at national level for document delivery.
  - Training of trainers to facilitate training of library and information professionals in IT skills.
  - Formulation of guidelines on uniformity in data formats for databases, bibliographies and directories.
  - Provision of free or subsidized access to online databases in member countries.
  - Identification of published and unpublished material for exchange within the SAARC countries.
  - Updating of directories of centres of excellence.
  - Compilation of a directory of experts in the region.

*For more information please contact Mr T. Sindhi, UNESCO New Delhi Office, 8 Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vishar, New Delhi 110057, India.*

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Requests from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, United States of America, Venezuela and the Asia and Pacific Region should be sent directly to our documents resource centres whose addresses are indicated

### ARGENTINA

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### BRAZIL

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em Ciencia e Tecnologia (IBICT)  
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70710 Brasilia DF, Brazil

### MEXICO

Sr. Director  
Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología  
Centro de Servicios de Información  
y Documentación  
Circuito Cultural Universitario  
Ciudad Universitaria  
04515 Mexico DF

### PORTUGAL

Sra. Gabriela Lopes da Silva  
Directora  
Serviço de Informação e Documentação (SID)  
Fundação para Ciência e Tecnológica (FCT)  
Av. D. Carlos 1, 126  
1200 Lisboa, Portugal.

below. Document requests from Africa, Arab States, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean should continue to be sent to: Information Society Division, UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75732, Paris Cedex 15, France.

### SPAIN

Sra. Directora  
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones  
Científicas  
Centro de Información y Documentación  
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### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Director  
West Virginia Library Commission  
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### ASIA/PACIFIC REGION

UNESCO/INF  
Documents Supply Service  
c/o The National Library of Thailand  
Samsen Road  
Bangkok 10300, Thailand

All documents may be consulted at the premises of each of the institutions mentioned above. Copies may be obtained on a cost recovery basis at prices set out by the distributing institutions. UNESCO is in the process of digitizing its documents and a full text selection of these can be consulted at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/ulis>.

All current and out-of-print documents are also available on microfiche, at a price of FF22 per fiche corresponding normally to 96 pages. Orders for microfiches should be sent to: Archives Records Management and Microform Division (DIT/AM), UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France. Fax: (331) 45.68.56.17.

Below is a list of new publications:

- JENSEN, Mike; ESTHERHUYSEN, Anriette. *The Community Telecentre Cookbook for Africa: Recipes for self-sustainability - How to*

*establish a multi-purpose Community Telecentre in Africa.* Paris: UNESCO, 2001. 130 p. (CII.2001/WS/2).

- AFRICA'S NEW CENTURY. *Hopes and questions of young people in Kinshasa.* Paris: UNESCO, 2000. 168 p. (CII.2000/WS/3). Also available in French.

- LARIVIÈRE, Jules. *Principes directeurs pour l'élaboration d'une législation sur le dépôt légal.* Edition révisée, augmentée et mise à jour de l'étude publiée en 1981 par Jean LUNN. Paris : UNESCO, 2000. 49 p. (CII.2000/WS/7). Already available in English.

- ENQUÊTE MONDIALE SUR LA GOUVERNANCE EN LIGNE - Rapport final établi par la Fondation COMNET-IT. Paris : UNESCO, 2000. 75 p. (CII.2000/WS/9). French version of Global Survey on Online Governance.

The Newsletter provides information on the activities of the UNESCO Information Society Division and other related issues. Published twice a year in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, the Newsletter is distributed free of charge by the Division.

*Editor: Mr Philippe Quéau; Assistant Editor: Mrs Joie Springer; Editorial Assistant: Mrs Grace Mensah*

Readers are invited to send their comments, suggestions or relevant information to: UNISIST Newsletter, Information Society Division, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel.: (33-1) 45.68.44.97. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.83. E-mail: [j.springer@unesco.org](mailto:j.springer@unesco.org) Requests for copies of Newsletter may be directly sent to: [g.mensah@unesco.org](mailto:g.mensah@unesco.org)

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INFORMATION SOCIETY DIVISION

***INFORMATION***

***INFORMATICS***

***TELEMATICS***

**UNISIST Newsletter**  
**Vol. 28, No. 2, 2000**



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## EDITORIAL

### The 2003 World Summit on the Information Society A challenge for the Global Civil Society

by *Philippe Quéau*  
*Director of the Information Society Division*  
*UNESCO*

THE World Summit on the Information Society, being organized in 2003 by ITU and other international organizations, including UNESCO, will be a unique occasion for the Global Civil Society to formulate policy recommendations that may have a different flavour from what is often heard in the official arenas addressing the most controversial issues of the Global Information Society.

The concept of a Global Civil Society is still unchartered. Intuitively, it suggests that the essence of the so-called international community differs somewhat from its incarnation in the formal international assemblies of Member States. The latter do not necessarily reflect all the concerns of the "people", especially taken from the viewpoint of general interest at world level. The reason is simple: the "sacred egoisms" of sovereign States do not always allow them to take a broader view beyond their special interests and directly tackle issues such as the greater common good of mankind. As a result, the Global plane is still flying without a real pilot.

Events during the WTO meeting at Seattle in November 1999 demonstrated that there is, in effect, much room for new ideas and points of views to emerge. The 2001 World Social Forum of Porto Alegre (Brazil) organized as a counterpoint to the Davos Forum is a prime example of the emergence of alternative viewpoints on world policies. It is assumed that world policies cannot reasonably be entirely left to vested interests or purely economic systems of thought.

Thus the "governance" of the Global Information Society cannot be left to market forces alone. There is room for public policies and for coordinated actions from national governments with relevant international organizations and the vast networks of NGOs as well as civil society at large.

The Global Civil Society must urgently awaken to the fundamental problems of global governance that affect this planet, particularly in the context of the emerging knowledge civilization. Clearly one cannot expect good results from the mere juxtaposition of national policies or from the invisible



hands (and heart) of the market. A sense of global coordination of public policies is indeed needed, and it has to be put at the service of very clearly defined social goals, with democratically discussed and accepted priorities.

The years 2001 and 2002 must be devoted to a vast brainstorming on a number of key issues, including the effective needs of the global civil society confronted by the Information Society's hidden "code" (in the words of Lawrence Lessig)<sup>1</sup>

For instance, what is the long-term social impact of the actual change of balance in the intellectual property regimes? Do we need world equivalents of the famous US anti-trust laws that are so important to "regulate" the net-economy? What about the protection of cultural and linguistic diversity in a structurally uniformizing and standardizing system of exchange?

In order to prepare the World Summit on Information Society, the Global Civil Society through its most active representatives must be sensitized and various communities of users, scientists, librarians, educators, journalists, etc. must start to state their views clearly and finely

1. See Lawrence Lessig, *Code and Other Laws of Cyberspace*, Basic Books, 1999.

articulated, on the subjects that make more sense for them.

Not taking the initiative at this stage will simply give the upper hand to other vested interests, already well prepared to have their views prevail in international fora. UNESCO is willing to play its role of facilitator to translate the results of its constituency's brainstorming into policy recommendations and to actually help these recommenda-

tions to be taken into account at the 2003 World Summit.

As a preliminary move, and taking advantage of INFOethics 2000's results covered in this issue, UNESCO's secretariat is currently working on a Draft Recommendation dealing with the concept of universal access to cyberspace, that will be submitted to UNESCO General Conference in November 2001.

## INFOETHICS

### INFOETHICS 2000

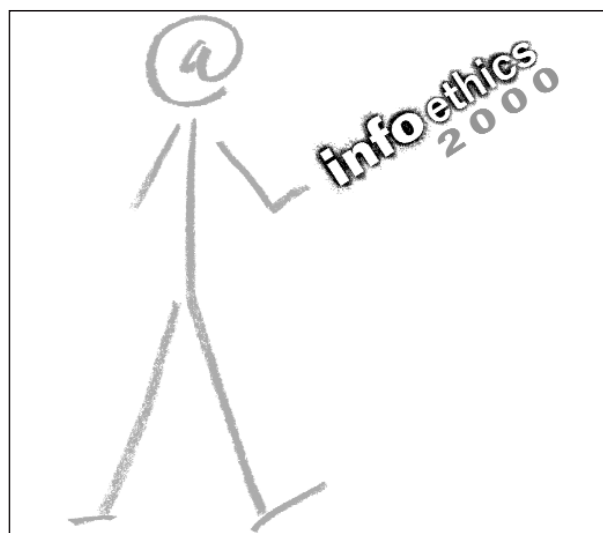
#### Universal Access to Information in the Twenty-First Century: Ethical, Legal and Societal Challenges of Cyberspace

**I**NFOethics 2000, the third UNESCO Congress on the ethical, legal and societal challenges of cyberspace, was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 13 to 15 November 2000 involving a total of thirty-two speakers from nineteen countries and five international inter-governmental organizations in the six discussion panels. Pending publication and distribution by UNESCO, synopses and full text of papers presented can be found at the website of the Sector of Communication and Information Society: <http://webworld.unesco.org/infoethics2000/index.html>

The Congress was attended by more than 300 participants, mainly governmental officials, lawyers, academics, media and representatives of civil society from 66 countries and 53 non-governmental organizations. It was preceded by four INFOethics regional workshops held in Africa, Asia and Pacific, Europe and Latin America, in addition to one national workshop in Egypt.

The special studies, the aspirations expressed in the conclusions from the regional workshops and the interventions in the different sessions all showed, once again, the complexity of the ethical, legal and societal issues and their impact on the users of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Therefore, much greater attention must be given to the provision of affordable access to information, particularly information in the public domain, and to information technologies in all countries, especially developing countries and countries in transition.

It was also generally recognized that the organization of INFOethics 2000 was part of a long-term objective to include the ethical, legal



and societal issues linked to equitable access of information in the debates of the planned World Summit on the Information Society in 2003. UNESCO's role in dealing with those issues and in bringing them to the attention of this Summit was strongly reaffirmed.

The debates reconfirmed the importance and relevance of the issues highlighted by the Congress for the future development of the Information Society. Strong emphasis was placed on the need to ensure that human rights principles already in place should be preserved and further reinforced in the new digital environment and in cyberspace. In this context, the right of access to information for all remains a fundamental right to be upheld with greater efficiency and imagination in a spirit of equity, justice and mutual respect.

A brief summary of the principal results is provided below:

## The Role of Public Authorities in Access to Information

### *Broader and more efficient provision of public contents*

Public sector information forms part of the “intellectual commons”. It is critical for research, education, innovation, social and economic inclusion and is the foundation to building an informed, participatory and global society. Greater public benefit can be derived if such information resources and knowledge are shared at the broadest possible level, rather than allowing exclusivity or private interests, to prevail in the management of this resource.

Government leadership is therefore needed in making official information, subject to exceptions to protect national interests, electronically available to its citizens. Particular emphasis should be given to providing information on rights, entitlements, laws, regulations, health and government’s obligations to its citizens, along with promoting the development of content which reflect local culture, values, history and language.

The availability of high quality public sector information should be made available online in formats and through communication systems that serve citizens’ needs, must be promoted along with partnerships between the public and private sectors to provide incentives for knowledge-creation. Where such partnerships include public funding, knowledge components must subsequently be made publicly available so as to balance the public’s interest in access with the private sector interests in commercializing the information.

A list of information policies, recommended for adoption, include the:

- promotion of coherent information policies, including providing overviews, links to and directories of public sector information resources which are publicly available;
- development of models for facilitating community access to ICTs in developing countries and in rural areas and for people with disabilities and/or special needs;
- development of legal frameworks, especially harmonized legislative frameworks, which include freedom of information and protected disclosures laws;
- cooperation among different international governmental and non-governmental organizations with a view to building up a universally accessible body of knowledge, particularly for the benefit of developing countries, from the massive amount of information produced through the development projects and programmes;

- compilation of an international inventory of legislation, regulations, plans of action and programmes on the generation and dissemination of public domain information.

### *Facilitating access to networks and services*

Telematics networks and services are essential prerequisites for ensuring equitable access to information and, as such, must become a high priority on the development agenda of governments, especially in developing countries and countries in transition. An Internet service should be considered a public utility service just like basic telecommunication services, water, and electricity, with public service institutions, such as schools and public libraries, being allowed concessionary rates for Internet access.

Telecommunication access should be built upon principles of affordable public access, standardized infrastructure/protocols, clear, established regulatory and legal frameworks, with mechanisms established to provide the cross-subsidization of Internet access costs and telecommunication necessary to ensure equitable access to the Internet and its information content.

National authorities should support the development of “public service sector information and community technology consortia” which would also encourage information and knowledge access by local communities, particularly in remote and rural areas, as well as by disadvantaged people and other target groups.

## The “Fair use” Concept in the Information Society

The foundations and goals of copyright are, on one hand, to encourage creation by granting exclusive rights to the creator for a limited period of time and, on the other, to support and regulate the spread of cultural goods, knowledge and ideas. Copyright therefore relies on balancing the interests of protecting original works and their creators with guaranteeing public interest and fundamental freedoms. While present developments in intellectual property, especially in the field of copyright and neighbouring rights, could threaten this balance, it is also true that new technologies represent a threat for the normal exploitation of copyright-protected works. The preservation of this balance between the legitimate interests of the right holders and the equally legitimate interests of users to have access to information and culture, is of crucial importance to the Information Society.

Intellectual property rights are basically intended for the protection of creative works and technological innovations and not of investments. Therefore the creation of new *sui generis* rights or neighbouring rights protecting investments is not consistent with the essence of intellectual property.

The importance of copyright exemptions, such as "fair use" and equivalent exemptions, must be reasserted in the digital environment, as exemptions are an essential part of the necessary compromise between private and public interests.

The public service mission of libraries, educational institutions and museums in the digital age needs to be clearly defined and re-evaluated in light of the technological changes, so that their core functions in disseminating information for education, research and democracy building are preserved without competing with commercial providers of such services.

In this context, copyright exemptions system could be detrimental to investments in the developing countries as insufficient copyright protection might lead to low return on investments thereby threatening the spread of cultural goods and information in the developing countries.

### Protecting human dignity in the digital age

Although the Universal Declaration of Human Rights makes clear the need to safeguard the rights of privacy and of freedom of expression, new technologies pose new challenges to these essential rights, with, on the one hand, interactive technology making widespread surveillance of private life possible, and, on the other, software filters restricting access to information that might otherwise be freely available.

The development of a comprehensive strategy, including cultural, political, and institutional activities to protect personal privacy was stressed, and participants examined the possibility that UNESCO pursue the elaboration of an international convention that would propose a wide range of methods to protect personal privacy, including codes of conduct, self-regulation, and Privacy Enhancing Techniques.

New information technologies will pose new challenges to privacy. Some of these challenges arise from problems in the conflict of laws and the multiple jurisdictions in which electronic commerce will take place. There are also important matters of national security and computer crime that should be addressed. Solutions could include the adoption of model laws and new treaties with strong, enforceable provisions.

Issues concerning the Internet and human dignity must be evaluated on a moral basis. Freedom of expression and the dignity of the citizen are both important aspects of this morality. The protection of privacy and the promotion of free expression must be viewed as complementary goals in the digital age. Increasingly, new challenges to human dignity will affect both these areas making it necessary to prepare the legal and the ethical grounds for the Internet in developing countries.

New technologies will be developed to address issues of human dignity, but techniques are imperfect and technology alone is not a solution. Central to the protection of human dignity in the digital age is the active participation of civil society organizations in decisions concerning the future of the Internet. Successful policies for the Internet must include the voices of consumers and citizens.

INFOethics 2000 was considered as an important step in a process that could culminate in the adoption of international norms of conduct based on the concept of equitable access to information for all.

An International Committee of Experts is currently preparing a Recommendation on Universal Access and Promotion and Use of Multilingualism in Cyberspace for submission to the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2001 for adoption by its Member States. The INFOethics 2000 report will be included in the Recommendation, in addition to forming the basis of UNESCO's contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society planned in 2003 under the auspices of the United Nations.

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# PROMOTION AND USE OF MULTILINGUALISM AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CYBERSPACE

AT its 30th session, the General Conference of UNESCO approved a Resolution which underlines the need for the Organization and its Member States to promote multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace. It was felt that an international instrument, in the form of a recommendation to Member States, concerning universal access to the multicultural heritage of humanity and the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to in cyberspace must be prepared.

This was reiterated during INFOethics 2000 in which was stressed the Organization's leading role in promoting access to information in the public domain, especially by encouraging multilingualism and cultural diversity on global information networks.

It is widely assumed that all countries have a vital interest in the development of a global information society and in the potential for new opportunities. This can only be assured, however, if there is affordable and equitable access to information in all languages as a means of countering the numerous political, legal, cultural, economic, educational, social and technological factors affecting this access as well as the so-called "digital divide" between information rich and information poor. Disparities and inequalities among countries and communities in accessing and providing information are growing and many governments feel the need to establish national guiding principles for the formulation and implementation of policies on equal and affordable access to information in cyberspace.

Initiatives have been launched to reach an international consensus on these policies with UNESCO being urged to ensure that an appropriate balance is maintained with respect to access to and production of information on the global

networks. Proactive measures therefore need to be taken urgently at the national and international levels to encourage and support governments in the formulation of the policies, regulatory frameworks, and infrastructure, which address these concerns and determine the future of the global information society.

UNESCO is proposing a draft recommendation to cover the following key aspects of universal access to cyberspace: provision of access to the telematics networks and services, promotion of multilingualism, provision of access to information in the public domain and application of exemptions to copyright. To this end, it has conducted four studies by experts in each of these fields closely linked to the concept of universal access to cyberspace.

In the area of multilingualism, the study confirmed that language is not only the most important method of communication between people but is also part of their cultural heritage carrying far-reaching emotive associations. It is therefore proposed, *inter alia*, to reaffirm the promotion, respect and use of all languages in cyberspace; create contents in all international widely used languages as well as in other languages at the regional, national and local levels; prevent linguistic segregation in access to cultural and scientific information and knowledge: formulate strong national policies regarding the crucial issue of language survival.

UNESCO's Member States were consulted by the Director-General to provide comments on the priorities to be addressed in this area. These will be discussed by a Committee of 18 experts, set up by the Director-General, to review the results of the consultations and to prepare the draft Recommendation.

*For more information please contact Mr Victor Montviloff at the above address.*

# ARCHIVES

## International Archives Congress

**T**WO Thousand archivists from all over the world participated in the 14th Congress on Archives in Seville, Spain. The Congress on the theme "Archives of the New Millennium in the Information Society" featured sessions on the management and use of electronic records in a global context, the development of archival science as a scholarly discipline and the role of archives in the society of leisure.

The International Council on Archives (ICA) has published the Conference recommendations which focus on electronic records and information

technology, standardization, education of archivists, development of the profession and the protection of the archival heritage. One of the findings of the Congress was that the global flow of information increases the importance of international standards for archival terminology, preservation, appraisal, maintenance, and access to archival holdings.

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# LIBRARIES

## UNESCO launches archive and library portals

**U**NESCO has recently initiated two activities to improve access to information. In September, it launched the **UNESCO Archives Portal** which gives access to websites of archival institutions around the world, to resources related to records and archives management and to international cooperation in this area.

An "In Focus" section presents websites of archives which are particularly interesting. Visitors can also rank websites of archives and related institutions through an on-line rating system.

An identical resource for libraries, the **UNESCO Libraries Portal** was established some weeks later. This is intended to facilitate access to information related to library resources available on the World Wide Web as well as to issues affecting librarianship. The site is conceived as an interactive point on information in a range of categories including websites of national libraries, government information services, library associations and on-line resources, with special emphasis placed on activities in UNESCO's fields of competence such as education, sciences, culture and information.

Special sections will regularly feature news and articles of interest to librarians and highlight the activities of a selected library and/or collection.

Both Portals are gateways to resources related to information management and to international cooperation which allow visitors to browse through pre-established categories or search for specific words. New links can be added or modified by all visitors to help build a comprehensive resource. Visitors can also rank websites through an on-line rating system.

Webmasters of archive and library websites listed in the Portals are invited to post the UNESCO Archives and Library Portal logos on their website to help in promoting this resource.

*Archives Portal can be visited at: [http://www.unesco.org/webworld/portal\\_archives/](http://www.unesco.org/webworld/portal_archives/)*

*For additional information please contact Mr Axel Plathe, CI/INF, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel.: (331) 45.68.44.67. Fax: (331) 45.68.55.83. E-mail: a.plathe@unesco.org*

*Libraries Portal can be visited at: [http://www.unesco.org/webworld/portal\\_bib](http://www.unesco.org/webworld/portal_bib)*

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## Manifestos

**T**HE Public Library Manifesto and the School Library Manifesto, two declarations of principles for the creation and operation of public and school libraries worldwide, are now on-line and available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. Both Manifestos have been published conjointly by UNESCO and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

The Public Library Manifesto, adopted in 1994, proclaims UNESCO's belief in the public library

as a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women.

The School Library Manifesto adopted in 1999, aims to define and advance the role of school libraries and resource centres in enabling students to acquire the learning tools and learning content that allow them to develop their full capacities; to continue to learn throughout their lives; and to make informed decisions.

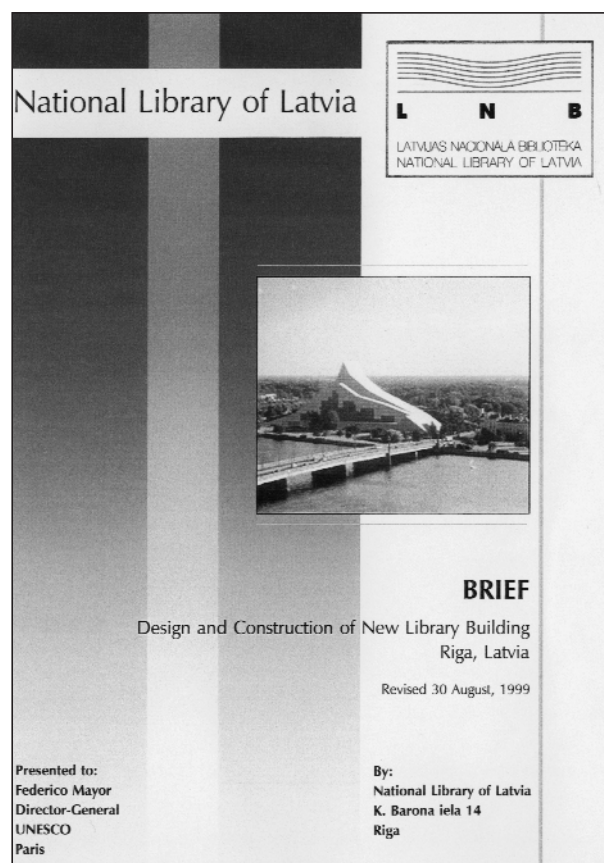
### National Library of Latvia (NLL) Meeting of International Commission of Experts Riga, Latvia 8–9 September 2000

**T**HE first meeting of the International Commission of Experts set up by UNESCO for the National Library of Latvia (NLL) project was held in Riga from 8 to 9 September 2000. Its main objective was to assist in developing communication strategies, providing methodological and technical support, mobilizing financial as well as in-kind resources through fund-raising campaigns and sensitizing professional and political communities to the NLL project.

The International Committee welcomed UNESCO's experience in implementing several projects in the field of libraries as well as its assistance in providing the NLL project with an architectural brief based on international library standards. UNESCO's Director-General, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, has agreed to lay the cornerstone to commence construction of the National Library in 2001.

The importance of constructing a new NLL was stressed as currently its library collections are split among eight separate buildings. The new NLL building will therefore not only be the head of the network of Latvian public libraries, bridging the existing gap between the capital and the regions but also a historic and cultural symbol.

Riga has always been a city of exchange, one open to cultural exchanges, a bridge over the past, and a city of light. Further discussion focussed on the role of the NLL as a communication treasure eliminating barriers to misunderstandings and conflicts, providing better information on culture and history as the way to knowledge, stressing that a National Library is not just a function but also the preserver of the nation's cultural heritage.



*National Library of Latvia*

A recent survey indicates that 78% of Latvians are aware of the NLL Project; with 59% supporting the project and accepting its costs. In addition, 45% are ready to participate financially.

Funding is a major concern. The next step is approval of the project by the Saeima (Parliament)

as an indication of the Latvian government's clear intention to proceed with the project and to interest other donors in supporting the project. The first meeting of the International Commission of Experts received excellent media coverage on television and in the press. This was regarded as a "momentum" to promote the project.

UNESCO confirmed that it would host a homepage promoting the NLL-project and providing, inter alia, information about all institutions linked to the project, and would provide guidelines on legal deposit legislation. UNESCO also recommended that closer collaboration on preservation matters be established by the setting up of a National Memory of the World Committee.

Other institutions have proposed assistance. These include workshops and training for Latvian librarians by the Library of Congress; support in the field of preservation of audio and video documents by the Royal Library of Sweden and the National Library of Norway.

The meeting adopted the following statement:

The International Commission of Experts for the National Library of Latvia Project

- considers that the Latvia National Library project is an essential activity as it also represents a major gateway of access to knowledge in Latvia and in the entire Baltic region;
- expresses its satisfaction with efforts made so far by the Latvian Government and with the ongoing debate in the Parliament on issues related to the funding of the project;
- commends the architectural brief, the construction management plans together with the functions, contents and services of the future library for their quality;
- confirms its readiness to continue to provide advice to the relevant Latvian authorities on the project development and to mobilize international expertise on specific issues on an ad hoc basis;
- stands ready to mobilize international support and assistance in compliance with the Resolution 30/38 adopted by UNESCO's General Conference in November 1999.

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### Local training initiatives for lay librarians in Ghana



THE Osu Library Fund Ltd., Ghana is a small grassroots NGO promoting literary opportunities and the development of children's libraries in Ghana, West Africa. Its sister charity, the Osu Children's Library Fund, Canada, supports these efforts by fund-raising and coordinating the local NGO's outreach. To date, more than 70 libraries have been assisted; many are small-scale with only a bag of books but the largest project in Accra, the capital city, accommodates almost 60,000 visits annually.

*Osu Children's Library, Ghana*



To assist communities wanting to start their own library, a lay-librarian training course is offered freely at the Kathy Knowles Community Library ("KKCL"), a 40-foot shipping container library, which the Fund established in 1992. The training is intended for literate individuals with initiative and support from their school or community. Training is normally free; except for individuals seeking training from private schools.

The three-week course is very basic, and yet allows without formal library training to set up a library for their school or community. At the conclusion of the course, each successful trainee receives a certificate, and a donation for their library, i.e., 100 books, a wooden jigsaw puzzle and a hand towel (hand washing before handling books is encouraged).

Most of the training is hands-on, and involves working with the library staff as they go about their daily activities. Keeping a library clean is paramount, especially during the dusty winds of the harmattan season. In addition to keeping the library premises spotless, the trainee learns the following skills:

#### **1. How to display the books in a neat and orderly fashion**

At the KKCL, Joanna Felih, the librarian-in-charge, and the other staff members take great pride in displaying their books using free-standing bookshelves, specially-made wooden "kinder-boxes" and plastic basins.

#### **2. How to recognize different types of books and place them in appropriate categories**

At the KKCL, colour-coded tape is placed on certain non-fiction books to indicate a specific topic. The Dewey Decimal System is not taught.

#### **3. How to keep an inventory listing of the books in the library**

In many cases, the trainee's library might contain as few as 100 books.

#### **4. How to repair books and keep them in good condition**

Respect for handling books is taught by ensuring that hands are clean and pages are turned with

care. Effective ways to cover books with local materials (preferably clear plastic) are discussed and demonstrated.

#### **5. How to keep records of patron use, and other library activities**

At the KKCL, Ms Felih has kept records since the library's inception in 1992. Her one-page monthly summary presents a full record including numbers of children and adults/parents, number of soiled books and number of students attending the library-sponsored literacy classes. She also includes concerns and guest book comments.

#### **6. How to present imaginative "story times"**

Each trainee participates in KKCL's daily story hour. This enables him/her to know which books the children enjoy, to anticipate their questions and to lead story times with confidence.

#### **7. How to understand library-related costs**

Various expenses are reviewed and possible fund-raising ideas suggested. Trainees are advised to start their school/community libraries with a reading centre rather than a lending library. The costs are much higher when books are borrowed. In most cases, funds are not available to replace damaged or missing books.

#### **8. How to look beyond the traditional definitions of a library**

Libraries can meet a number of needs in the community and each is unique. One library sponsored by Osu currently operates a wildlife club, a choir, two football teams, a bathing program (for children who cannot afford the bucket of water to wash with), twice-weekly literacy classes, a food program, and homework hour.

After finishing the course, where attendance is monitored, the trainee writes a test and completes an evaluation form and receives a certificate.

*For further information please contact: Osu Children's Library Fund, c/o 188 Montrose St. Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3M 3M7. E-mail kknowles@escape.ca*



## IFLA issues new professional education guidelines

IFLA's Professional Board has approved the Guidelines for Professional Library/Information Educational Programmes – 2000, prepared by the IFLA Section on Education and Training.

The new guidelines primarily cover the graduate and professional level. They address the following aspects:

- Curriculum
- Faculty and Staff
- Students
- Administration and Financial Support
- Instructional Resources and Facilities

The guidelines are in effect a revision of the "Standards for Library Schools" published by IFLA in 1976 for the Section on Education and Training. This new version has been drafted by a working group of the Section.

The text is available from <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s23/seat.htm#3>, and upon request from IFLA Headquarters:

P.O. Box 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, Netherlands. Tel.: + (31)(70) 3140884, Fax: +(31)(70) 3834827, E-mail: [ifla@ifla.org](mailto:ifla@ifla.org)

## MEMORY OF THE WORLD



THE second Memory of the World Conference took place in Mexico from 27 to 29 September, 2000. The aims of the conference were to develop closer collaboration between the Memory of the World Regional and National Committees as well as National Commissions world wide, to promote and implement the Memory of the World Programme particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean and to review and redefine the selection criteria for nominations to the Register. The conference was attended by 123 participants from 43 countries and was very well covered by the media. The conference was opened by the Governor of the province of Colima and was marked by the issue of *Memory of the World First Day Stamps* by the Mexican Post Office.

In the preservation and access session, experts described their experiences in the field of document preservation; improved acidification methods for printed documents, digitizing manuscripts, documents and audiovisual documents as well as the setting up of databases for safeguarding

Digital heritage. They then adopted a proposal to draft a UNESCO charter to preserve and safeguard a digital heritage for submission to the General Conference in October 2001.

A number of Memory of the World pilot projects were demonstrated. These included *Photographic Collections in Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Memoria Mundi Bohemica*, *Memoria Iberoamerica*.

The work of the Memory of the World Regional Committees was reviewed. The committee for Latin America and the Caribbean is actively implementing the programme and collaboration is excellent especially with the UNESCO Regional Centre for Information Technology at Colima University.

The setting up of a Regional Memory of the World Committee for Africa was proposed within the framework of the Joint IFLA/ICA committee on Preservation in Africa (JICPA). This proposal would be discussed and a decision taken on its implementation during the JICPA Executive Board meeting in February 2001.

The conference also examined the promotion of the Programme especially through the world's media. Discussions focussed on various methodologies such as identifying a journalist in each country dealing with issues campaign for by the Programme; the identification of people with a background in preservation; initiating a public debate and disseminating UNESCO's conventions and legal instruments via its National Commissions.

During the conference, the Bureau of the International Advisory Committee also met and decided that the next meeting of the International Advisory Committee would be in June 2001 probably in the Republic of Korea.

*For additional information please contact Mr. A. Abid, CI/INF, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel.: (331) 45.68.44.96. Fax: (331) 45.68.55.83. E-mail: a.abid@unesco.org*

## SOFTWARE

### CDS/ISIS



*Seminar on modern information technologies in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan*

WITHIN the framework of the CDS/ISIS programme, UNESCO continues its policy of organizing tailor-made seminars to meet the needs of users of its software and to make them more familiar with the possibilities offered by the package.

#### *Seminar on modern information technologies (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, October 2000)*

The seminar, convened by "Meerim", International Charity Foundation jointly with the UNESCO National Commission of Kyrgyzstan aimed to acquaint participants from nine Central Asia countries with services of international organizations and usage of modern information technologies.

The seminar included the presentation of the CD-Roms produced by the UNESCO Clearing House using CDS/ISIS for Windows and a practice session demonstrating the use of CDS/ISIS with Cyrillic data bases and aspects for the production of low-cost CD-Roms for information

dissemination. Participants were also given a practical demonstration of putting a data base on the web through the use of GenIsis, a CDS/ISIS web interface wizard produced by Ibisus (France).

#### *IX Regional Meeting of CDS/ISIS Latin America and Caribbean distributors*

The 9th regional meeting of CDS/ISIS distributors in Latin America and Caribbean was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October 2000. The meeting was organized by the Regional Adviser of UNESCO Information Society Division, the Payson Center of the University of Tulane (New Orleans) and the National Commission for Atomic Energy of Argentina.

Participants from 21 countries took part in several presentations. UNESCO demonstrated CDS/ISIS for Windows, JavaIsis and GenIsis whereas Bireme from Brazil showed Internet tools for CDS/ISIS and the ongoing development of a software for Library and Documentation Centre automatization (ABCD) based on the CDS/ISIS technology and internationally developed in Latin America. A distance-learning tool, E-Class-Designer, was presented by the Payson Center which could in future serve as the basis for training courses built on CDS/ISIS.

All participants agreed that Internet distribution of the software must be regulated. One or more centres will be created in the region for downloading access. The distributors supported the Eschborn Resolutions (ISIS-2000 workshop, February 2000), in particular for the establishment of an International group for supporting CDS/ISIS (development and dissemination).

A special workshop with CDS/ISIS users from Argentina also took place. More than 100 participants took part in the presentation of UNESCO CDS/ISIS and Bireme tools.

#### *CDS/ISIS 2000 Workshop (Florence, Italy)*

The two-day workshop CDS/ISIS 2000, was organized by the DBA (Associazione per la

documentazione, le biblioteche e gli archivi) in cooperation with the BDP (Biblioteca di documentazione pedagogica) of Florence where the seminars took place in November 2000.

One hundred and twenty people attended the seminar, where on the first day, UNESCO opened the seminar by presenting the latest CDS/ISIS products. Other presentations were a web and CD-Rom interface for bibliographic and legislative database management by FAO; the "Maitre" technology for indexing knowledge and its first implementation, the software Philos by DBA;

WinIride a software for school libraries management and web page indexing; CDS/ISIS, Wais and the Z39.50 protocol for Web based searching.

The second day concentrated on the need to build a network of potential partners for future developments of CDS/ISIS. Users positively assessed the steps towards new technologies and the creation of promotion and support networks.

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## IDAMS

### International Training Seminar "Introduction to IDAMS"

**A**N international training seminar on IDAMS was organized and financed by ALECSO at the Cairo University, Faculty of Computers and Information, from 8-15 September 2000, within the framework of the UNESCO-ALECSO Agreement concerning the dissemination of IDAMS by ALECSO.

Twenty participants representing IDAMS national distributors in 16 Arab countries were trained in the use of IDAMS and acquired an understanding of basic concepts as well as an overall knowledge the programs, the user interface and interactive components of WinIDAMS.

A beta version of IDAMS software in Arabic, being prepared at the Faculty of Computers and Information, Cairo University, was successfully demonstrated. This version is almost ready for use. After solving a few technical problems and finalization of the translation of software and the User Manual, IDAMS will become the first comprehensive statistical software package available in Arabic.

The training seminar also served as an opportunity to organize the first meeting of national



*Training Seminar on IDAMS, Cairo University, Egypt*

distributors of IDAMS in the Arab region. All the distributors have been nominated by ALECSO on the basis of proposals coming from joint ALECSO/UNESCO National Commissions.

The seminar was a success and participants expressed their great interest in the IDAMS software, especially the Arabic version and forthcoming Windows versions, stressing its importance in their professional activities.

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## UNESCO Information Processing Tools available on CD-Rom!!!

THE CD-Rom contains the most recent versions of CDS/ISIS software family, the first release of IDAMS for Windows and the first release of IDIS for Windows.

CDS/ISIS is a generalized Information Storage and Retrieval system. The Windows version may run on a single computer or in a local area network. The JavaISIS client/server components allow remote database management over the Internet and are available for Windows, Linux and Macintosh. Furthermore, GenISIS allows the user to produce HTML Web forms for CDS/ISIS database searching. The ISIS\_DLL provides an API for developing CDS/ISIS based applications.

IDAMS is a software package for numerical information processing and statistical analysis. It provides a complete set of data manipulation and validation facilities and a wide range of classical and advanced statistical techniques, including interactive construction of multidimensional tables, graphical exploration of data and time series analysis. WinIDAMS release 1.0 for 32-bit Windows operating system may run on a stand-alone computer as well as in a local area network.

IDIS is a tool for direct data exchange between CDS/ISIS and IDAMS.

The CD-ROM is free-of-charge and can be obtained from UNESCO, Information Society Division, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Persons to contact: Jean-Claude Dauphin or Davide Storti.

# TELEMATICS

## Community media centres



COMMUNITY radio and multi-purpose telecentres are now successfully operating in many communities in developing countries around the world. There are today unprecedented opportunities for disadvantaged communities to harness ICTs by setting up multimedia centres.

Community Multimedia Centres combine local media, especially radio, by local people in local languages, with information and communication technology (ICT) applications in a wide range of social, economic and cultural areas. An interactive and participatory approach ensures that the ICTs are genuinely enabling technologies for all members of the community. The centre can integrate radio, ICTs and a public library into a single

facility or can link them as separate facilities into networks.

Public authorities and the international community can facilitate this effort through solidarity and cooperation which supports:

- the development and use of the full range of ICTs especially linking community radio networks and the Internet;
- the production, translation and sharing of content and development-oriented applications; the implementation of pilot projects corresponding to different cultural and development situations;
- the inventorying, evaluation and exchange of experience at national and international levels;
- appropriate national policies to encourage committee action and cooperation on the basis of successful models.

This key programme has been launched within the framework of the global knowledge partnership (GKP). UNESCO is the designated lead agency for the GKP component in this specific period which involves United Nations system agencies, bilateral development agencies and its international NGOs. Community Media associations and NGOs involved in communication for community development in the participating countries also play a central role serving as a local project partners.

UNESCO has produced a brochure describing this programme and its activities. To obtain a copy



### Niger – year of new information and communication technologies

NIGER has designated 2001 the “year of new information and communication technologies”. There are only about 15,000 telephone lines in the country, mostly in the capital and the Internet is still in a very early developmental stage with approximately 1,000 users and one Internet Service Provider which provides the only international gateway.

A process of decentralization is underway as the government envisages the establishment of a network of community multimedia centres as a timely contribution to democracy-building and good governance at the local level.

Because of its intersectoral expertise in community radio, community telecentres, development content and solar energy, UNESCO was asked by UNDP to coordinate the completion of a project document for international support for expansion of the network to approximately 150 multipurpose community facilities over the next three years.

The new project which will encourage links with the multipurpose community telecentre (MCT) in Timbuktu, (see report in Vol. 27 No. 1, 1999) has also raised interest in UNFPA in financing a component on population and family health.

The Informatics Department of the Ministry of Planning, the focal point for RINAF (Regional African Informatics Network), responsible for the development of informatics in the public sector, is eager to reinforce collaboration with respect to MCTs by taking an active role in the ICT subcommittee of the national steering committee. In this way, the community multimedia centres in Niger can be a prototype for further RINAF activity. In addition the Department has expressed interest in playing a leading role in updating the Top50 African public service Web sites selected in a UNESCO-

of the brochure or further information on the programme please contact

*For more information please contact Mr John Rose, CI/INF, UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel.: (331) 45.68.44.29. Fax: (331) 45.68.55.83. E-mail: j.rose@unesco.org*

sponsored competition in 1998-99. (See article in Vol. 26 No.2, 1998). This activity, which has already been foreseen as a RINAF priority, would be enhanced through association with Niger’s *Fête d’Internet 2001* to be organized with the support of UNDP.

The WorldSpace Foundation has signed an agreement with the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) to make available free-of-charge a 64 kbs channel on the WorldSpace Afristar satellite for broadcast data applications in the interest of African development. UNESCO organized a demonstration of the WebWorld – CI Sector’s website – to show the potential of the transmission of Web pages uploaded through the WorldSpace earth stations. The feasibility of downloading current information from the African Learning Channel was demonstrated to and greatly appreciated by villagers in an area where there is no telephone service. ACMAD has provided a WorldSpace radio and data interface to UNESCO free of charge for testing and evaluation.

The potential of wider access to public domain information was boosted through the demonstration of *SAHEL point DOC*, the UNESCO CD-ROM on development documentation. It was widely appreciated as a useful model for content development within the future community multimedia centres as was the prototype Alphonse CD-ROM developed in a UNESCO/UNFPA project on development communication in Gabon. Further investigation will be undertaken to determine whether it would be useful and feasible to develop a similar application in the national languages of Niger.

*For more information please contact Mr John Rose at the address above.*



## Baybytes 2000

FOLLOWING the BayBytes 1999 conference, closer collaboration was established between UNESCO and Newfoundland, Canada in the area of ICTs in community development. It was agreed that the first step would be the joint organization of a session at BayBytes 2000 on the needs of developing countries and an associated study visit of specialists from developing countries to relevant activities in Newfoundland and Labrador. As a result, UNESCO accorded its sponsorship to the BayBytes 2000 in Port Blandford, Newfoundland from 26-28 September 2000 conference, and subsidized the subsequent

study visit for participants from developing countries.

BayBytes 2000 attracted 175 participants, almost all from Canada and predominantly from Newfoundland and Labrador. Six African specialists from Benin, Ghana, South Africa and Uganda participated with UNESCO support.

The presentations of the African specialists were all well prepared and the session attracted quite a bit of interest. (The report on the session is available on video at <http://www.baybytes.net>).

*For more information please contact Mr John Rose at the address above.*

## ONLINE EDUCA Conference

UNESCO participated in the panel on *Sustainable IT-based Education in Developing Countries* of the 6th International Conference on Technology Supported Learning and Training – “ONLINE EDUCA” held in Berlin from 30 November to 1 December 2000. The Conference presented an excellent opportunity to increase international awareness of UNESCO's interest and objectives in information and communication technologies in education, and also to establish new partnerships in this area.

The Conference, a private endeavour supported by the European Commission, drew nearly 1000 participants, mainly from industrial developers and users of tele-learning techniques, but also from academic and governmental organizations. The vast majority were from Europe, but there were more than fifty from other industrialized countries and a lesser number from developing countries (about half of whom were from South Africa).

The panel on developing country problems was organized and chaired by the former head of educational technology at the University of South Africa (UNISA), and included five representatives of international support agencies in this area among whom were the World Bank Institute and UNESCO. It was attended by about forty persons

including perhaps ten from developing countries. A two-page summary of UNESCO's evolving strategy on ICTs in education was submitted for the conference extracts, and the panel interventions stressed aspects of sustainability such as the importance of public policy and responsibility, consortia for public service development, access to public domain materials and fair use, appropriate technologies, and investment in the human capital needed for development, operation and use of educational technology. The views offered by the panel members were complementary and to a large extent homogeneous, and were well summed up by the chairman.

The most salient feature of the conference was the dynamism and growing maturity of the on-line education industry in Europe, and the interest of private sector participants in discussing developments and challenges with their peers on a professional basis. The growing links between the public and private sectors in this area, encouraged by numerous EU programmes, are epitomized by the UK – University – (<http://www.hefce.ac.uk>) which is being set up by a consortium of universities to market British on-line learning offers world wide with private sector participation.

*For more information please contact Mr John Rose at the above address.*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### New staff member

THE Information Society Division is pleased to welcome Mr Paul Hector among its Headquarters Staff. He joins UNESCO within the framework of the Young Professionals Programme. Paul's background is in civil engineering and he has worked in the public and private sectors in addition to joint public-private partnerships in the area of international development.

Paul believes that the role of UNESCO in its Member States is that of a facilitator and standard-setter that enables and empowers Member States to develop custom-made policy solutions to specific problems. These solutions recognize and

respect local mores and at the same time encourage dialogue and cultural exchange with a view to promoting the ideals of equality, respect and fostering a sense of global community.

Paul feels that his analytical, problem-solving, interpersonal and managerial skills coupled with his multi-disciplinary outlook are assets that will allow him to function effectively in the new UNESCO environment where result-driven projects, intersectoral partnerships with NGOs and the private sector will dominate. He is expected to work closely on projects such as the Observatory on the Information Society and Infoethics.

### TELEINVIVO project wins first grand prize

THE TeleInViVo Project which has been implemented by UNESCO since 1998 was selected among the final entries the IST 2000 Grand Prize, scheduled to be awarded at the European Community Information Society Technologies (IST) 2000 Conference in Nice, France from 5-8 November 2000. On hand to promote the project to Conference visitors and the IST jury were several TeleInViVo project partners from the participating countries.

TeleInViVo was awarded one of the three grand prizes. The Project Coordinator, receiving the award, pointed out to the large audience and live on webcast, that the project was not just about technology, but the application of the technology in the remote regions of Kazakhtan and Uganda.

During the opening ceremony, the Presidents of the European Parliament and of the Inter-American Development Bank emphasized the challenge facing the EC to use ICTs to reduce the global digital divide and promote information to all. ICTs should not paradoxically create inequalities. It was hoped the conference would help find solutions. Great interest was expressed in the TeleInVivo project as it was felt that it could address urban/rural imbalances in health care in other countries.

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### HeritageNet

WITHIN the framework of its "HeritageNet" project, UNESCO is pleased to announce the publication of two CD-ROMs.

#### *Kazakstani Chronicle*

The CD-ROM gives a short history of Kazakhstan, perceived through articles of the first Kazakstani newspapers printed in Arabic alphabet from 1913 to 1932. The CD-ROM is produced in Russian and English and covers many aspects of Kazakh history including its culture, art, medicine,

law, education etc. A limited number of copies is available on demand from UNESCO Headquarters. Copies can otherwise be obtained from Director of the Preservation Centre of the Library Collection, or the Director of the Centre of Design and Programme Computer Automation, through the National Library of the Republic of Kazakstan (Preservation Centre of the Library Collection 480013. Almaty, Abai av., 14. Tel.: (3272) 62-05-52. Fax: (3272) 69-65-86. E-mail: info@nlrk.kz, Internet: <http://www.nlrk.kz>

### *Kyrgyz Epic Poem "Manas"*

The first editions of the famous Kyrgyz epic poem "Manas" are now available on CD-ROM. Old Kyrgyz books are part of the collection of Rare and Valuable Documents of the National Library of the Kyrgyz Republic. Being a heroic epos and an essential part of the folklore heritage of the Kyrgyz People, "Manas" as the world's biggest epic poem created more than thousand years ago, is also one of the valuable memorials of the world cultural heritage. The year 1995 was proclaimed by UNESCO as a "Year of Manas", and was celebrated as the 1000th anniversary of the Manas Epic Poem.

The CD-ROM is in two languages (English and Russian) interfaces, and contains the content of 18 books (total 1535 pages) in graphical form, to preserve an original image of each book. Historical and scientific comments, references and remarks, as well as some Kyrgyz folk music and historical data sheets about the country and National Library are included.

Copies and additional information can be obtained from the National Library of the Kyrgyz Republic, the UNESCO Almaty Office, 67, Tole Bi Street, 480091 Almaty, Kazakhstan.

E-mail: [almaty@unesco.org](mailto:almaty@unesco.org) or from Information Society Division, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France.

## INFOYOUTH PROGRAMME

UNESCO participated in the *I Congreso Internacional de Telemática – CITELE 2000*, organized in the framework of the 10th Scientific Conference of ISPJAE, in order to explore possibilities of cooperation in the field of information and communication for and on youth.

A position paper was presented during the Congress on the theme "The Role of Youth in Building the Information Society" which included a presentation of the recent trends characterizing UNESCO's programmes undertaken in the area of new information and communication technologies. The various questions raised during the debate following the overall presentation illustrated the great interest of young scientists and students in the issue of ICTs for sustainable development and their increasing impact on the way young people study and work. It also enabled the participants to exchange ideas, experiences and future plans for collaboration. The proactive role of UNESCO in this field was widely acknowledged.

During meetings held with representatives of national institutions interested in collaborating with UNESCO, a number of projects were discussed:

These include:

- the establishment of a mobile ICT system for youth training and development in the mountain areas of Cuba;
- ICT and radio information schemes for the training and development of young people;
- organization of a consultation meeting for the

countries of Central America and the Caribbean on youth, information and regional cooperation, with the aim of setting up regional Observatories on issues relating to youth empowerment and information policies.

- organization of the 2nd International congress CITELE in 2002 on the central theme of *El papel de la Telemática en la educación a distancia y la informatización de la sociedad*.

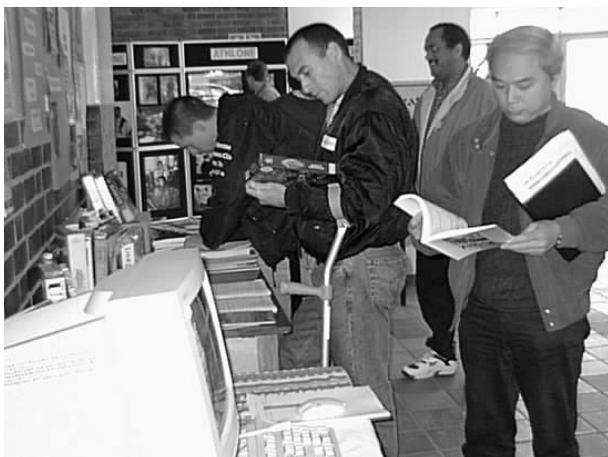
Within INFOYOUTH Programme the following initiatives aimed at bridging the digital divide were also recently carried out:

A CD-ROM on the status of youth in all French speaking countries of Africa and Asia was produced in cooperation with the CONFES (Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of all French speaking countries). Furthermore, two CD-ROMs, on *Youth and volunteerism for development and peace* (prepared in collaboration with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO), and on youth related issues and policies in Latin America are to be delivered by the end of 2000.

The publication of a Directory on the *European Youth* is currently underway in cooperation with the INJEP (National Institute of Youth in Community Education).

The first regional electronic bulletin on youth matters, covering Latin America, was successfully developed and expanded (in Spanish and Portuguese): <http://usuarios.multired.com.uy/erodrigu/boletin.htm>

The existing INFOYOUTH database was strengthened and the creation of national web sites



*Information Technology Centre created in the framework of INFOYOUTH in South Africa*

became the basis for elaborating national Internet portals on youth related issues.

Reflecting the major concern to secure better conditions for young people to access information, support was given for the establishment of **information structures** such as the national youth information centre established in Georgia and the Learning and Educational Centre created in Baghdad in cooperation with United Nations Development Programme.

High priority was given to the creation of Information Technology Community Centres providing youth with practical information and training in IT skills. Centres were set up in Brazil, Armenia, Palestine, Viet Nam and Honduras. In South Africa, in cooperation with CISCO, the first UNESCO/CISCO local Academy was created to provide specialized IT training, empower youth to face the new requirements of the labour market.

Support was also given to the regional Network for Eastern Europe – *Eastlinks* ([www.eastlinks.net](http://www.eastlinks.net)) for the organization of a regional consultation on the future modalities of expansion of the network. It was combined with the organization of staff training seminars, regional camp leaders information and training workshops, several field visits and inter-regional exchanges and subsequently, the creation of a sub-regional information network for the Baltic States.

Computer literacy and Internet training for young leaders and disadvantaged youth was an on-

going activity successfully implemented in Brazil, Honduras, India, South Africa and China. Information and training facilities were provided to young Indian women living in disadvantaged circumstances for the initiation and the development of self-employment projects. Furthermore, a youth Leadership Training Development Programme was implemented, enabling young people to act as catalytic agents for the socio-economic, cultural and political development of the villages in the Ghaziabad district, Nehru Yuva (India). In South Africa, INFOYOUTH supported projects for young women willing to participate in the development of their communities.

In Peru, for the fourth consecutive year, the national INFOYOUTH competition *Haz realidad tu negocio*, was organized for young people willing to launch their own enterprise. The Peruvian INFOYOUTH member is providing factual information and selected training in entrepreneurial skills to the winners. Also, in cooperation with the CONFEJES, INFOYOUTH organized a training course for young people in Niger in information and documentation management and contributed to the development by young people of micro-enterprises in Mali.

Collaboration with the civil society was successfully enhanced. *The Youth for Education and Development* Association (Senegal) received financial support for the creation of an information network for youth NGOs, and for the publication of a periodical info-bulletin disseminated on-line. A Youth Media Network was setup in Bosnia Herzegovina and an Internet Job Scheme for young people was launched in Armenia. In cooperation with the Foundation of America (United States of America), *International Youth in Action Awards* were granted to outstanding initiatives designed by young people using information and communication technologies in their effort to contribute to social development.

The programme of recycling second-hand computers and other IT equipment was successfully developed reflecting the overall effort to use all available means for bridging the digital divide.

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# REGIONAL OFFICES

## Addis Ababa

### Angola – ICTS and education

After many years of civil conflict in Angola, UNESCO is currently examining measures to strengthen the educational system. Among its goals are increasing cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa as well as with Portugal and Brazil in UNESCO's field of competence and, in particular, utilizing distance education and Internet technologies.

The Deputy Minister for Educational Reform in Angola identified the two main goals of the educational system in Angola as ensuring human capacity building and reconstructing a high quality of education in support of socio-economic development. In essence, this entails retraining of 34,000 teachers of basic education or 69% of school teachers. Distance education is seen as an appropriate mechanism, and the provision of access to E-mail and Internet is of strategic importance.

Cooperation with Escola do Futuro (Universidade Sao Paulo) and Educational TV with Brazil and Portugal are areas being considered for development as a high priority in the field of education.

TeleESCOLA, the joint project with Portugal and Brazil is being implemented in cooperation with Televisao Publico de Angola. Related to basic education, its objectives are to improve the skills of school teachers by providing examples of producing adequate materials for the classroom.

Funding has also been provided by DANIDA and UNDP. The ADPP (Ajuda de povo para povo) education project has provided funds to restructure school education in collaboration with the community. The Ministry of Education is working on a new school curriculum, including teaching units access to information via Internet, where the main problem lies in the connection of all schools. The UNINET of University Agostinho Neto will provide the future infrastructure to ensure Internet access in schools.

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## Bangkok

### Meeting of experts for the preparation of a training package on library automation/ICT for developing countries

In accomplishing its mission of ensuring the free flow of information conducive to the advancement of societies and their democratic functioning and assisting countries to build up their capacities for communication, information and informatics UNESCO has been greatly assisted by support from the Japanese Funds-in-Trust (JFIT). The JFIT operates in conjunction with UNESCO and fosters the sharing of expertise and open opportunities to develop more information experts in the Asian and Pacific countries.

Since the 1990's, UNESCO has undertaken a number of activities to upgrade the knowledge and skills of information personnel in the Asia and Pacific region. One of these was a meeting of experts in Manila, the Philippines in 1996 which identified the need for a draft curriculum that could assist those developing syllabuses at the various training institutions for library and information science in the Asia-Pacific.

A framework for curriculum development was published in 1998 and provides an overview of the future demand for information professionals as well as for the development of teaching programmes to meet local needs. Training courses have subsequently been held in Viet Nam, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mongolia. In addition, a 10-module certificate course on information technology for information professionals, to be delivered using distance learning techniques, was developed by the University of the Philippines.

The development of a training package on information and communication technologies (ICT) in libraries and information centres in the region had been considered for some time. To this end, UNESCO organized a meeting of international experts in March 2000 in cooperation with the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI).

Specifically the meeting sought to:

- discuss ideas for the preparation of a training package on library automation suitable for developing countries;
- provide contents of the training package;



- include Internet training suitable for developing countries;
- identify cooperating institution(s) with appropriate facilities and staff for the production of the package.

The experts presented papers on themes such as expectations of Information Specialists, search tools user needs, content library automation and distance learning.

As a result of their discussions, a framework for a training package, comprising six modules has been developed. Each module is scheduled to take five days to complete, using a mixture of instructional techniques – lectures, demonstrations, hands-on practice, case studies, group discussions and site visits, as appropriate. They can be used independently of each other although some modules may necessitate others as a pre-requisite. Each will be accompanied by a comprehensive information package that can be used by the trainer both to plan and conduct the training course.

The six modules are:

- Introduction to integrated automated library systems
- Introduction to information and communication technologies
- Information seeking in an electronic environment
- Database design and information storage and retrieval
- The Internet as an information resource
- Web page concepts and design

It is expected that the first two modules will be tested in the region early in 2001.

*For additional information please contact Mrs Susanne Ornager, UNESCO Regional Adviser for Information and Informatics for Asia and the Pacific, 920 Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok, 10110, Thailand. E-mail: s.ornager@unesco-proap.org*

### **Twelfth ASTINFO Consultative Meeting and Regional Seminar/Workshop on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Knowledge Management**

The 12th ASTINFO Consultative Meeting and Regional Seminar on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Knowledge Management was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 18–23 September 2000.

Its objectives were to:

- Enhance awareness of the various strategies employed when using ICT in Knowledge Management (KM);

- Plan activities to be carried out within ASTINFO countries in order to strengthen collaboration within the network;
- Discuss the preparation of the Regional INFOethics meeting in Asia and Pacific.

The Regional Network for the Exchange of Information and Experiences in Science and Technology in Asia and the Pacific (ASTINFO) was established in 1983. ASTINFO works through a National Advisory Group in each country, associated centres as well as a string of networks, with the aim of providing a forum for exchange and assisting Member States to acquire the tools to create, access and use scientific and technical information effectively.

ASTINFO, as a regional strategy, has been considered very effective in raising the profile of library and information professionals and in improving the coordination of information activities at the national level through the ASTINFO-established inter-agency committees and task forces to promote greater interaction and resource-sharing.

Its success has been borne out by its influence in Member countries and requests from countries in other regions to acquire experiences. It should be noted that while in some member countries it has worked very well, in others there has been lesser impact due in part to the negligible and insignificant funds allocated as compared to other big projects.

Different resource persons from Asia presented papers on ICT and KM revealing that integration within and among countries in the region still needs to be developed although governments have started to use Internet to provide more transparent information about infrastructure policies.

E-commerce was discussed and several speakers emphasised that businesses with more knowledge inputs are found to do better. However, knowledge management has not yet taken deep roots in many countries.

The national and regional activities to be carried out within the network were presented in a work plan. Only the regional actions were discussed during the meeting. Three main items were agreed upon firstly that negotiations with vendors for lower group subscription rates were to be launched; secondly, courses where WinISIS is utilized in data collection, acquisition, storage and preservation for web media were to be developed and finally more training of trainers courses in information within S & T were to be organized.

*For additional information please contact Mrs Susanne Ornager at the above address.*

## Montevideo

**Second training course for directors of ETD-NET directors**  
**Montevideo, Uruguay**  
**7–9 December 2000.**

Digital libraries are being built upon a firm foundation of prior work as the high-end information systems of the future. This ETD-Net (Digital Network of Theses and Dissertations) meeting aimed at training project directors to set up M.Sc and Ph.D theses on-line in order to prepare the present and the next generation of scholars to function effectively as knowledge workers in the Information Age. The course introduced key concepts, highlighted technical issues, recommended a scheme for expanding training, and suggested likely future activities.

The meeting brought together specialists from

Latin America interested in a common goal: making knowledge accessible to all for the dissemination of scientific production of postgraduate programmes prepared in their own countries and abroad.

The Regional Informatics and Telematics Adviser in Montevideo presented an overview of the activities being carried out by the Organization in addition to introducing the new Information for All Programme.

*Additional information is available at <http://www.unesco.org.uy>*

*You may also contact Mr Claudio Menezes, Regional Adviser for Informatics and Telematics for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNESCO Office, Avenida Brasil 2697, P.O. Box 859, 11300 Montevideo, Uruguay. Tel.: (59-82) 707 20 23. Fax: (59-82) 707 21 40. E-mail: [cmenezes@unesco.org.uy](mailto:cmenezes@unesco.org.uy)*

## Nairobi

**A workshop for the development of a national information and communication technology (ICT) policy**  
**Kampala, Uganda**  
**27 September–5 October 2000.**

The workshop brought together ICT stakeholders from various sectors of the economy. It was officially opened by the Minister of Works, Housing and Communication and closed by the Minister of Information. Both Ministers expressed support for this process on behalf of the Government of Uganda promising that the final draft policy document would be forwarded to relevant governing structures in the country for ratification. UNESCO received high acclaim for initiating, supporting and leading the process, with IDRC and ECA acknowledged for their financial input and participation.

UNESCO has played a leading role in the development of a national ICT policy in Uganda having been instrumental in the development of an information and communication White Paper for Uganda in 1999, which formed the basis of the preparation of the ICT policy. The workshop was another milestone in the country's policy reform process aiming at accelerating the local development of ICTs. It was recommended that the existing National Policy Task Force, which has led the process in the country until now, be transformed into a Commission or another more permanent

structure to steer the process to its completion. The final draft ICT policy document is envisaged for March 2001.

### **Initiatives reinforcing ICT policy development in Uganda**

ICT development in Uganda has taken off since an invitation was issued in June 1997 by President Mr. Yoweri Museveni to the international community at the Global Knowledge Conference in Canada, to assist Uganda in applying information and communication technology and traditional knowledge systems to socio-economic development. Since then, a number of international organizations, including UNESCO, have implemented numerous ICT projects targeting various areas of development such as human resource development, and research and rural development applications.

Uganda was the first country in the sub-region to implement significant open market policies in the early 1990s. Since then, the private sector, in particular, the telecommunication sector, has developed quite rapidly, with two private cellular telephone companies and two companies for the fixed telephone network currently operating. The number of private computer vendors and Internet providers is also rapidly growing and regulatory mechanisms, such as the National Communication Commission, which was established in 1997, have been set up.

The Department of Information in the Office of the President had identified as a challenge how to effectively enable government policies to reach grass root communities around the country and to this end, with assistance from UNESCO and UNDP, commissioned a study to identify the information needs of the people.

Other wide-ranging initiatives are also being developed within the information infrastructure policy to reduce poverty, increase the efficiency, accountability and transparency of government and eliminate the exclusion of low-income social groups.

### **Coordination of Efforts working towards the formulation of a National ICT Policy**

Consultation and dialogue with various stakeholders interested in the development of a National ICT Policy, have resulted in consensus along the following lines:

- consolidate and harmonize efforts of various stakeholders i.e. outputs of the ICT workshops, sectoral strategies and policies, etc, under a multi-sectoral central coordinating body or institution;
- integrate the White Paper on Information and Communication for Development into the National ICT Policy;
- support and facilitate the national policy formulation efforts of the ICT Policy Task Force;
- recognize the importance and involvement of all the stakeholders in policy formulation and implementation, through bottom-up stakeholder consultations and participation, especially the grass root communities working through the local government structures.

### **Draft ICT Policy Recommendations:**

- The Government of Uganda is urged to embrace a fundamental shift in the perception of its role and to become a catalyst in creating conditions that will propel Uganda in becoming an ICT powerhouse.
- A legal framework should be instituted to protect the public from possible adverse effects of ICTs. These include minimizing the possibility of fraud in e-commerce, safeguarding individual rights and privacy that might be infringed through ICT databases, and ensuring universal access both in terms of ease of physical access and its costs.
- Basic rules for doing ICT-related business in Uganda should be harmonized with neighbouring countries, including rules on the use of electronic payments, cross-border trade in services, the taxation of information-based commerce, data privacy and encryption, and the admissibility of electronic evidence in court.
- The rights of copyright owners need to be protected in ways that will not be detrimental to achieving the objective of universal access to developmental information, by the majority of the population. Popularization and promotion of the use of ICTs in accessing and disseminating public domain information should also be promoted.
- The Government should take measures to establish an ICT Coordination Commission (ICTCC) whose membership should include all stakeholders within the government and private ICT business sector. Each public institution and government department or district should have a committee coordinated by an ICT officer forming a forum of ICT officers to design, modernize and implement ICT applications.

*For more information please contact Mr Hezekiel Dlamini, Computer Applications Officer, UNESCO Office, c/o ROSTA, P.O. Box 30592, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel.: (254) 2-62 27 17. Fax: (254) 2 B 21 59 91 or 62 23 24. E-mail: h.dlamini@memo.unesco.org*

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

**R**EQUESTS from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, United States of America, Venezuela and the Asia and Pacific Region should be sent directly to our documents resource centres whose addresses are indicated below. Document

requests from Africa, Arab States, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean should continue to be sent to: Information Society Division, UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75732, Paris Cedex 15, France.

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All documents may be consulted at the premises of each of the institutions mentioned above. Copies may be obtained on a cost recovery basis at prices set out by the distributing institutions. UNESCO is in the process of digitizing its document and a full text selection of these can be consulted at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/ulis>.

All current and out-of-print documents are also available on microfiche, at a price of FF 22 per fiche corresponding normally to 96 pages. Orders for microfiches should be sent to: *Archives Records Management and Microform Division (DIT/AM), UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France*. Fax: (331) 45.68.56.17.

Below is a list of new publications:

- *Guide to the archives of intergovernmental organizations*. – Paris: UNESCO, 1999. – 325 p. (CII.99/WS/2).
- VARY, James P. – *Report of the Expert Meeting on Virtual Laboratories*, organized by the International Institute of Theoretical and Applied

Physics (IITAP), Ames, Iowa with the support of UNESCO. – Paris: UNESCO, 2000. – 64 p. (CII.2000/WS/1).

Also available in French. (*Rapport de la réunion d'experts sur les laboratoires virtuels*).

- GOULD, Sara; EBDON, Richard; VARLAMOFF, Marie-Thérèse. – *IFLA/UNESCO Enquête sur la numérisation et la préservation*. Paris: UNESCO, 2000. – 52p. (CII.2000/WS/2).

French version of Survey on Digitization and Preservation.

- LARIVIERE, Jules. – *Guidelines for Legal Deposit Legislation*. A revised, enlarged and updated edition of the 1981 publication by Dr Jean LUNN. – Paris: UNESCO, 2000. – 61 p. (CII.2000/WS/7).
- *Global Survey on Online Governance – Final Report*. Prepared by the COMNET-IT Foundation.- Paris: UNESCO, 2000.- 66 p. (CII.2000/WS/9).

The Newsletter provides information on the activities of the UNESCO Information Society Division and other related issues. Published twice a year in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, the Newsletter is distributed free of charge by the Division.

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INFORMATION AND INFORMATICS DIVISION

***INFORMATION***  
***INFORMATICS***  
***TELEMATICS***

UNISIST Newsletter  
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## EDITORIAL

### Governing the Global Knowledge Society

by *Philippe Quéau*  
 Director of the Information Society Division  
 UNESCO

**T**HERE is a contradiction in the phenomenon of economic “globalization”, which is facilitated by the globalization of information technologies (IT). On the one hand, globalization allows for and benefits from growing returns, snowballing effects and competitive gains, which in some cases do lead to obvious (and unacceptable) monopolies: the “Winner Takes All” effect; on the other hand, globalization does not always answer local needs. This could be called the “Global Winners, Local Losers” effect. In other words, while globalization allows enormous gains for the global winners, if proper action is not taken, it aggravates the local situation. The “Digital Divide” is thus in essence a social and economic divide aggravated by the sheer power of IT.

The over-concentration of Internet backbone business in the U.S.A., with no requirement for US operators to share costs of full circuits, is disadvantageous particularly for ISPs in developing countries, which in most cases must pay the entire costs of two way links. Thus, the positioning of the U.S.A. as the World Internet hub has created a situation, in which US operators benefit far more than the connected peripheries and which, in the long run, is counterproductive to Internet penetration as it will eventually prevent many in developing countries from tapping knowledge resources.

Strengthening regional peering arrangement and intra-regional networks must be placed high on the agenda of regional forums and serious thought given to the possibility of establishing high capacity regional backbones connecting each country within a multi-hub global network in which none dominates connectivity.

Problems of monopolies are even bigger in the net economy of networks and software. However there is not yet a global antitrust law. If monopolies threaten “fair competition” provisions in the US or in the EU, there are regulation possibilities, but at the world level, no antitrust regulatory mechanism is currently available. Neither WTO nor the ECOSOC council of the UN (which is still far from being an “economic security council”) has the legislative tools or political mandate



to “regulate” monopolies or oligopolies that have passed internal US antitrust law tests, but could still be very damaging to worldwide “fair” competition. Problems of interconnection, interoperability of networks and services should also be globally regulated as well as fair allocation of resources (access to numbers, availability of radio-frequency spectrum, pricing the spectrum, frequency auctioning).

Regulators are supposed to incarnate the “general interest” and are required to define the need for “universal access” in the information age and to ensure its financing. What should be the new “universal access” paradigm? Should it be based only on physical access? Should it include fair telecommunications tariff policies, including adequate subsidization of certain classes of users? Or should it also include free access to certain “contents”, for instance access to all public domain data and governmental information relevant to citizens?

An important strategy for the development of knowledge resources is to increase the volume of public domain information available on the Internet. To this effect, governments and publicly funded institutes such as universities should be equipped to make their information freely available. The global public domain of information should be freely available, at no cost, to everyone,

but should also be protected by a “copyleft” regime such as the General Public License (GPL) used for instance to protect LINUX against predators.

Finally, careful attention should be paid to the actual trend of patenting almost anything which may result in all intellectual methods being patented in the future.<sup>1</sup> In the US, for instance, one can already patent business or even learning methods.<sup>2</sup> This virtual land grab could have disastrous consequences on the free access to knowledge and to fair competition.

What would happen to Internet creativity if British Telecom succeeds in having its alleged patent on hyperlinks recognized as valid? So far, we have witnessed a continuous and relatively unchallenged international move to strengthening IPR laws. It is time to open a broad international democratic debate on the very goals that should be socially pursued in terms of intellectual property, unobstructed by mere juridical constructions and

taking into consideration the viewpoint of developing countries regarding access to knowledge.

The availability of public domain and other heritage information is an indispensable investment in education and consequently in the development of a knowledge society for all. The importance of the “public sphere” for education is central to ensuring re-usability of contents, methods and tools, interoperability of services, quality, multilingualism, and harmonization of curricula. Educational systems and other public service organizations will have to work closely with industrial concerns to develop standards which are flexible, open and freely available.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that the technological and economic globalization impose a political and legal globalization. We need a world law to regulate world processes. It is an urgent task that will be possible only through the rise of a global civil society, fully conscious of its role in mankind’s history.

## INFORMATION FOR ALL: A UNESCO NEW PROGRAMME

**T**HE 30th session of the General Conference authorized the Executive Board to replace the General Information Programme (PGI) and the Intergovernmental Informatics Programme (IIP) by a new programme which would take into account developments of the information revolution which has resulted in an increasing overlap of and several adjustments to the two former programmes.

Originally, PGI and IIP had different identities with their intergovernmental structures assuming different functions. But both programmes have been increasingly concentrating their activities on two main areas: firstly on content for the information society, and secondly on actions necessary to build the “infostructure” for this evolving society through training, the establishment of information policies and the promotion of networking. It is therefore a logical progression to replace them by

a new programme which will contribute to shaping a just information society with universal benefit.

In order to ensure a smooth transition to the new programme, an interim committee was established consisting of the members of the Bureaux of the PGI Council and the IIP Committee. A new programme and draft statutes of an intergovernmental body for the new programme have been prepared for approval by the Autumn session of the Executive Board. This new programme seeks to define UNESCO’s role in the information society.

The programme’s objective is to ensure that everyone has access to the information needed to participate equitably in a global information society and to enjoy the free exchange of ideas and knowledge. New methods of processing and accessing information affect its quality, reliability and diversity and can result in imbalances

1. <http://petition.eurolinux.org/reference/agenda.html>

2. Some famous examples include the patent on “multimedia” (no less!!) awarded in 1993 or the “one-click buying” patent which is currently the object of litigation.

depriving certain sectors of society from equitable access to information.

Information and knowledge are instrumental in bridging the gap between the information-rich and information-poor. They constitute a global public good and are essential in advancing education, science and culture as well as in fostering democracy. By developing an appropriate infostructure for the preservation and global sharing of information and knowledge by citizens of all countries, UNESCO will enable all citizens to contribute to and fully enjoy their culture. At the same time, the Organization must ensure that mechanisms are set up for the fair-use and protection of intellectual property rights, and the privacy and security of personal data.

As a transverse UNESCO programme, the Information for All Programme will provide a framework for international cooperation and international and regional partnerships. More specifically, the Information for All Programme will:

- encourage and widen access through the organization, digitization and preservation of information;
- promote international reflection and debate on the ethical, legal and societal challenges of the information society;

- support training, continuing education and lifelong learning in the fields of information and informatics;
- promote the use of international standards and best practices in information and informatics in UNESCO's fields of competence;
- promote information and knowledge networking at local, national, regional and international levels.

Activities will be implemented in the following areas:

- Area 1: Development of international, regional and national information policies.
- Area 2: Development of human resources and capabilities for the information age.
- Area 3: Strengthening institutions as gateways for information access.
- Area 4: Development of information management tools, processes and systems.
- Area 5: Information technology for education, science, culture and communication.

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## AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVES

### Image and Sound Archiving and Access: the Challenges of the Third Millennium

ORGANIZED from 19 to 22 January 2000, this technical symposium (JTS Paris 2000) for audiovisual archivists and specialists, brought together more than 330 participants from 40 countries who were presented with thirty papers on the theme "Image and Sound Archiving and Access: the challenges of the 3rd Millennium". The symposium was divided into three sections examining:

- Risk assessment in the preservation of image and sound materials;
- Transfer and restoration of original image and sound;
- Data management systems and migration strategies.

This fifth JTS was organized to debate the implications and impact of the new digital and Internet environments on the preservation of the audiovisual heritage. Papers were presented on the physical and chemical degradations of audiovisual

carriers and to formulate practical preservation strategies. These strategies must take into consideration the need to transfer to new digital carriers of the estimated 30 million hours of audio and 10 million hours of video recordings which will take years if not decades to be completed, obsolescence of formats and the risk of degradation inherent to their composition as well as the estimated life expectancy of existing stocks.

The JTS was organized on the initiative and with the support of UNESCO with the Organization providing funding enabling the participation of specialists and archivists from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe.

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# ARCHIVES

## UNESCO and the Archives of the Political Police in Paraguay

UNESCO has been contacted by the Paraguayan authorities for assistance in preserving and ensuring access to the archives of the Political Police from 1954 to 1989. A staff mission to Paraguay was carried out from 14 to 17 May 2000 with the objective of evaluating the condition of the archives deposited at the High Court of Justice in Asunción (*Centro de documentacion y archivo para la defensa de los derechos humanos*) and determining whether they contain documents related to the Operation Condor which had been established by the governments of five Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay) with the view of oppressing opposition movements in the seventies and the early eighties.

The mission received very wide, although sometimes inaccurate, media coverage highlighting UNESCO's interest in the archives of repression in Latin America in general, and of the archives of repression in Paraguay, in particular. The interest was undoubtedly fuelled by the supposedly close relation of the archives with the Pinochet case and current discussions on Latin American history.

The *Centro de documentacion y archivo para la defensa de los derechos humanos* was created on 23 March 1993 by Resolution No. 81 of the High Court of Justice. It contains documents discovered in 1992, mainly archives of the Paraguayan police during the Stroessner period (1954-1989). The total amount of the archives is ca 100 linear meters (estimated at ca 700,000 documents).

The documents are mainly from the Police Department and are properly stored in the building of the High Court of Justice in the centre of Asunción. They include several thousand photos in fairly good condition but considerably affected by paper acidity. Roughly 60% of the holdings are microfilmed (140 roles).

According to the archivists, within the holdings of the *Centro de documentos y archivo para la defensa de los derechos humanos*, a small percentage, mainly reports addressed to the Paraguayan police regarding suspect persons, are directly related to the Operation Condor. It is not known where the main part of the documents of the institutions involved in the Operation Condor are deposited. It is possible that large holdings are kept in the archives of the Ministries of Defence,

Armed Forces, Foreign Affairs, etc. of all those countries which participated in the Operation Condor. So far, there is no evidence of a central archives of the Operation Condor.

UNESCO is presently examining the feasibility of a fact-finding mission to establish a "Guide of the Sources of the Operation Condor", in agreement with the authorities of all countries concerned, with the possibility of publishing recommendations for the creation of an international research centre on recent Latin-American history, where copies of documents related to the Operation Condor could be preserved and made accessible for legal prosecution, rehabilitation and historical research.

UNESCO has long believed that the records of security services of dissolved repressive regimes need to be converted into a tool enabling new ethical and legal structures to be created and new social and political relationships to be established. It considers the adequate management of state security archives of former repressive regimes not only a technical problem which administrators and archivists have to solve, but also an essentially ethical and political challenge for states which are ready to guarantee the liberties and responsibilities conferred by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Access to archives is also an expression of one of the basic human rights: the right to information. This right is particularly important within the context of the development of democratic societies and the associated process of making individuals responsible for the political and social conditions in which they wish to live. The degree of accessibility to these archives illustrates, therefore, the extent of responsibility governments are ready to concede to citizens.

In addition to their undoubted legal and scientific value, security archives of former repressive regimes carry a heavy symbolic value as monuments of intellectual and physical terror. Therefore, their safekeeping, appropriate management and accessibility are important to society. Reconstitution of the historical truth is only one aspect to be taken into consideration in this complex area. In addition, it must be ensured that the informational and heritage value of these records is understood and used for legal rehabilitation,

persecution and for historical and sociological research.

UNESCO, together with the International Council on Archives (ICA), established a group of experts to identify the various aspects of the management of security and intelligence archives. The group met for the first time in September 1994 at UNESCO Headquarters. The aim of the group was to develop safety standard controls for preservation and access of records of former repressive regimes and to develop guidelines for their appraisal, description and disposal, where appropriate. The group established guidelines Archives

of Former Repressive Regimes (Antonio Gonzalez Quintana. UNESCO, 1997) also (available at [http://www.unesco.org/webworld/public\\_domain/security.html](http://www.unesco.org/webworld/public_domain/security.html)) to enable archivists in charge of the management of these archives to provide documentary evidence for establishing the historical truth and for citizens concerned to rehabilitate their rights and dignity.

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## MEMORY OF THE WORLD

### Old Armenian Manuscripts



*Old Armenian Manuscript*

**T**HE Armenian Matenadaran depository, located in the Institute of Old Armenian Manuscripts in Yerevan, is one of the oldest book depositories in the world, dating back to the creation of the Armenian alphabet in 405.

The collection contains approximately 17,000 manuscripts and 300,000 archive documents in different languages and includes almost all areas of ancient and medieval Armenian culture and science as well as manuscripts in Arabic, Ethiopian, Greek, Indian, Japanese, Latin, Persian

and Syrian. Many of the documents have been lost in their original languages and are known only through the Armenian translation.

The oldest copies are from the fifth and sixth centuries existing only in the form of fragments. Part of these fragments survived as flyleaves stuck to the bindings of manuscripts. Medieval bookfinders often sewed leaves of older and not useful manuscripts between the cover and the first page of manuscripts to protect the writing from permanent contact with the binding. Many early copies of Armenian and foreign authors were preserved thanks to such flyleaves.

Other sets of fragments were discovered in caves and ruins were excavated after having been buried underground. Separate pages torn from manuscripts hundreds of years ago were carefully preserved and passed from generation to generation.

Today, efforts are being made to register the manuscripts kept by individuals both in the country and abroad. Through the Virtual Matenadaran project an attempt is made to share the documentary heritage world-wide through an exploration of the cultural and scientific heritage of different nations.

In the seventeenth century, copying of the manuscripts was started by the Echmiadzin Monastery which was established in the fifth century and became, in 1441, the Residence of Armenian Supreme Patriarch-Catholics, the home of one of the richest manuscript depositories in the country.

During the eighteenth century, several attacks on the Monastery resulted in huge losses but after Eastern Armenia joined Russia in 1828, a new era was born for the Echmiadzin Matenadaran. The first catalogue of manuscripts from the Echmiadzin Matenadaran, including 312 manuscripts in French, was compiled. Later the number of the Matenadaran manuscripts was increased, when private specialists got involved in the procurement, description and preservation of the manuscripts.

Over the last decade, the Matenadaran has published a great number of old Armenian literary monuments and, among them, the works of the ancient Armenian historians.

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## CDS/ISIS

**D**URING the first half of the year 2000, three important meetings were organized by the Information and Informatics Division on the future of the CDS/ISIS software which is

developed and distributed by UNESCO. The first meeting formulated recommendations for follow-up and these were discussed during the other meetings.

### ISIS 2000 Workshop (Eschborn, Germany)

**T**HE Workshop ISIS-2000, convened by the Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) on the initiative of the UNESCO National Commissions of Austria, Switzerland and Germany, was held in Eschborn, Germany in February 2000. Its objectives were to assist UNESCO in the further long-term development of CDS/ISIS ensuring a higher level of application for information and knowledge management by analysing, among other topics, the state-of-the-art of software development of CDS/ISIS, user needs with respect to future developments, and the common goals and directions for initia-

tives at national and international level. The workshop also examined modalities for cooperation between CDS/ISIS developers at UNESCO and elsewhere.

The participants, from different institutions or companies, defined the different types of present and future "stakeholders" of CDS/ISIS as a free-ware application, and emphasized its advantages as:

- an inexpensive but nevertheless high-level core programming tool provided by UNESCO;
- a highly flexible tool with many options for adjustment to the specific demands of users;



- a standardized software package for documentation and information management;
- a software package which allows cooperative networking between small and/or low budget organizations and those that are able to develop more ambitious applications;
- a software package which can cover simple as well as complex information processing systems;
- a documentation software package which allows recording and processing of data in many

different languages within the same system environment.

Participants emphasized the need to establish strategic coordination requirements for the future development of CDS/ISIS and the meeting concluded that consideration should be given to the possibility of establishing an international framework of cooperation to advise UNESCO on the promotion and development of CDS/ISIS.

## Conference Crimea 2000

THE seventh international CRIMEA 2000 conference "*Libraries and Associations in the Transient World: New Technologies and New Forms of Cooperation*" took place in Sudak, (Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine) in June 2000 with more than 1,000 participants mainly from East Europe and Central Asian countries. The conference was organized by the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology, Moscow and examined topics such as Automated Library Systems and Technologies, On Line Technologies, CD-Rom and Internet in Libraries, Electronic Libraries, Library Staff: profession and education, Development and Preservation of Library Collections, The Ethics of Electronic Information, providing Open Access to Information and Libraries.

An exhibition was also held on library systems, information and publishing products. A number of workshops and Round Table meetings completed the conference programme. A special theoretical

and practical workshop was devoted to the memory of Giampaolo Del Bigio, UNESCO's CDS/ISIS founder. UNESCO took part in the workshop to report on current strategies concerning CDS/ISIS. Also presented was UNESCO's new software, JavaIgis 3.0, a TCP/IP Client-Server interface for online databases. The regional CDS/ISIS users and developers association presented the latest version of IRBIS, an integrated and automated Windows-based system for library management at low cost. The software is available in Russian and English. More details can be found at: (<http://www.gpntb.ru/win/prod-serv/irbis/irbis.html>).

UNESCO's participation in the conference also served to reinforce the relationships with the National Russian Public Library for Science and Technology with respect to future development of CDS/ISIS software policies, mainly in line with the recommendation of the ISIS-2000 Eschborn Workshop held in Germany in February (see previous item).

## Fourth European Meeting of CDS/ISIS Distributors and Users' Associations

ORGANISED by the CDS/ISIS French-Speaking User Association (FUCI), the fourth meeting of European CDS/ISIS Distributors and Users Associations took place at UNESCO Headquarters in June. Three of the major items on the agenda were:

- state-of-the-art of European CDS/ISIS based products developments;
- major weakness of the distribution methods and functioning;
- evaluation of the ISIS-2000 (Eschborn) workshop recommendations.

A number of products, from the latest UNESCO developments (CDS/ISIS 1.4 Beta for Windows, JavaIgis 3.0), to Internet tools (WWW-ISIS, ICIE – Poland) and utilities (GenISIS for Web applications, Ibiscus – France) were presented to participants from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

The main focus of the two-day discussion was the creation of the framework for further examination of the future of CDS/ISIS, as outlined in the Eschborn report whose recommendations



were adopted unanimously. Two working groups were created to formulate proposals for:

- distribution methods of free of charge products
- a structure for an international cooperation on CDS/ISIS.

The representatives will deliver the joint proposals by end September 2000.

Additional information can be obtained from the main webpage: [http://www.unesco.org/web-](http://www.unesco.org/web-world/isis)

[world/isis](http://www.unesco.org/web-world/isis) or from: [http://www.unesco.org/web-world/cds\\_isis\\_sites.htm](http://www.unesco.org/web-world/cds_isis_sites.htm)

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## INFOETHICS

### Bamako 2000



**T**HE empowerment of local development through the use of information technologies was the main issue discussed at Bamako 2000, an international meeting held February in the Malian capital. As part of the Conference, UNESCO organized a workshop entitled "Equitable access to information in Africa: Ethical and legal challenges". The aims of the workshop were to identify national, regional and international initiatives for the promotion and regulation of an equitable access to information and to assess the ethical, political, cultural and societal conditions that would facilitate equitable access to information.

Participants at the UNESCO workshop discussed the role of governmental authorities in facilitating the use of information and communication networks and services and access to the contents in

the public domain. Another key question was how to balance the protection of cultural, artistic and scientific heritage of developing countries with the application of the fair-use concept on the networks for educational, scientific, cultural and communication purposes. Also discussed was the issue of the protection of personal data and privacy on the global networks.

The identification of national, regional and international initiatives for the promotion and regulation of equal access to information on world-wide networks provoked interest among participants who also undertook a diagnosis of ethical, political, cultural and societal challenges and their impact on equal conditions for developing countries.

Although participants were interested in the issues raised, this seems limited to a small group of information and communication professionals and few efforts have been made so far in promoting these issues in Africa. Their concern lies more with the acquisition and access to information and communication technologies, with questions concerning ethical, legal and regulatory impacts on the society only just starting to emerge. The overwhelming conclusion is that a stronger participation of African professionals in international conferences on these issues is essential.

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# INFORMATICS

## Modular Training Programme on Informatics

A Training Workshop on distributed computing was organized in Tel Aviv, Israel on 26 June 2000 for seventeen participants from twelve countries in Asia and Africa. The training material covered the following topics:

- Survey of Models and Key Problems
- The Mutual Exclusion Problem
- Leader Election Problems
- Self Stabilizing and Fault Tolerant Systems
- Routing Algorithms, Comparison with the Internet.

This course was intended for lecturers training advanced undergraduate students (year 3 and 4) and graduate students.

Participants were exposed to the concept of the Modular Training Programme on Informatics, guidelines established for future authors as well as the different ways in which developing countries can participate in the elaboration of new training material and the use of UNESCO material for national and sub-regional training activities.

This workshop was attended by trainers both from Africa and Asia, allowing inter-regional exchanges of views and experience.

A second module on training of journalists on computer and Internet applications specifically related to their work is being designed for teachers of journalism schools with a view to enabling them to present relevant computer and network applications in the fields of printed press, radio and television.

It cover applications for:

- collecting and sharing information, including access to most relevant media databases/web-sites, as well as innovative applications such as computer assisted reporting,

- the organization of material for presentation (editing, etc),
- innovative methods of dissemination, such as on-line newspapers and Internet-based dissemination of radio programmes,
- the archiving of materials in electronic form.

The course will consist of three main parts:

(a) Strategies and technologies of information gathering and processing by journalists making use of Internet

- the use of data bases, e.g. government and NGO sites, legislative bodies, international agencies, media organisations, libraries, journalists' associations, etc.

- making use of Internet-based sources of indicators, such as economics and finance, election results, polling and public opinion data, weather information, etc.

- the use of on-line newspapers from the journalist's own country and from abroad

- computer-assisted reporting for fact-finding, cross-checking and verification.

(b) Strategies and techniques for using the Internet as a means of promoting the involvement of media consumers, in particular using the Internet for obtaining readers' reactions and feedback.

(c) Main aspects of using new information for creating archives and data bases for journalists.

The Tel Aviv University will be responsible for developing the course material and hosting a workshop in December 2000 in Israel.

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## TELEMATICS

### Installation of an Urban Information System for the District of Bamako

UNESCO participated in a seminar organized by the *Centre International de Formation des Acteurs Locaux* (CIFAL), a programme of UNITAR to partner with academic institutions, associations and local government in providing training and exchange of experience on decentralized governance and action, and the *Fondation du Devenir* (FDD) of Geneva, to examine the proposed establishment of an urban information system in Bamako.

After a presentation of experiences in Europe and Africa, an introduction of the Bamako project was made followed by discussions on how it could be improved and effectively implemented. The project consists of two distinct substantive components: the computerization of the municipal services and access of the public to information and ICTs, notably through "citizens offices" (small community centres) in each of the six communes of Bamako. A Bamako website would provide user access to municipal and other public information, as well as to specialized applications such as health, education and electronic commerce.

The Bamako project is widely perceived as part of the programme to establish MCTs in the

701 communes of Mali. Bamako itself is divided into 6 communes and 67 districts covering a surface area of 267 km<sup>2</sup> which annually increases by about 4%.

The project seeks to:

- improve universal access to information;
- strengthen human resources;
- raise awareness of the potential of ICTs;
- develop partnerships between the government and civil society;
- make available tools for citizens to master and effectively utilize ICTs as well as increasing the quality of local content.

Particular efforts will be deployed to guarantee the participation of women and that due recognition of the role they play is assured. A special database will be set up to facilitate sharing of experience and information among women both locally and abroad.

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### The Global Knowledge II Conference

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
7-10 March 2000*

THE Global Knowledge Conference II (GK II) was a follow-up to the first one held in Toronto, Canada 1977 which brought to the world's attention an important new development challenge: the recognition of the constraints to development that are being triggered by the rapidly growing "information" or "knowledge" divide between the rich and poor, north and south. Since June 1977, the notion that the role of knowledge and information is critical to sustainable development has taken hold. All sectors of society from the media, to government, development agencies, the public and private sector began partnering to address these issues raised in the GKII. The 50-plus organizations that have been active

members in the GKP played an important part in this evolution and these partners and other interested individuals convened again this time to formalize the partnerships and formulate the GKP Action Plan.

GKII looked at the special challenges facing communities and nations in the rapidly changing information and communications environment. It brought together more than 1,200 delegates from all over the world – from South Africa to Silicon Valley to discuss and explore ways to bridge the growing information gap. The information revolution can be a positive force for empowering the world's poor but only if it can include the poorest individuals, communities and nations in the global

information economy. And this requires increased partnership and mutual learning among public, private and not-for-profit organizations. GKII brought together key people from all walks of life and from countries around the world to dialogue and debate and finally draft an agenda for action that will give developing countries a fair share in the new knowledge economy. It focuses on identifying practical means to harness information, knowledge and new technologies to promote equity, fairness, social justice, empowerment and informed decision-making. The issues of access, empowerment and governance are crucial elements in building equitable and sustainable Knowledge Societies in the years ahead. These three issues form the core themes of GKII.

- **Access:** providing easy access to information sources as well as affordable information services for disadvantaged groups, thereby promoting equality and counteracting segregation or discrimination.
- **Empowerment:** promoting economic, civil, social, political, cultural empowerment.
- **Governance:** promoting democratic practices and better governance at the local, national, regional and global levels.

Discussion centred around six areas of interest: politics, economics, socio-culture, environment, learning and technology.

Special forums such as:

- **Women's Forum**, which brought together more than 150 delegates who developed perspectives on the issues of gender equality and women empowerment, related to ICTs. Specific areas of concerns dealt with enabling effective participation of women in governance; learning innovation and knowledge creation; generating economic opportunities through e-commerce, etc. The results of their forum will serve as input for the GKP Action Plan.

- **Media Forum** brought together some 30 journalists and media experts from all over the world and discussed six issues, namely, convergence and technology, cultural diversity and identity, democracy and media, freedoms, access and empowerment, ownership and control of media and education.

- **Youth Forum** discussed youth perspectives on ICT and development and the role of youth in building knowledge societies.

The Action Plan will provide a framework incorporating the development issues identified by the Partnership's three Working Groups on access, empowerment, and governance and consists of two categories of action items, namely:

**GKP Strategic Corporate initiatives:** These support GKP's corporate objectives of partnership, knowledge-sharing, learning, and transformation. They combine an operational function, linked to support by/for the GKP Secretariat, with programme objectives. Generally, they will be seen as projects of the Partnership as a whole.

**Regular GKP initiatives:** These arise from the work of the three Working Groups in response to the development issues they identify. For convenience, they will be presented under one of the three theme headings (access, empowerment, and governance), although were seeking the synergies that exist among them. These regular GKP initiatives will directly involve a subset of partner organizations interested in the specific topic or issue in question.

☞ *For additional information please contact Ms Susanne Ornager, Regional Information and Informatics Adviser for Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO Office, Prakanong Post Office, Box 967, Bangkok 10110, Thailand. Tel: (662) 391 05 77 or 390 25 64. Fax: (662) 391 08 66. E-mail: s.ornager@unesco-proap.org*

## Multimedia WEBCD Guide to European CIS Countries

**D**ETAILED information on countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is now available on a CD-ROM entitled "CIS Countries". The CD-ROM, an aid to developing cooperation between the CIS and European Telematics application developers, has been produced within the framework of the European Commission funded STACCIS project (Support for Telematics Applications Cooperation with the

Commonwealth of Independent States). It was coordinated by UNESCO and the Earth Data Network for Education and Scientific Exchange (EDNES) in Moscow. The CD-ROM is available free-of-charge from UNESCO Headquarters.

The CD-ROM, promotes UNESCO's objective of making public information available through new media and is presented in English, with content divided into separate categories for

each country covering geography, demography, politics, economics, government policy, infrastructure, history, the Arts, tourism and language guides and national symbols.

It is an example of the Web CD technology now used by multimedia studios worldwide and demonstrates the state-of-the-art technologies being developed in the CIS, while serving as a window through which European technology developers and potential investors can look for a general understanding of CIS countries.

The Armenian STACCIS focal point, Arminco Ltd., developed the CD-ROM in collaboration with other national STACCIS focal points in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. Such an undertaking is of particular importance since the end of the Soviet era, as it has become increasingly difficult to ascertain an integral picture of the CIS countries due to the lack of coordination between the traditional information providers.

The CD-ROM aims to facilitate the integration of CIS countries into the Information Society, and to strengthen cooperation between CIS and the neighbouring countries of the European Union one of the goals of the prospective enlargement of European Union membership.



*The CD-ROM is available free of charge from UNESCO Headquarters. Please contact Mrs Madeleine Albin, CI/INF, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15. Tel. (331) 45.68.37.90. Fax: (331) 45.68.55.83. E-mail: m.albin@unesco.org.*

## TeleInViVo-Telemedicine Project

**S**PECIALIST medical expertise from anywhere in the world can now be quickly applied to the world's most remote regions. Telemedical stations linked to portable 3D ultrasound devices and PCs are now functioning in Uganda and Kazakhstan and the first telemedical tests are underway. Doctors in isolated regions of these countries (and concurrently in the Canary and Azores Islands) are able to transmit and receive 3D ultrasound data from colleagues at more specialized and equipped urban hospitals, both nationally and in Europe. While promoting international medical collaboration and mutual sharing of specialist information and expertise, the EC-funded project, TeleInViVo, is making telediagnosis and teleconsultation a reality in even the most extreme conditions.

This project enables doctors to make 3D medical acquisitions in the most difficult to reach areas using the transportable ultrasound equipment, thus alleviating the major problem of patients reaching the hospital. 3D images of the patient can then be transmitted via the satellite link-up established in the project to the Diagnostic Centre in

Almaty. In Uganda, transmission is made via the Internet from Nakaseke to Mulago hospital.

To test the capacity of the innovative equipment, UNESCO as coordinator of project implementation in non-European Union countries, selected particularly remote and harsh regions where access to health services was difficult.

Nakaseke hospital lies 60 km outside Kampala, and is typical of rural Uganda in having limited amenities and infrastructure. There are roughly three telephone lines per 1,000 inhabitants in Uganda. Prior to the establishment of a multipurpose community telecentre (MCT), in 1999 [see Vol. 27, No. 1], Nakaseke was without a telephone line, fax or e-mail. The MCT provided the basic infrastructure for the training of local doctors in the use of computers and the Internet.

Aralsk, once an important fishing port, now lies 100km from the northern shore of the Aral Sea in one of the most sparsely populated regions in the world. Epidemic outbreaks are not uncommon to the region which, plagued by human-induced environmental problems, continues to deteriorate.

The Central Regional Hospital of Aralsk serves this remote population and despite the high level of medical expertise inherited from the Soviet era, the hospital does not have the resources or expertise to deal with the worsening medical situation.

Based on the principle that it is faster and cheaper to ship information around than people, the TeleInViVo experience becomes very compelling. A new perspective to emergency health-care is opened up as the system could ultimately be used inside an ambulance during transport to the hospital and the images would allow doctors to take the most appropriate decisions before the patient arrives!

Teleconsultation allows doctors working in isolated or disaster areas to exchange ideas, experiences, make diagnoses and establish therapy in a more confident way and achieve what's best for the patient.

International collaboration is proving beneficial to all parties in this project. TeleInViVo is particularly useful with difficult cases found in rural areas and also allows European doctors to gain an understanding of illnesses, such as tropical dis-

eases, not common in their region. This provides a stimulus in developing new projects that can be very useful in other countries.

While a powerful online connection allows the two remote physicians to see the same image on their screens in real time, on a practical level connectivity is a major impediment, as telecommunication and equipment costs are limitations. However, the project equipment is user-friendly, and in Kazakhstan, connection has been highly successful.

The creation of medical databases using the cases studied in the project will provide a potentially major resource for doctors to review the data stored and the images and the pathology to compare with new cases. In this way, application of telematic techniques has a recognized impact on patient management and diagnosis, by reducing patient referral, and saving time.

☞ *For additional information please contact: Mr Jack Skillen, CI/INF, UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.41.40. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: j.skillen@unesco.org*

## LIBRARIES

### Reopening of the Library of Alexandria

**M**ORE than 10 years after its foundation stone was laid, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina is set to reopen early in 2001. A joint project of the Government of Egypt and UNESCO, the reconstruction of the new Library of Alexandria, is progressing well with the strikingly beautiful modern building now rising on the shores of the Mediterranean in Alexandria, Egypt, near the site of the Ancient Library of Alexandria. In the shape of a long cylinder 160 meters wide with the top truncated at an angle, its walls are covered in unpolished granite, into which are chiselled characters from most of the world's known languages. The angle of the roof of the Library will counter the harmful effects of sea spray and allow its upper storeys to enjoy natural light. This roof is meant to reflect the idea of disseminating knowledge to the world beyond, just as the Ancient Library did two thousand years ago. The building opens towards the Mediterranean Sea and is protected by a fire prevention system to ensure it doesn't suffer the same fate as the original library!



The Revival of the Alexandria Library is one of UNESCO's unique projects which helps the Organization to achieve its mission of sharing knowledge among different cultures and communities.

After the Library's opening, and with its Library for the Visually Impaired, Conference Centre, Planetarium, Calligraphy and Science Museums, and more importantly, the International School of Information Studies (ISIS), the



Bibliotheca Alexandrina will be a major complex for knowledge dissemination and scholarly research. As the foremost digital library of the region, it will also be an important centre for distance education to serve UNESCO's goal of life-long learning. It will have a large reading room which can accommodate 2,000 people, arranged on ten levels of seating.

Project activities are continuing to be implemented with UNESCO support, such as acquisitions, which now total approximately 400,000 volumes, as well as 10,000 electronically stored documents and 1,500 periodicals; setting-up of the Library Information System and the different Departments of the Library; the establishment of a Library for the Visually Impaired and the training of Library staff at major international libraries and institutions.

At a recent Session, UNESCO Executive Board adopted a decision in support of the

Library, and "urged the international community to continue its involvement and support to the Revival of the Alexandria Library". This continuing international generosity will help enable the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, once it is completed, to fulfil its goal of becoming a world-renowned institution with the best technology, wonderful collections, and people of the highest calibre to run it.

The new Bibliotheca Alexandrina has already captured the imagination of people all over the world, and will constitute a unique educational and cultural centre placed at the disposal of scholars, researchers and the public at large, for the transfer of knowledge and skills.

☞ For additional information please contact: Mr Richard Holmquist, CI/INF, UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.44.29. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: r.holmquist@unesco.org

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Safeguarding our Documentary Heritage

UNESCO recently published a CD-ROM on the causes of deterioration of library collections and archival documents as well as on the preventive measures to be taken. The CD-ROM, which was produced by IFLA's Preservation and Conservation Core Programme (PAC), is designed to be a working tool for all persons in charge of library or archival collections. According to Astrid Brandt-Grau, scientific coordinator of the project, "Preservation is a core responsibility of all archival and library services possessing documents of national heritage importance". The CD-ROM recommends practices that are fundamental to good preservation of these collections.

The six sections of the CD-ROM cover environment issues and document preservation, disaster preparedness in libraries and archives, preservation of all kind of supports for information, including electronic documents.

Each section of the CD-ROM was written by a specialist in the field, and define document types, deterioration factors and preventive measures. Some sections have synopsis. Remedial measures are deliberately not considered here since they require the involvement of trained and experienced restorers.

Specific terms used are defined in the glossary. Hypertext links help to enhance the information on the CD-ROM by referring to other selected and constantly updated sites relevant to this field. Each section includes a select bibliography and information on international standards already published or in preparation. These standards can



be used as recommendations or specifications according to each case.

The sections are fully illustrated – the CD-ROM with 400 pictures helps to deepen our knowledge and can be used as a basis for preparation of a course or a conference.

Part of the content of the CD-ROM will also be made available on the websites of UNESCO “Memory of the World “ and of the Ministry of Culture and Communication “*Sciences et Patrimoines culturelles*”.

The CD-ROM had been realized on the basis of the brochure “*Safeguarding the documentary*

*heritage – a guide to standards, recommended practices and reference literature related to the preservation of documents of all kinds*”, published by the Sub-committee of technology of the Programme “Memory of the World” of UNESCO (Ed. George Boston). The guide is available on-line at <http://www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/administ/en/guide/guidetoc.htm>

*The CD-ROM can be obtained free of charge from Mr Abdelaziz Abid, CI/INF, UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.44.96. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: a.abid@unesco.org*

## New UNESCO/IFLA Portal to Digitized Heritage Collections

UNESCO has now launched a new website offering access to major digitized heritage collections and on-going digitization programmes worldwide. The site, developed by experts from IFLA’s Core Programmes on Preservation and Conservation (PAC) and on Universal Availability of Publications (UAP), is aimed to become a focal point of information on digitized collections. It will act as the ‘Memory of the World’ virtual library offering direct access to those collections, where permission to link has been granted. Heritage institutions such as libraries and archives are invited to submit URLs for access to their digitized collections.

Many national and university libraries and archives have started to implement digitization programmes and the number of webpages presenting the written cultural heritage is rapidly growing. However, the more documents that are published, the more difficult it becomes to find them. UNESCO, therefore, has asked the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) to identify major works of national, regional and global interest which have been digitized from originals first published on

traditional carriers (manuscripts, printed works, photographs, etc).

After two years of survey and work based on the competency of two of its Core Programmes respectively hosted by the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the British Library, IFLA has set up a directory of collections which offers searches based on key words, countries and dates. This directory, available on the UNESCO web site: <http://www.unesco.org/webworld/mow/digicol> enables the user to view existing collections and presents links to the holding institution where more detailed information, or the document itself, is provided.

UNESCO and IFLA will be updating this directory on a regular basis. It will be the beginning of a true virtual library resulting from the fruitful collaboration of the community of national and university libraries and, hopefully, of archives and museums.

☞ *For additional information please contact Mr Abdelaziz Abid, CI/INF, UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.44.96. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: a.abid@unesco.org*

## INFOYOUTH

**I**N 1991, UNESCO initiated the INFOYOUTH Network as a framework to counteract the splintering of various and scattered information sources and networks on youth as well as meeting the urgent need to implement coherent youth policies at local and global levels. Among its objectives are:

- to improve awareness and understanding of the problems and expectations of young people in different types of societies;
- support innovative projects to encourage the active participation of young people in the political, economic and cultural life of society;
- to facilitate the design of national and international policies and programmes for young people;
- to provide computer training activities for underprivileged young people in order to improve their access to information.

In support of activities providing a better understanding of the current situation of youth among decision makers in designing and implementing national youth policies, two recent publications were produced on the status of youth at national level. These are: "Youth in Tunisia" and "Paraguayan Youth Today". In addition, the production of a CD-ROM on youth and voluntarism for development and peace is currently under way in collaboration with the Youth Unit of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO.

The INFOYOUTH Programme has provided financial support for a series of regional en-

counters. These include a Euro-Mediterranean Meeting on "Youth Education, Peace and Culture in the Information Society" held in Tunisia in July 2000 with the participation of more than 10 countries from the region as well as a workshop in June 2000 in Peru to strengthen the existing information and training scheme for youth entrepreneurship. In September 2000, it is planned to organize in Paraguay the first Youth Information and Democracy Forum for MERCOSUR countries.

UNESCO funding has also enabled the establishment of various information structures such as the Learning and Educational Centre created in Baghdad together with the UNDP, and the national youth information centres established in Georgia and Armenia. Computer literacy and Internet training for young leaders and disadvantaged youth are on-going activities successfully implemented in Brazil, Honduras, India and China.

Support was given to the regional Network for Eastern Europe – Eastlinks for the organization of a regional consultation on the future modalities of expansion of the network and a sub-regional information network for the Baltic States was created.

☞ *For additional information please contact: Mr Boyan Radoykov, CI/INF, UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.33.27. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: b.radoykov@unesco.org*

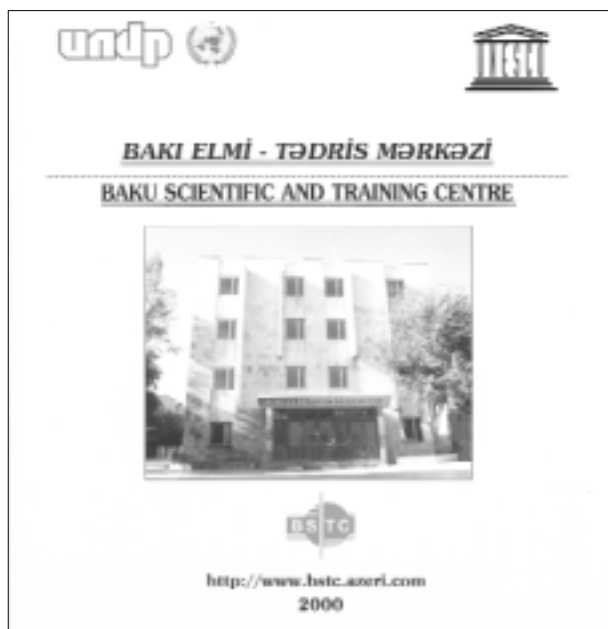
### Praise for UNESCO's Leading Role in its Development Activities in Azerbaijan

**A** brochure on the Baku Scientific and Training Centre (BSTC) has recently been published at the request of UNDP Office in Azerbaijan, which intends to widely disseminate experiences and expertise in IT capacity building across the nation and other countries in the region.

The brochure summarizes the successful cooperation between the Government, UNDP and UNESCO, covering IT activities in the three centres in Baku, Sumgait and Nakhichevan which were established by UNESCO. Plans are also being elaborated to establish a fourth computer centre in Ganja, the second industrial city in the country.

In 1994 when UNESCO proposed that UNDP in Azerbaijan consider developing cooperation activities to initiate building an IT capacity in Azerbaijan, the nation had just entered transition period towards a market-oriented economy and was suffering from the effects of high inflation, reduced productivity and displaced populations.

Substantial inputs were required for infrastructure development and training of personnel. Five years later, a project review established that the joint UNESCO/UNDP efforts to strengthen IT capacity in the country had been successful and had resulted in far-reaching vision-driven initiatives.



*Baku Scientific and Training Centre*

A sustainable capacity had been built at the BSTC which was used as the model in creating the other centres.

Thanks to this project, the telecommunications infrastructure in the country has significantly



*Computer courses for students*

improved, and although there is still scope for further improvement, immeasurable success has been achieved in promoting the use of IT development in Azerbaijan.

☞ *For more information, please contact Mr Yong-Nam KIM, CI/INF, UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.40.55. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: yn.kim@unesco.org.*

## Electronic Theses

As part of its action to encourage free and universal exchange of information, UNESCO is supporting the development of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) initiatives as cost-effective and self-sustainable mechanisms using ICTs in higher education involving the joint participation of students, researchers, faculty, staff, administrators and librarians, as well as system and network administrators.

Internationally applicable standards and best practices are still lacking although a number of institutions worldwide have already established guidelines for the creation and dissemination of ETDs. UNESCO therefore intends to develop an International Guide for the creation of such ETDs and the necessary standards and best practices. The Guide on the preparation of ETDs is intended to propose a model workflow for the preparation of ETDs and will also provide information on hard and software requirements for ETD projects, legal issues, data formats, metadata, archiving, and access tools.

To assist in the preparation of guideline, UNESCO has issued a general call for proposals

for the preparation of Guidelines to develop best practices for the creation and/or enhancement of ETD projects, particularly in developing countries.

In September 1999, UNESCO organized an international workshop on electronic theses and dissertations to discuss the feasibility of an international strategy for the creation and dissemination of ETDs [see report in Vol 27 N<sup>o</sup>2]. This has led to the creation of an on-line UNESCO clearinghouse for the exchange of information on ETD initiatives on the German "Eduserver" at Berlin's Humboldt University.

The clearinghouse, established in close collaboration with the "Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations" (NDLTD), uses the facilities of the German national educational server (DBS) and provides on-line access to the following databases:

- institutions (universities, libraries, computing centres, publishing houses, etc. with ETD projects);
- experts in the field of EDT technical and educational materials available on the Web to support and disseminate ETD.



## PUBLIC DOMAIN

### Virtual Library of Polish Literature

**W**ITHIN the framework of the project to create a virtual library of classic works of world literature, UNESCO is assisting institutions in Poland in digitizing key texts of classic Polish literature. The scheme, carried out in association with the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, aims to digitize works of Polish



*Polish Virtual Library*

literature which are out of copyright and which are representative of both Polish literature and culture. The works will be accompanied by illustrative materials and biographical notes in Polish and English and will be made available on the Internet and CD-ROM.

The Virtual Library of Polish Literature will also make use of the far-reaching capacities of the Internet to promote regional Polish literature and culture from the Pomeranian Region. The highest quality and reliability of the information on the site will be ensured in close cooperation with authors, specialists in the fields of knowledge and academics working on encyclopaedias and dictionaries. The titles available on this site range from extracts of The Holy Cross Sermons and Polish poetry to Enlightenment philosophy and positivist literature.

One major feature of the site is its design which ensures its accessibility by visitors who may have quite slow Internet connections. This ties in with UNESCO's policy of encouraging the free flow of ideas by means of democratizing the use of the Internet.

## REGIONAL OFFICES

### Africa

#### Second Annual Regional Consultation of UN Agencies Working in Africa

The Second Annual Regional Consultation of UN Agencies Working in Africa was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26 to 27 June 2000. UNESCO was represented by Mr. Günther Cyranek, its Regional Informatics and Telematics Adviser for Africa.

According to the original United Nations Special Initiative on Africa (UNZIA) plan established in 1996, the cluster "Harnessing Information Technology for Development" was to be coordinated by the following five agencies: ECA, ITU, UNCTAD, UNESCO and the World Bank with

ECA and UNESCO as co-lead agencies. These two Organizations decided to have a more systematic information exchange, exchange of plans of activities every three months, sharing best practices or failures.

Steady progress has been achieved with greater awareness of information society issues within UN agencies. Although UNSIA now has an institutional framework, it still needs to be strengthened and an updated strategic paper for a better UN cooperation will be developed. This document will define a vision which takes African priorities into account and create more synergy around ICT for development. Some of the themes suggested are health care, electronic commerce,



education and youth, information society policy among others.

Consensus was reached on the need to develop a resource mobilization strategy for IT in Africa for all UN agencies to avoid duplication between UN agencies for individual projects.

*Postal address: Mr Günther Cyranek, Regional Information and Informatics Adviser for Africa, UNESCO Office, P.O. Box 1177, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Tel: (251 - 1) 51 39 53 or 51 72 00 ext. 35 422. Fax: (251-1) 51 14 14. E-mail: g.cyranek@unesco.org*

## Asia and the Pacific

### **An Experts' Meeting on the Preparation of a Training Package on Library Automation for Developing Countries was held in Bali, Indonesia from 13 to 17 March 2000**

Funded by the Japanese Government, an expert meeting was organized in Bali, Indonesia from 13 to 17 March 2000 with the main objectives to:

- discuss ideas for the preparation of a training package on library automation suitable for developing countries;
- identify the main elements within such a training package;
- include Internet training suitable for developing countries; and
- identify cooperating institution(s) with appropriate facilities and staff to produce the package.

In addition to UNESCO, ten experts from Canada, Estonia, Fiji, Japan, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States participated in the meeting and developed six modules which could be included in such a package:

- Introduction to Integrated Automated Library Systems
- Introduction to ICT
- Information Retrieval in an Electronic Environment
- Database Design, and Information Storage and Retrieval
- The Internet as an Information Resource
- WEB Page Design

Each module is a three-day course, using a mixture of instructional techniques – lectures, demonstrations, hands-on practice, case studies, group discussion, site visits – as most appropriate to the individual content. They are designed as self-contained units that can be taken independently although in some cases, one Module may have as a pre-requisite another Module, and it is assumed that trainees will be familiar with the content of Module 2 before attempting any of the other Modules.

Each Module will be accompanied by a comprehensive information package that can be used by the trainer both to plan and conduct the training course. This will include a detailed curriculum together with any other required training materials such as case studies, computer exercises and discussion topics.

Modules 1 and 2 are to be developed, tested and evaluated before the other four modules are completed. The language of all module content and instruction will be English.

✉ *For additional information please contact: Ms Susanne Ornager, Regional Information and Informatics Adviser for Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO Office, Prakanong Post Office, Box 967, Bangkok 10110, Thailand. Tel: (662) 391 05 77 or 390 25 64. Fax: (662) 391 08 66. E-mail: s.ornager@unesco-proap.org*

## Latin America

### Networking Security Workshop for Palops

The UNESCO Offices in Maputo and Montevideo, the Computing Centre at Mozambique's Eduardo Mondlane University and the Brazilian National Research Network joined forces to organize a four-day seminar from 14 to 17 March 2000 in Maputo, Mozambique on networking security for trainer of trainers. The training course brought together 30 participants, mainly network administrators, but also students, teachers and technicians within the framework of the international cooperation among Portuguese-speaking UNESCO Member States (PALOPS).

Technical instructors from the Security Incidents Response Center (RNP - Campinas, S. Paulo) used teaching materials, CD-ROMs, soft-

ware and technical assistance provided free of charge by RNP and the Information Society Project of the Brazilian Ministry for Science and Technology.

After the workshop, which completes a series of cooperation activities with Mozambique, UNESCO evaluating the possible establishment of a cooperative thematic network in the area of the information society involving PALOPS.

☞ *For additional information please contact: Mr Claudio Menezes, Regional Adviser for Informatics and Telematics for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNESCO Office, Avenida Brasil 2697, P. O. Box 859, 11300 Montevideo, Uruguay. Tel: (59-82) 707 20 23. Fax: (59-82) 707 21 40. E-mail: cmenezes@unesco.org.uy*

# UNESCO CLEARINGHOUSE

THE following CD-ROMs have just been issued:

### 1. UNESCO Resolutions/Decisions 1946-1999

This CD-ROM contains:

- General Conference Resolutions from 1946 to 1999. The General Conference meets every two years.
- Executive Board Decisions from 1946 to 1999. The Executive Board meets twice a year.

These documents are in English, French or Spanish and are extracted from UNESCDOC full text data base and represent about 23,000 pages (nearly 40,000 Resolutions/Decisions).

### 2. UNESCO Document: General Conference, Executive Board End 1997-1999

This CD-ROM contains: Documents of UNESCO governing bodies published from end 1997 to end 1999.

There are about 400 documents in English, French, Spanish extracted from UNESCDOC full text data base corresponding to about 23,000 pages.

### 3. Speeches of Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO 1987-1999

This CD-ROM contains: The speeches delivered by Frederico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO from 1987 to 1999. There are about 500 speeches corresponding to 4,000 pages.

For use on PC with Windows. Can be ordered from UNESCO National Distributors or by Internet: <http://www.unesco.org.publishing> or directly to: UNESCO Publishing, 7, place de Fontenoy 75352 Paris 075 SP, France. Fax: (33 1) 45.68.57.41.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Document requests from Africa, Arab States, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean should continue to be sent to: Information Society Division, UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75732, Paris Cedex 15, France. Requests from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, United States of America, Venezuela and the Asia and Pacific Region should be sent directly to our documents resource centres whose addresses are indicated below:

### ARGENTINA

Sr. Coordinador Nacional, RENBU  
Universidad de Buenos Aires  
Azcuena 280.1029  
Capital Federal, Argentina

### BRAZIL

Director  
Instituto Brasileiro de Informação  
em Ciencia e Tecnologia (IBICT)  
SC - Quadra 2 Bloco K  
70710 Brasilia DF, Brazil

### MEXICO

Sr. Director  
Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología  
Centro de Servicios de Información  
y Documentación  
Circuito Cultural Universitario  
Ciudad Universitaria  
04515 Mexico DF

### PORTUGAL

Sra. Gabriela Lopes da Silva  
Directora  
Serviço de Informação e Documentação (SID)  
Fundação para Ciência e Tecnológica (FCT)  
Av. D. Carlos 1, 126  
1200 Lisboa, Portugal.

### SPAIN

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28002 Madrid, Spain

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Director  
West Virginia Library Commission  
Cultural Centre  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305, U.S.A

### VENEZUELA

Sr. Isidro Fernández-Aballí  
Regional Adviser for Latin America  
and the Caribbean  
CII/INF/LAC  
Apartado postal 68.394  
Caracas 1062-A, Venezuela

### ASIA/PACIFIC REGION

UNESCO/INF Documents Supply Service  
c/o The National Library of Thailand  
Samsen Road  
Bangkok 10300, Thailand

All documents may be consulted at the premises of each of the institutions mentioned above. Copies may be obtained on a cost recovery basis at prices set out by the distributing institutions. All current and out-of-print documents are also available on microfiche, at a price of FF 20 per fiche corresponding normally to 96 pages. Orders for microfiches should be sent to: *Archives Records Management and Microform Division, UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France.*

Below is a list of new publications:

- GOULD, Sara; EBDON, Richard; VARLAMOFF, Marie-Thérèse. IFLA/UNESCO Survey on Digitization and Preservation. Wetherby, U.K.: IFLA, 1999. 43 p.
- SIEGEL, Elliot and CARROLL, Bonnie C. *Projecto por piloto sobre el acceso a la telematica en el Caribe oriental*. Paris: UNESCO, 1998. 30 p. (CII.98/WS/17). Spanish version of Pilot Project on Access to Telematics Facilities in the Eastern Caribbean.
- *Le Nouveau Siècle de l'Afrique. Espoirs et interpellations de jeunes gens de Kinshasa*. Paris: UNESCO, 2000. 189 p. (CII.2000/WS/3).

The Newsletter provides information on the activities of the UNESCO Division of Information Society and other related issues. Published twice a year in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, the Newsletter is distributed free of charge by the Division.

*Editor: Mr Philippe Quéau; Assistant Editor: Mrs Joie Springer; Editorial Assistant: Mrs Grace Mensah*

Readers are invited to communicate their comments, suggestions or relevant information by writing to: UNISIST Newsletter, Division of Information Society, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.44.97. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: [j.springer@unesco.org](mailto:j.springer@unesco.org) Requests for copies of Newsletter may be directly sent to: [g.mensah@unesco.org](mailto:g.mensah@unesco.org)

The UNISIST Newsletter is accessible on the Internet at:  
<http://www.unesco.org/webworld/publications/index.html>

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INFORMATION AND INFORMATICS DIVISION

***INFORMATION***  
***INFORMATICS***  
***TELEMATICS***

UNISIST Newsletter  
Vol. 27, No. 2, 1999



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# EDITORIAL

## The Internet: An Opportunity For The Planet

by Philippe Quéau

Director

Information and Informatics Division

THE Internet could become “the” medium of the twenty-first century without necessarily doing away with books, radio or television. It is predicted that by 2002, global telephone communication will equal no more than 1% of Internet traffic. The Internet is primarily the incarnation of an irreplaceable idea: simply providing access for all to information. But this idea is not enough. The Internet, although of particular benefit today to those who already have everything, does not provide drinking water nor sacks of rice. The most striking gap in the information society is that separating the connected (2% of the world population) from the unconnected.

### The Threat of Monopoly

The nature of the forces governing the world of the Internet needs to be clearly understood. The Internet network is actually focused upon the United States and this phenomenon, far from diminishing, is becoming more pronounced. The top thirteen world Internet access providers are all American. The cost of “information superhighways” linking the countries of Europe remains 17 to 20 times higher than the cost of equivalent links in the United States. This results in European Internet access providers first being connected to the United States. Likewise in Asia, more than 93% of the Internet infrastructure is oriented towards the United States. Even when direct, intra-regional links exist, they are not necessarily used and regional traffic continues to pass through the United States. The situation is even more serious in Africa where there are no interconnection points for pan-African traffic, with the exception of South Africa, which reroutes regional traffic.

A corrective must be introduced. This means the invention of new ways of regulating the global “infostructure”. There is no lack of subjects and they cover many areas other than the physical infrastructure:

- regulation of access to naturally limited resources



of general interest (Internet addressing, orbital positions of satellites, frequency allocations);

- regulation of competition between Internet service providers;
- development of world-wide antitrust laws covering, in particular, the telecommunications, software and electronic commerce sectors;
- definition of pricing policies and world-wide reciprocal subsidies for international telecommunications.

Also, following the recommendations of the 1999 Report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on human development:

- taxation of international telecommunication flows and patents filed at the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), invoicing for the use of common world resources for global redistribution purposes;
- revision of the management of intellectual property rights to establish a system that does not bar access to knowledge by developing countries.

World Internet regulation must be handled by institutions of global expertise and stature. It is the responsibility of public opinion and global society to devote their energies to encouraging governments to speed up this necessary process.

# INFOETHICS

## INFOethics 2000: Right to Universal Access to Information in the Twenty-first Century

**A**N open and universal Information Society can only develop and subsist if it is based on the basic policy principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These include freedom of access to information, freedom of expression and protection of the security and privacy of users.

Governments, industry and the civil society are seeking to apply these long accepted principles to the electronic information environment, but their efforts are hampered by major difficulties and challenges, including the critical issue of how to ensure fair conditions for developing countries which are entering the digital age with serious handicaps.

International consultations are showing that clearer policy guidelines are needed in the increasingly open, interactive and global information context. Such guidelines should cover all aspects of the global information networks – technological, economic, political, ethical and social. Yet, most of the national and international debates today are concentrating on the technological and economic aspects because of their more immediate perceived impact, often to the detriment of others which will ultimately have a deeper, more fundamental significance in achieving an Information Society for All.

The goal of the UNESCO INFOethics Congresses is to expand international debate on ethical and societal aspects of the Information Society – bringing together participants from the largest possible number of countries with the widest range of economic, political, technological, cultural and social environments – and to make the governing bodies of UNESCO adopt ad hoc resolutions on the subject.

The conclusions of INFOethics'97 and INFOethics'98 Congresses emphasized the vital role UNESCO should take to encourage progress on the different ethical and societal aspects of the application of new information and communication technologies. They concluded that raising awareness of these issues, promoting open access to information contents, particularly in the public domain, and protecting users from abuses on the Web required urgent UNESCO action.

The Third UNESCO International Congress on Ethical, Legal and Societal Challenges of Cyberspace will take place at UNESCO Headquarters in

Paris from 13 to 15 November 2000. Its objective is to contribute to consensus-building among Member States on the complex ethical and societal questions on the emerging open and truly “citizen oriented” Information Society. Expert proposals on info-ethical concerns of the three principal sectors of the information society – the public, private and personal domains of information – will serve to further consolidate the new information society programme of UNESCO.

### The role of public authorities in access to information

While industry and business are principally responsible for providing the infrastructure for access to information resources, governments and the civil society have a responsibility to make information considered as a “global public good” universally available for educational, cultural and social needs. The challenge is to define the concepts of public domain and universal access in a global context to promote the common public welfare while encouraging private initiative and protecting rightful economic interests.

### The fair use concept in the Information Society

The well established principle of fair use of copyrighted information for educational and scholarly purposes is being questioned for digital media due to substantial new economic interests, increased susceptibility to abuse and difficulties of control, yet arguments can also be made for an extension of the fair-use concept to the common good of society in the digital age. Governments need to balance their strategy between preserving the integrity of intellectual property rights (IPRs) and the need for broad access to information and knowledge. Furthermore, levels of protection and access should be harmonized world wide, particularly in the context of global information networks. Collective global reflection is required to reach conclusions taking account of the interests of all stakeholders, including authors, property holders, citizens, public services and developing countries.

### Protecting human dignity in the digital age

The principle of free access to and free flow of information as defined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights must be ensured on digital media, while content security, reliability and trustworthiness are essential attributes of future information networks. The Internet is indeed a new mass medium, but also differs qualitatively from the “traditional” media in the degree

to which it permits individual as well as mass interaction, providing new possibilities for creativity, expression and provision of personal services while raising new dangers of exploitation of citizens. Governments, in both industrialized and developing countries, should take action to guarantee citizens’ security, privacy and freedom of expression in the Information Society. Clearer guidelines and legal and ethical frameworks on these issues, equally applicable to all, need to be formulated.

## AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVES

### Celebrating the First Centenary of Sound Archiving



*Traditional Shamanic  
Healing Ceremony*

**I**N December 1999, the Phonogrammarchiv of the Austrian Academy of Science in Vienna celebrated its centenary. As the Phonogrammarchiv was the first instance of an institution being set up to preserve sound recordings, the occasion also commemorated the birth of sound archiving.

One of the primary goals of the archive has been to preserve music originating not only in Austria but also from all over the world.

Through the work of its early pioneers, it has created an invaluable collection of recordings which include the Historical Collection from 1899-1950, one of the few collections of early phonographic field recordings of oral cultures before the intrusion and subsequent impact of western civilization on their lifestyles and culture. Because of its exceptional value and its importance for humanity, this collection has been judged worthy of preservation for future generations and consequently has been included on the Memory of the World Register.

The past hundred years have seen the Archive grow and modify its emphasis as times and technological developments have evolved. With a wealth of experience and expertise, it has played a leading role in the establishment of archives elsewhere and continues to be a key partner in the development of UNESCO’s audiovisual archives programme having hosted a number of meetings and seminars as well as providing technical advice and consultative services to archives in UNESCO’s Member States.

UNESCO extends heartiest congratulations to the Phonogrammarchiv and takes this opportunity to commend the founders of the archive on their foresight and initiative in establishing the foundation of what would become a recognized means of ensuring that recordings of earlier eras would be available to future generations.

☞ *For additional information on audiovisual archiving, please contact Mrs Joie Springer, CII/INF, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.44.97. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: [j.springer@unesco.org](mailto:j.springer@unesco.org)*

## The Dutch National Audiovisual Collection

SINCE the beginning of the twentieth century, various discussions on the safeguarding of moving images and sound recordings in the Netherlands have led to a number of initiatives which, though timely and enthusiastic, were uncoordinated. It was only in 1987 that the four audiovisual archives at national level – the Film Museum, the Government Information Service Film Archive, the moving images and recorded sound archive of NOS radio and television, and the Film and Science Foundation – produced a joint paper on the need to coordinate and speed up activities to work on the considerable backlogs in preservation and cataloguing.

“Déjà-vu?” Certainly, there are international recommendations to safeguard the audiovisual heritage and a number of international professional organizations have been for many years specifically working towards that goal and have in fact greatly increased public awareness of the importance of recorded sound, television programmes and films, both as documents in their own right and as sources for research purposes. These organizations – International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA), International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) and International Federation of Television Archives (FIAT), the International Council on Archives – and their regional counterparts like South East (SEAPAVAA) in the Pacific and South East Asia, have also produced a number of most useful publications to streamline and guide audiovisual archiving.

Fortunately in 1997 when three of the four national archives – the Film Museum remaining essentially a museum rather than an archive service – were merged into the Netherlands Audiovisual Archive, the NAA was given among other things the mandate to make a national infrastructure for audiovisual archiving, which obviously had to be preceded by an inventory on the “state of the nation” in audiovisual archiving.

The actual inventory started in early summer 1998, and the report on findings was presented one year later to the Chairman of the Council for Culture. The inventory focussed on the following issues:

- origins and size of the collections;
- existence of possible sub-collections according to physical carrier, content or age;
- system and extent of cataloguing and of public access;
- status of conservation and preservation;
- relative cultural and historical importance of the collections and/or sub-collections;

- support and advice needs.

According to the Chairman, the results of the inventory have been both enlightening and frightening. Now, *for the first time ever*, the national audiovisual heritage of the Netherlands has been inventoried, quantified, prioritized and backlogs have been identified. This provides an excellent starting point for a new plan for the preservation of the audiovisual heritage, as well as creating a national fund for audiovisual preservation.

What is frightening is the sheer size of the problem and the amount of funding that is necessary to make up the *existing arrears* without even taking into consideration that new arrears are created every day. The Dutch national audiovisual collection in moving images and recorded sound is calculated at 830,000 hours and preserving it would cost today DFL 371,600,000 (or US \$176,952,380)!

Preservation of the materials has been calculated while keeping in mind that the preserved documents must be available for consultation and re-use. Cheaper alternatives would in effect mean that an audiovisual document is preserved, but unfortunately is not available for re-use.

The problem is compounded by an acute shortage of storage areas with controlled temperature and humidity levels. These only exist in the provinces of Groningen and North-Brabant, and will come into existence in the course of 2000 in Zeeland and Limburg. Everywhere else conditions range between barely acceptable and fully unacceptable.

Finally, there is a need for better training opportunities, advice regarding the setting up and managing of audiovisual collections, cooperation with other, similar collections in acquisition policies, in preservation and conservation, and in the systems of cataloguing and referencing.

Even if Government and business contribute to the proposed National Audiovisual Preservation Fund, it is highly unlikely that the more than 600 audiovisual archive services in the country would, in the near future, receive a letter telling them that DFL 371 million has been found, and could they please submit their preservation projects. The national institutions have already worked out their respective four-year plans that cover preservation, cataloguing, acquisition by priority, but the smaller collections have not.

Other coordinating activities have already been initiated. One priority area for NAA and Film Museum is the creation of a common standard of cataloguing, a common core thesaurus and



eventually a common data bank for audiovisual media, taking into account the foreseeable consequences of digitization. A start has been made with the professional education and training of audiovisual archivists with the submission of a project for specialist training in physical handling, preservation, inventorying and cataloguing of audiovisual materials by an educational institution. The Dutch Archive School in Amsterdam has scheduled to start in autumn of 2000 a pilot course at middle and higher level that will be designed to complement this training course, and is, inter alia, based on the UNESCO RAMP Study "Curriculum development for the training of personnel at

moving images and recorded sound archives" (PGI.90/WS/9).

The 1999 inventory report gives an important and sustained momentum to audiovisual archiving in the Netherlands and therefore to archiving in general, as its effects reach well beyond the immediate issue of preservation itself.

*Extracted from a report submitted by Mr Robert Egeter-van Kuyk, Chairman of the Section of Audiovisual Archives, Royal Association of Archivists in the Netherlands, member of the Coordinating Committee of Audiovisual Archives Associations maintaining formal relations with UNESCO.*

## MEMORY OF THE WORLD

### Second International Memory of the World Conference

**T**HE Second International Memory of the World Conference will be organized in Colima, Mexico from 27 to 29 September 2000. Its objectives are to share knowledge and experience in preserving and disseminating the world's documentary heritage.

The Conference is open to specialists in preservation and access techniques and policies such as librarians, archivists -including film, sound and television archivists- historians, publishers, multimedia experts and scientists from all over the world.

### The Redon Cartulary



**T**HE Redon Cartulary, a medieval codex has been submitted to the Memory of the World Register. Named after its owner the Redon Abbey in Brittany, France, the codex contains a set of 147 parchments comprising the texts of 391 administrative acts, such as donations, purchases and dispute settlements.

Its covers the period ranging from the late eighth century to the first half of the twelfth and is of great historical interest as well as being an exceptional example of the art of bookmaking in the Middle Ages. Although there are no illuminating designs, finely chiselled initials, enhanced with green, red and blue illustrate all the texts, a testimony to the care taken to copy down the charters.

## Regional Meeting on the “Memory of the World” Programme

**T**HE first regional meeting on the “Memory of the World” Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Caracas from 2 to 3 December 1999. Attended by approximately 20 invited experts from the Region, as well as from Italy, Norway, Spain, U.S.A. in addition to a few observers from Venezuela, the meeting reviewed the development of “Memory of the World” in Latin America and made recommendations for improved conservation and digitization of the documentary heritage in the region as well as improved access to it.

As the two main priorities of the International Advisory Committee currently are fund-raising for the Programme and better visibility, emphasis was placed on the need for rigour and selectivity for the Memory of the World Register. The Programme provides for an excellent focus for professional collaboration especially now that digital convergence helps librarians, archivists and museum curators to work together.

Two regional projects being implemented under the Programme were discussed. The first concerns a CD-ROM catalogue of ancient collections housed in Andean libraries. It is carried out by the Instituto Italo-Latino-Americano (IILA) in Rome and covers 60 collections of manuscripts and early printed books in the following countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru and

Venezuela. A first CD-ROM was recently published in cooperation with the Tavera Foundation in Madrid comprising the catalogue of a historical collection in Peru and another in Bolivia.

The second project was the electronic catalogue of the Foulché-Delbosc Collection of the National Library of Argentina. Foulché-Delbosc was the Director of the “Revue hispanique” and has built an impressive Ibero-American library. 1,200 volumes were bought by the National Library of Argentina and include manuscripts, incunabula and first editions of Spanish classical authors. The project is well advanced and covers not only bibliographic information but full texts and sound archives as well.

The meeting agreed that a “Memory of the World” Regional Committee should formally be set up as soon as possible and that consultations should be undertaken before deciding on a venue for the Secretariat of the Committee and its composition. It was also recommended that the Committee be expanded to cover all Ibero-American countries which would allow the participation of Spain and Portugal.

☞ *For additional information on the Memory of the World Programme, please contact Mr Aziz Abid, CII/INF, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.44.96. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: a.abid@unesco.org*

## Caribbean Memory of the World

**P**LANS to establish a Register of the Memory of the Caribbean are underway with initial steps being taken to identify the nature and extent of suitable collections as well as the human and technical resources available in the region for participation in the Memory of the World Programme. Resources and technical needs have also to be identified within the framework of the existing institutional system for preservation of and access to those documentary heritage collections.

The first set of activities therefore had to be an identification of those collections that would qualify for action and an analysis of these submissions to ascertain which ones would meet the criteria and fall within the ambit of the UNESCO programme of world, regional and/or national action.

A study contracted by the UNESCO Office in

Kingston, Jamaica revealed that an in-depth investigation must be conducted in each country especially where religious and private collections are concerned. There is also a clear need for orientation and sensitization to the goal of the UNESCO Programme and its importance to the preservation of national heritage and to nation building. While many respondents had heard of the Memory of the World Programme, it was, with the exception of two cases in Trinidad and Tobago, thought to be of no direct relevance or importance to the Caribbean with its comparatively small documentary heritage. This points to the need for a better analysis of the content of the various collections and the sensitizing of the populations regarding the importance of matters of heritage and identity. This is especially critical to fragile nations such as those of the Caribbean.

Copyright protection is an area of general concern and has resulted in one valuable, privately owned collection not being submitted because of fear of infringement of copyright and also that the information would be used before the owner had time to utilize it herself. Other issues are of general concern. Firstly, the preservation of materials and the digitization of holdings to be able to provide wider access to the information. Secondly, the question of management needs to be examined in more detail and further clarification is necessary to be able to determine level of assistance needed.

The strategy to be developed for the Caribbean is proposed to include the following:

- Identifying and/or establishing a mechanism for taking a national inventory of documentary heritage material.
- Investigating the application of the new technologies on a shared regional basis.

- Addressing copyright and intellectual and cultural property rights issues.
- Creating a database for the regional register.
- Creating a regional fund for financing the programme.

A clear need for assistance has been established and this initial survey has provided indicative information which can be used to develop a preliminary strategy for the participation of the Caribbean in the Memory of the World programme.

☞ *For additional information on this project please contact Mrs Jocelyne Josiah, UNESCO Regional Adviser for Communication in the Caribbean, c/o The UNESCO Representative, The Towers, 3rd Floor, 25 Dominica Drive, P. O. Box 8203, Kingston 5, Jamaica. Tel: (00 1876-92) 97 087/88/89. E-mail: uhjos@unesco.org*

## TELEMATICS

### TeleInViVo

THE TeleInViVo project was initiated to develop and test a portable ultra-sound device for three dimension imaging for telediagnosis. Support towards the generic use of telematics and information technology in the delivery of health services is still ongoing, and training was organized by the system provider (Fraunhofer Institute, Germany) for two medical doctors and two networking technicians each from Uganda and Kazakhstan, in the installation, use and maintenance of the specialized equipment to be used in the project. Although there have been unforeseen technical difficulties in the development of the

specialized ultrasound device capable of capturing scanned images and of transmitting them via the Internet, the project is progressing well with site visits and teleconsultations between the participating hospitals in Uganda and their counterparts in the Azores, Canary Islands, Kazakhstan and Portugal scheduled to commence shortly.

A medical evaluation protocol has been designed by the University Hospital of Coimbra and has been already tested in Tenerife and Ponta Delgada, and is being implemented in hospitals in Kazakhstan and Uganda.

### HeritageNet

HERITAGENET in Central Asia was developed under the Educational Multimedia Task Force Programme of the European Commission with the objective of customizing the use of the Internet for promotion of national heritage in this region through the establishment of national websites and the cataloguing of the cultural heritage in museums

involving other institutions and projects such as the Silk Road project and the Caravanserais inventory. Parallel to the digitization process which is being initiated in museums, cultural foundations, archives and libraries in the region, a consortium of non-profit Internet users is being formed to develop a network of cultural institutions in the region.

Target groups of the HeritageNet are scientific and research institutions, museums, archives, libraries, universities, NGOs dealing with electronic communication, active in the areas of cultural publishing using information and communication technologies. In particular, UNESCO is providing support to the National Library of Kazakhstan and to the Kyrgyz National Library to digitize a part of their collections. UNESCO also provided support to museums in State Historical Museum in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Central State Museum in Kazakhstan and Oltin Meros Foundation in Uzbekistan to build up a catalogue of their collections to be available on the Internet and on CD-ROM.

UNESCO is examining with partners how to establish a network of museums with support of technical institutions in Central Asia for the production of cultural multimedia materials. In this context, the Organization has initiated a study on intellectual property rights related to multimedia products based on the public domain heritage of museums. These issues are very new in Central Asia and will be broadly disseminated.

☞ *For additional information, please contact Mr René Cluzel, CII/INF, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.38.85. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: r.cluzel@unesco.org*

## PUBLIC@ Electronic Collection CD-ROM “Internet in the South”

**T**HE Internet can become one of the principal vectors of culture and education in developing countries if its diversity of content is assured and if capacities and know-how are equitably shared in the world. The CD-ROM entitled “Internet au Sud” (“Internet in the South”) published by UNESCO and UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) at the end of 1999 and distributed free of charge by these organizations, is a reference library on the exploitation of the Internet in developing countries. This CD-ROM in French aimed at technologists, users and decision-makers, contains a compendium of information including free software, learning aids, and articles and essays on challenges and strategies concerning the Internet and questions of its management and organization. The following chapters are included:

- Initiation and utilization
- Infrastructures

- Regulations and democracy
- Free software
- Challenges for the South
- Software library
- Useful contacts

A new and improved version in English and French will be produced during the year 2000.

These electronic publications are part of UNESCO PUBLIC@ series which aims to promote the dissemination of all useful information for the sectors of public concern and the idea of a world public domain of information seen as a global common good.

☞ *For additional information on the Public@ Electronic Collection CD-ROM, please contact Mr John Rose, CII/INF, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.45.29. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: j.rose@unesco.org).*

## Rural Technology Forum

**C**II/INF participated in the third annual Bay BYTES Rural Technology Forum, held in Newfoundland, Canada from 28 to 30 September 1999 enabling representatives of different sectors concerned with the application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in rural development to exchange experience and discuss needs for action and coordination in this area.

Newfoundland – one of the poorest Canadian provinces and the most sparsely populated – has for more than twenty years been making extensive use of ICTs in support of public services and eco-

nomie growth and diversification. The first MCTs in North America were set up by the province starting in the late 1980's, and the main focus of the provincial government has been the promotion of a local ICT industry which is now a major economic sector including a large number of small software-oriented companies implementing much of the public sector ICT development work and services.

A Canadian expert involved in the Newfoundland rural telecentre programme was instrumental in the planning stages of setting up the UNESCO-pilot MCT programme in Tanzania and Uganda.

Although the conditions in Newfoundland and Labrador are far more advanced than those in most developing countries, common problems in adapting and applying ICTs for development are apparent, and the expertise of the province could provide a very useful support for the UNESCO programme in areas such as educational and cultural applications of telematics and connectivity solutions.

This is particularly apposite to one of the major conclusions of the Conference that the major problem, as seen by both users and ICT specialists, is that of connectivity, in terms of both cost and capacity (limitation of broad band access).

☞ *For additional information on the Rural Technology Forum please contact Mr John Rose at the above address.*

## Multipurpose Community Telecentres (MCTs) in India

**I**N September 1997, the Indian Department of Telecommunications (DoT) completed a pre-investment feasibility study on the establishment of 12 MCTs in Rajkot District in Gujarat State. Each of these small centres (with three computers, one public telephone line, one fax and an ISDN link for tele-medicine) was to serve a rural population of about 25-45,000 in one of the divisions (Talukas) of the District, reaching a total of about a third of the rural population of the District. The study stressed the need for tele-trading (agricultural commodities), tele-medicine, on-line governance and educational applications, and showed that the centres would be self-sustaining based on certain assumptions for pricing and concessionary telecommunication tariffs.

In December 1999, UNESCO fielded a joint mission with the ITU to discuss implementation details. It found that the principal national partners, the Department of Telecommunication Services and the Gujarat Department of Rural Development, were quite eager to commence the project and discussions at the national level, including the new state Department of Information Technology confirmed that it would be possible to finance nationally the local telecentre equipment which would cover the bulk of the capital investment.

Although the principle of ownership of the MCTs by the concerned local communities had been foreseen, the actual details concerning management

and operations had not been fully determined. It was therefore envisaged that the national authorities would establish a District Project Management Committee with representation of the MCTs, local government and civil society and appoint a District Project Coordinator responsible for organization of the network and for training and empowerment support for the MCTs. The choice of a model for local operation of the MCTs, directly run by the local communities, assignment to an NGO, or private franchise, would be decided by the communities with advice from the network. It is expected that the project will begin very soon with only modest catalytic support for non-recurrent costs from ITU and from UNESCO.

UNESCO hopes to promote the role of, by supporting broad-based information services and education programmes for the host communities, but, because of the small size of the Rajkot MCTs and the very low penetration of computers in the educational system in India, the initial educational applications are expected to emphasize teacher training. One very interesting element of the MCT project will be the use of the MCTs to follow up and extend, at the district level on a pilot basis, the primary teacher training within the ITV pilot project (see following item). For this purpose, Rajkot District will be added to those already selected in Gujarat to participate in the ITV project, bringing the total to nine.

## ITV in the training of primary education personnel project (IPTT/ITV)

**T**HIS project involves the use of interactive television (ITV) in the training of primary education personnel in the states of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Planning was initiated in 1996 by a National Steering Committee in cooperation with ITU and UNESCO consultants. Momentum was lost over the subsequent two years as various potential sources to provide complementary fund-

ing proved disappointing, but now, in keeping with the strong new efforts of the Government for primary education and in the area of information technology, the Department of Education has allocated funding in 2000-2002 to complete this project and extend it to other states.

A joint ITU-UNESCO mission in December 1999 assisted the national authorities in developing



detailed plans for the project in terms of budget, schedule, staffing and technical specifications.

The system selected for both the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) distance education facility, scheduled to start operation in February 2000 in five telecommunication learning centres within the Department's training programme, and the IPTT/ITV project will provide two-way satellite based digital video and audio between the studio and the learning centres, as well a sophisticated authorware and database system. In the IPTT/ITV project there will be twelve learning centres in Madhya Pradesh and nine in Gujarat, located in District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), training approximately 4,000 teachers annually in about ten courses, each covering several subjects. The same satellite system will provide Internet access for teacher training in the DIETs.

The pilot project will run for two years. The new distance education facility should be operational by end May 2000, and will be used initially

in simple video-conference mode to replace the one-way analogue system currently in use. More sophisticated use of the digital system will be introduced gradually and fully upgraded teaching/learning modules should be operational for the next round of training to be initiated in June 2001. A Memorandum of Understanding is under consideration by which the ITU would provide about \$250,000 and UNESCO about \$50,000 to facilitate the implementation of this important pilot project costing about \$3.5 million. It is expected that the project will not only provide valuable experience to India and other developing countries in the application of ITV to education, but also will provide feedback to the ITU standardization programme on this new technology to ensure its relevance to the needs of developing countries.

*For further information, contact Mr Ashok Sharma, UNESCO New Delhi office, 8, Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vishar, New Delhi 110057, India. E-mail: a.sharma@unesco.org*

## Top 50 African WEBSITES

**W**EBSTITES featuring the works of South African poets, the African Panos Institute, and the African Virtual University in Makerere, Uganda are among the Top 50 of African websites in the area of education, science, culture, public information and community development. This list was established by Woyaa, a search engine for African contents, under the auspices of UNESCO.

Ten African specialists in the five areas of content identified above, all of them experienced Internet users, formed the Jury. The 50 websites selected were given the labels "informative, educative, credible, easy to use and navigate, well designed with an effective use of multimedia techniques and allowing communication with site owners and managers" by the Jury. The goal of the initiative was to support a quality African Web-content as it is a key component in strengthening the African Information Society.

### Some of the winning sites include:

#### EDUCATION

- University of Cape Town
- Education With Enterprise Trust (EWET)
- Makerere African Virtual University
- Creating Learning Networks for African Teachers,
- Zimbabwe
- Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD)

#### SCIENCES

- Health Systems Trust
- NEPRU The Namibian Economic Policy Research Unit
- IRD / ORSTOM L'Institut de Recherche pour le Développement du Niger
- IRIS Imhotep Research and Informatics Society
- Forestry Information Network of Ghana
- Consortium d'Etudes et de Réalisations Immobilières
- African indigenous science and knowledge systems

#### CULTURE

- Accra's Vibrant Street Carnival
- FESPACO Festival Panafricain du Cinéma et de la Télévision de Ouagadougou
- Art Gallery
- Libyana
- Weltmusik Worldmusic by AFRICA

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- SIUP Système d'Information Urbain Populaire
- Health Systems Trust
- CEDEAO
- Association des femmes du Cameroun
- SADC Southern African Development Community Universal Service Agency of South Africa

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

- New Africa
- Africa Online
- The Arab Sports Network (ASN)
- Senebotin Annuaire des Entreprises
- Africa.com
- DELGI Niger
- PANA

The site will be improved and expanded within the RINAF Network.

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## INFORMATICS

### Access to Knowledge in Central Europe

**A**CCCESS to Knowledge, increasingly defined as the source of sustainable development in the developing world, will be one of the defining issues of the next millennium. UNESCO has reinforced its efforts to promote access to knowledge among public communities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in close collaboration with international organizations such as UNDP and United Nations Universities and in partnership with leading academic institutions such as the University of Nebraska at Omaha, U.S.A., and the Russian Academy of Science in Moscow.

#### Establishment and Strengthening of Access-to-Knowledge Centres (AKCs)

AKCs have been set up with UNDP/UNESCO co-funding to provide wider public access to knowledge in Azerbaijan at the Baku Scientific and Training Centre (BSTC), the Sumgait Computer Centre (SCC) and the Nakhichevan Computer Centre (NCC) and, in Tajikistan, at the Technological University of Tajikistan Computer Centre (TUTCC).

According to a UNDP Associate Administrator, the centres have become a source of considerable pride to both UNDP and UNESCO as the two agencies have played an important role in such a vital area, and the expansion of the centres' client base into services for national and international corporations is a promising step and a model for both agencies to apply in other countries.

The inauguration ceremony of the Nakhichevan Computer Centre held on 11 September 1999 marked an unprecedented event in Nakhichevan

history. The ceremony was attended by Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan government authorities, UNDP/Baku, UNESCO, a dozen journalists from Nordic countries and some 500 observers. In his speech at the opening ceremony, the Azerbaijan Parliamentary Representative for Nakhichevan, stated that the UNDP/UNESCO project was the best gift to the nation since independence, as it is a great asset to Nakhichevan's IT capacity building and puts an end to the nation's isolation from the world information society. The UNDP/Baku Resident Representative in commending the support Azerbaijan had received from three successful UNDP/UNESCO information technology projects, pointed out that this should be the model for fruitful United Nations inter-agency cooperation which assists the developing world in capacity building informatics.

#### Human Resource Development for AKCs

Under an agreement on joint cooperation between UNESCO and the United Nations University (UNU), UNESCO has successfully organized a training course on "Creating Home Pages" conducted on a voluntary basis by the UNU's International Institute for Software Technology. The course, held from 5 to 17 September 1999 at the Nakhichevan Computer Centre, was attended by 40 trainees from the centre, universities, public and private sectors in Nakhichevan.

Two fellows from the Technological University of Tajikistan were trained in August and September 1999 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, U.S.A., and seven others have completed training courses at the Computer Centre of

Russian Academy of Science. They have acquired knowledge and skills in key IT areas such as database technologies and software applications. Additional training will be provided by international consultants in key areas of web technologies and network administration.

### Creation of Knowledge base at AKCs

New initiatives to set up interactive knowledge databases at the existing centres such as Baku Centre and Sumgait Centre in Azerbaijan are being implemented to better support public access-to-knowledge. An interactive database of video-taped courses in information technology will be set up at Sumgait Centre along with the establishment of another on international institutions and experts specializing in IT.

### Support for sustainability of AKCs

Experience gained during the implementation of these joint projects confirmed the validity of a UNESCO-initiated approach to “Cooperative added-value Internet connectivity” for the centres

which were established as an effective yet economical method of guaranteeing sustainability of access by the centres to the Internet. Each has become a long-term Internet Service Provider under an agreement with local private ISPs.

The Nakhichevan Computer Centre in Azerbaijan has been granted a 10-year Internet connectivity at no cost by “AzerIn” (Azerbaijan Internet), a semi-public ISP in the country. A contract on the deal was signed in August 1999 between AzerIn and the centre, agreeing to 75/25% revenue sharing terms.

With a software development team whose capacities were strengthened under the project, the Baku Centre recently won two international contracts on automatic control systems software on oil and gas production. Baku Centre has recently opened an Internet Centre for Children, a business-oriented training hub to sustain its activities.

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## Institut Supérieur d’Enseignement goes on-line

**I**N the coming academic year, the Institut Supérieur d’Enseignement (ISE) of Cape Verde will go on-line. UNESCO supports the establishment of a Local Area Network and Internet connection in the Institute, which is in charge of training teachers for secondary schools in Praia, the island state’s capital.

Three other teacher training institutions in Cap Verde and three secondary schools will also be

connected. The UNESCO project also lays the basis for the creation of a website providing educational materials and information on education related issues. The project includes training components for making ISE lecturers acquainted with the use of the computer and the Internet. Later on, training will be extended to the lecturers of other teacher training institutions and secondary school teachers outside Praia.

## Viet Nam

**A** workshop was organized in Hanoi, Viet Nam, from 14 to 17 September 1999 with a view to presenting the informatics training material prepared by the Institute of Information Technology (IOIT) under contract with UNESCO.

The workshop was attended by twenty-six participants from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand in addition to nineteen trainers/lecturers from Viet Nam. Professor Molnar, president of the Inter-governmental Committee for Informatics (IIP) from Bratislava in Slovakia and a staff member from CII/INF were resource persons at the workshop.



*Workshop  
on Informatics Training Material*

The following training material, complete with explanatory text and slide show, was presented and discussed:

- Computer Vision and Image Processing
- Operating Systems
- Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining
- Creation of Web Pages and Organization of Websites
- System Analysis and Design
- Software Engineering

- Statistical Analysis of Data

After finalization, the training material will be integrated in UNESCO's Website and it will be made available also in form of CD-ROM to universities on their request.

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## SOFTWARE

**I**DAMS, UNESCO's freeware for analysing numerical data and for handling numerical data bases, is presently being developed for Windows 9x/NT. The beta version of the first release is scheduled to be available near the end of 1999. WinIDAMS will include, with extended and enhanced features, all components known from the present DOS version as well as a series of new services.

These include standard graphical user interface and on-line user manual, renewed dictionary and data editing, complete data management and statistical analysis engine, fully interactive specification of data management and analysis, advanced text editing, structured result/output management, and redesigned graphical module and time series analysis facility.

Internationally developed by UNESCO for the validation, manipulation and statistical analysis of numerical data of any kind, IDAMS is linked through an interface with the UNESCO software

CDS/ISIS for the management of databases. It allows for the processing in a unified way of data gathered for scientific as well as for administrative purposes.

Users find in IDAMS the classical range of statistical methods (univariate and bivariate statistics, multivariate statistical techniques), plus some recent advanced techniques. IDAMS also provides a series of data management programs, and a powerful language for the transformation of data. The software, which is available both for micro and mainframe computers, can be used without programming skills or knowledge. The version of IDAMS for micro computers is equipped with high-performance editors, graphic facilities and online help messages.

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## REGIONAL FOCUS

### Regional Information, Informatics and Telematics Advisers and Specialists

**T**HE 1998/99 biennium has seen a number of changes in some regional offices and this presents a timely opportunity to highlight the work of some of the team responsible for implementing UNESCO's action in its Member States. Working in close collaboration with local specialists, these staff members are required to be in touch with

national requirements and to be ready to adapt their programmes not only to the specificities of each region but equally to the pressing concerns that may arise as in the recent destruction of information services due to the flood devastation in Venezuela (see later).

In addition to the Regional Advisers, the



programme is also implemented by a number of specialists in different parts of the region. The Newsletter, because of space and time constraints, will highlight the work of some of these specialists

at the same time as it acknowledges the efforts of many others who contribute towards the achievement of UNESCO's goals in information, informatics and telematics.

## Asia and the Pacific

### Bangkok

#### Regional Information and Informatics Adviser for Asia and the Pacific



We are pleased to announce the appointment of *Ms Susanne Ornager*, newest member of the INF team, to the Bangkok Office with effect from 1 November 1999. She replaces Ms Delia Torrijos who

retired in 1998 and sees her major challenges to be:

- developing information policies in the region;
- encouraging cooperation at institutional level;
- promoting education and training;
- providing universal access to information.

There is a need to develop an appropriate information infrastructure in support of information policies since all countries will be affected by the emerging global information society. Policy and decision-makers must consequently learn to adapt to the pressures brought about by the information revolution as well as globalization that is increasingly pervading work and trade relationships.

The entire region has to leapfrog into the information and knowledge age fully cognisant of the potential of ICTs but bearing in mind that ICTs can only enable socioeconomic development, not bring it about. Information empowerment is achieved through cooperation and sharing of knowledge, and, to quote the Prime Minister of Malaysia as early as 1991, "*it can be no accident that there is today no wealthy, developed country that is information-poor and no information-rich country that is poor and underdeveloped*".

The future demands for information skills will differ from those in the past and there will be a need for parallel groups of information professionals: one group to develop and produce information products and services (exploitation of technologies); another to understand user requirements and be familiar with the material that is available.

Universal access to information is generally accepted as a fundamental human right. At the

same time, the long list of factors that can reduce an individual's access to information has led to a growing concern that further divisions in society can be created. But by raising basic levels of literacy and numeracy through educational programmes, the provision of information and advice services that meet the particular needs of specific groups within the community, Susanne is confident that these challenges can be overcome.

She is no stranger to the region, nor to UNESCO, having served as Associate Expert in Jakarta from 1984 to 1987 and subsequently undertook numerous consultant missions on UNESCO's behalf. She has been involved in the provision of training in the use of CDS/ISIS in particular, and in the development of information services and systems in general. She has established computerized information services and data systems in Africa and Asia and, more recently, has been involved in the development of a literacy programme in connection with the evolution of a national library. Her background as a professor has served her in good stead in conducting several training of trainers' courses both on IT and on methodologies of user needs assessments.

Susanne also brings to her new appointment a wealth of experience both as a librarian and as a computer specialist. She has worked with computers since 1976 when she began her professional life as a librarian. She was a lecturer in classification and computer science until 1984 when she joined UNESCO in Jakarta. On her return to Denmark she became the Chief Librarian of an academic library where she continued to improve her management skills, and practised her abilities as a system analyst in describing requirements for a library system.

To accomplish her mission in the Asia and Pacific region, Susanne pledges to:

- be goal-directed with educational systems;
- effectively utilize her problem-solving skills;
- encourage cooperation at all levels;
- maximize her potential in an international environment.

Best wishes and a hearty welcome are extended from all her colleagues.

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### Telematics specialist



Under the responsibility of the telematics specialist, **Mr Sergey Karpov**, the Almaty Office undertakes a number activities to promote telematics in Central Asia. Mr Karpov has contributed a significant

proportion of his time to the development of HeritageNet and the TeleInViVo projects (both described in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter) which are concerned with the development of culture and telemedicine respectively in the region. At the national level, significant progress was achieved last year within HeritageNet with the production of the CD-ROM “Musical Heritage of Kazakhstan” with the National Library of Kazakhstan.

A Regional School of Young Web Designers in Central Asia was launched in August 1999. The school, located in Kyrgyzstan, has as its goal not only teaching young people how to express their creativity on the Internet, but also creating a new profession: Webmaster in Central Asia. The school will help provide the ongoing human resources for Internet development needed to complement the HeritageNet project. Recent focus concentrated on building capacities for training 10 students from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan in ecology and culture.

Since June 1998, UNESCO has been implementing ECONET, a computer-based network on environmental issues in Central Asia. The primary objective of the project is to consolidate scientists' efforts in solving environmental problems of the region. Wide-ranging discussions are planned to be held within the framework of the network via the Internet, as well as the exchange of pictorial data of mutual interest. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are participants of the project which has to date resulted in the creation of a virtual structure for environmental strategies, programmes and projects in each Central Asian country.

## Africa

### Addis Ababa

#### Regional Information and Informatics Adviser for Africa



Although **Mr Günther Cyranek** has only been in his post since December 1998, he has already gained first-hand knowledge of the most urgent problems in the field of information and informatics which need

to be addressed in Africa. He personally sees a promising future for the combination of Internet and the traditional community radio.

His 17 years experience in the field of Information Technology for development have been particularly useful as he focuses on implementing three main lines of action in the region:

- development of National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) Policies;
- provision of support for virtual environments such as libraries, learning institutions, laboratories;

- establishment and strengthening of Multi-purpose Community Telecentres (MCTs).

Through the African Information Society Initiative (AISII) framework adopted by Ministers of Planning and of Telecommunication in 1996, Africa has made important progress in defining priorities to narrow the gap with other regions in the implementation of national information society policies and infrastructure for information highways. However, to achieve an information society for all, Africa must find ways to apply and exploit information and communication technologies equitably in the public and private domains, through innovative and mutually beneficial cooperation at the national, regional and international levels.

Günther believes that affordable information infrastructure as well as informatics and telematics applications based on African needs are a prerequisite. In addition, building information communities in Africa requires appropriate political, legal and ethical frameworks ensuring the development of a dynamic electronic public domain and affordable access to information and telematics facilities by all sectors of society including professional and grass roots communities.

In this context, the establishment of Multipurpose Community Telecentres (MCTs) is seen as an approach which can empower communities to make appropriate use of information and communication technologies for social, cultural and economic development through the cooperation of all concerned stakeholders at the community, national, and, ultimately, regional levels. MCTs can play an important role in development by supporting literacy campaigns, basic education, grass roots activities, access to development information and teacher training among others.

Günther is also actively involved in ensuring that special priority is accorded to programmes to make African decision makers aware of opportunities and risks of ICTs for learning. One of his main activities is the **Creating Learning Networks for African Teachers** project which foresees the development of a network connecting African teacher training colleges and educational authorities to the Internet, to promote educational reform, upgrade the capacity of teacher trainers and teachers, develop educational resource centres in the libraries of the colleges, and initiate pilot experiences on technology-based learning in the surrounding schools.

Cooperation with the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in the field of communication, information and informatics is one of his major objectives. Using the synergies between United Nations organizations on the African continent can effectively construct an information society once certain obstacles are overcome.

Some of the difficulties Günther has experienced during his first year relate to the sometimes lengthy time-frame needed for the realization of project ideas. This can be caused by a number of factors as diverse as ministerial and other changes in national counterpart staff, switch in priorities, and other unforeseen events.

The task ahead is not easy but with the continued input and collaboration of three other colleagues in Dakar, Nairobi and Pretoria, the future looks promising.

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## Dakar

### Communication, Information and Informatics Specialist (on secondment from the Belgian Francophone Community)



Prior to her transfer to the Dakar Office in September 1996, *Ms Jacqueline Lemoine* was responsible for UNESCO's activities relating to women and the media in the **C o m m u n i c a t i o n s**

Division of the CII Sector. In Dakar, she collaborates closely with the Regional Advisers for the Sector in three major areas:

#### *Communications, Informatics and Women*

Closely linked to her previous duties, this activity is a follow-up to the decisions of the General Conference concerning the recommendations of the World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). She is responsible for the development of the WOMMED/FEMMED Africa Network which has the objective of redressing gender-imbalance in decision-making in the media. Activities include the preparation of the quarterly newsletter "Contacts", a discussion list on issues related to women in the media and the organization of regional training workshop, among others. Success has been achieved in establishing the network, but her main preoccupation remains the necessity to make it self-sufficient.

#### *Information Highways*

In cooperation with the Senegalese Ministry of Education and other partners, Jacqueline is also involved with the development of the teacher training informatics network in Senegal which forms part of the larger project to connect African teacher training colleges and educational authorities to the Internet as a means of promoting educational reform. Although the project is progressing slowly, this is in response to the real need for teachers to become familiar with the "new" teaching tools. The project is expected to be extended to Mali and Mauritania and national preparatory workshops will be organized for the setting up of the network and promoting exchanges between the three countries.

#### *Culture of Peace Campaign*

In this project, Jacqueline will ensure the participation of the networks, especially with respect to

the recommendations on the Pan-African Women's Conference on a Culture of Peace (Zanzibar, Tanzania) where the focus will be on working with community radio and the new technologies.

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## Nairobi

### Computer Applications Officer

**Mr Hezekiel Dlamini** has been working on the Division's projects in Eastern Africa since 1996. Specializing in telematics and information technologies, he provides an invaluable service and, in cooperation with the other specialists in the region, works tirelessly towards reducing the information divide between Africa and the developed countries.

Based on his long experience in the region, Hezekiel believes that the major challenges facing UNESCO are:

- the lack of integrated national/regional information, informatics and communication policies and regulatory frameworks;
- the non-universal access to information and telematics services, due to poor national/regional information and telematics infrastructures;
- inadequate African content on the information highways and in the public domain in general, thus widening the information gap between the "have" and the "have-nots";
- scarce specialized manpower in telematics and networking to support sustainable growth of information and telematics infrastructures, and lack of strategies to source African expertise in the Diaspora;
- the lack of research into the recycling of computer and networking equipment for upgraded performances in order to lower the currently prohibitive costs.

He has therefore elaborated an information strategy for the region based on partnership collaboration with other United Nations Agencies and developmental organizations to:

- promote the development of national information, informatics and communication policies through regional awareness and expert forums and through national policy reform exercises;
- support pilot initiatives to expand national information and telematics infrastructures to

remote rural communities, by using the most cost effective technologies;

- encourage the involvement of the youth and women in the development and preservation of information products in electronic form;
- strengthen the African Centres of Excellence initiative for continued specialized training in telematics and networking;
- support the building of linkages between African experts and the Diaspora and,
- facilitate research in local computer recycling.

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## Pretoria

### Associate Expert in Informatics



Appointed as Associate Expert in Informatics in April 1998, **Mr Peter Schioler's** main task is to assist in the development and consolidation of Informatics activities in Africa with particular emphasis on the

Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

The past year has seen a growing interest in Multipurpose Community Telecentres in the sub-region, and Peter has been especially involved in the two pilot projects UNESCO is implementing in Mozambique. This interest will be encouraged through the preparation of a manual on telecentre implementation in Africa in which UNESCO plans to incorporate lessons learnt from its MCT Pilot Project as well as experiences from other predominantly African telecentre projects. The manual will be updated regularly with new information and will help to facilitate the rollout of telecentres on the African continent.

One of Peter's main challenges is to raise awareness of telecommunication activities in Africa and he has provided support for the African Connection Rally project featuring a rally from Tunisia in the North to Cape Agulhas in South Africa.

Building the Information Community in Africa (BICA) is one of his priorities and has been the subject of the first conference of its kind held in Africa which identified the need for general telecentre management as well as the need to make

existing literature on telecentres more widely accessible.

He has also been involved in the construction of an electronic information system to provide the Lesotho government with online information on the growing problem with retrenched mineworkers returning from South Africa and related problems such as AIDS awareness and family reunification.

Since illiteracy is one of the biggest scourges on the African continent, Peter is examining the implementation of a project using virtual reality interactive software to produce training pro-

grammes for functional illiterates. The idea is that since illiterates are used to relying on images rather than text they would be easily receptive to learning by studying images. The fact that the software interacts with the user in constructing a personal user interface might make the same programme widely applicable across language and cultural barriers.

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## Arab States

### Cairo

#### Regional Information and Informatics Adviser for Arab States



*Mr Tarek G. Shawki was appointed as Regional Information and Informatics Adviser for Arab States in January 1999 and is now well settled in. As the first CII/INF Adviser in the Arab region, Tarek was*

faced with a number of challenges, chief among which was the urgent need to build and/or improve regional networking infrastructure. This is compounded by certain restrictions regarding free flow of information which also have to be addressed. Nevertheless, building on his long career in higher education, Tarek brings to the region new ideas to effectively utilize emerging information and communication technologies in higher education reform.

During the past year, Tarek has been able to visit some of the countries for which he is responsible and has initiated some interesting projects in cooperation with partners in the region. Examples of such projects include the “**Syrian Higher Education and Research Network**” (SHERN) in collaboration with UNDP. He has also co-organized the “**Euro-Egyptian Symposium on Distance Education by Satellite**”. (Both of these

projects are described in further detail in Vol. 27, No. 1 of the UNISIST Newsletter). He was instrumental in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of the United Arab Emirates to establish a regional web server for higher education as well as an “**International Journal for Higher Education**”.

Obtaining adequate financing of projects is one of the major preoccupations of Regional Advisers, but Tarek has succeeded in generating extra-budgetary funding towards the integration of IT in high school mathematics and science education in Saudi schools. Close collaboration with his colleagues in the Cairo office made possible the development of the “**USEE2000**” programme whose objectives are to “**Upgrade Science and Engineering Education through ICT Technologies**”. The many components of the programme include faculty training workshops, web server design, development of training kits and the establishment of USEE national centres of excellence.

Tarek is also responsible for the implementation of UNESCO project related to the reconstruction and revival of the historic library, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, which is scheduled for a grand opening during the second half of 2000.

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## Latin America and the Caribbean

### Caracas

#### Regional Information and Informatics Adviser for Latin America and the Caribbean



*Mr Isidro Fernandez-Aballi* is the longest serving Regional Adviser as he was appointed in 1992. Isidro has spent over 20 years in the planning, organization and management of information institutions and systems with an outstanding performance in the implementation of new information technologies. He has been associated with UNESCO since 1988, first as a consultant for the General Information Programme, prior to assuming his current post.

Isidro considers his main mission as providing continuing support to the inter-governmental mechanism for regional cooperation in information, known as INFOLAC, strengthening its role in the identification and execution of regional projects, as well as its consultation and advisory functions. This regional framework is used to coordinate inputs and merge resources with the main professional associations of the sector, IGOs and NGOs interested in the development of regional policies, systems and information services as well as other organizations interested in financing development projects in order to achieve his goal of multiplying results ensuring the inclusion of Latin America and the Caribbean within the Global Information Society.

As the participation of Member States in the Memory of the World Programme is considered vital, all efforts will be made to digitize historical and other important documents relating to the heritage of the region to ensure their preservation and availability. Closely linked to this, is the desire to increase the presence of regional culture on the Internet through two main activities:

- promoting the Latin American and Caribbean Digital Library project;
- editing and publishing electronic documents.

Attention will also be given to the establishment of information networks including the creation of regional and national networks based on web pages and the design and implementation of specific browsers for specialized information. Public domain information, by means of efficient use of new information technologies, will be given precedence as relevant instruments to increase

knowledge and public access to digital information.

Isidro plans to enhance the role of National, Public, University and School Libraries as gateways to Internet, as generators and producers of information for public domain, as training centres for users and information specialists and as public entities facilitating widespread access to information flow at local, national and global levels. Likewise, the development, dissemination and use of software for public domain, including special applications for libraries, information centres and archives will be given high priority, along with the development of "Community Infocentres" aimed at facilitating access to information, through the use of new information technologies, especially for isolated and economically depressed populations in urban and rural areas.

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### Montevideo

#### Regional Informatics and Telematics Adviser for Latin America and the Caribbean



After four years as Regional Adviser for Informatics and Telematics in Brasilia, in July 1999, *Mr Claudio Menezes* transferred to Montevideo where he has continued to undertake information society

activities for the region.

Claudio has worked to build close links between African Portuguese-speaking countries and other Latin American countries (PALOPs) through the organization of seminars and projects and has been instrumental in the launching of Portuguese versions of some UNESCO documents.

He plans to continue his efforts to promote UNESCO's wider objectives of using the Internet and virtual "university and school" technologies to enable learners and teachers to move freely in virtual classrooms, libraries and laboratories, work together in cyberspace for self – or cooperative learning, and virtually manipulate complex objects to acquire special skills.



Another activity on which he is working, is the InterSur Project (currently in the pipeline) which aims at the interconnection of existing non commercial backbones in the MERCOSUR region, with the purpose of integrating information technology application in strategic fields, such as education, health, science and technology and environment protection. It also aims at integrating network engineering activities and promoting the transfer of computer networking technology from the academic to the private sector.

One of Claudio's major achievements in 1999, was the organization of the Latin American and the Caribbean Symposium on Information Technologies in the Society: Present and Future Use and Impact (LACSymp99). This successful meeting brought together 226 participants from the region as well as Canada, France, Germany, Portugal, Spain and United States.

During the 2000-2001 biennium, Claudio plans to concentrate on four major areas:

- enhancement and democratization of governance and public services;
- promotion of access to technology by disadvantaged communities;
- promotion of the public domain of information, including the dissemination of electronic documents of world libraries;
- establishment of virtual learning communities through public and university radios and television;
- promotion of knowledge through cyberspace.

*Postal Address: Mr Claudio Menezes, Regional Adviser for Informatics and Telematics for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNESCO Office, Avenida Brasil 2697, P. O. Box 859, 11300 Montevideo, Uruguay. Tel: (59-82) 707 20 23. Fax: (59-82) 707 21 40. E-mail: cmenezes@unesco.org.uy*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### UNESCO appoints a new Director-General



ON 15 November 1999, **Mr Koïchiro Matsuura** of Japan was sworn in as UNESCO's 9th Director-General for a six-year mandate. In his inaugural address to the General Conference, he spoke of the enormous

responsibility which had been entrusted to him and the scale of the task which lay ahead. In outlining his vision for UNESCO, he recalled his boyhood experience in wartime Japan and the indelible mark left by his witnessing the consequences of two atomic bombs. This influenced his career choice and the dedication of his life to promoting peace and understanding among peoples as expressed by his firm belief in the "incessant mutual enrichment of all human cultures, by their profound spiritual and moral unity".

He also voiced concerns that the ravages of war continue to plague the planet and that the twin scourges of disease and poverty have yet to be eradicated. Humanity needs hope to survive and Mr Matsuura believes that "UNESCO is such a factor of hope, because it is the one international organization which, through all its programmes,

respects and defends what is of universal worth and dignity in the material and spiritual heritage of all cultures: and thereby, the absolute dignity of all human beings themselves."

He pointed out that the Organization needed to streamline its activities within the limits of its budget since resources are not unlimited. This would allow UNESCO to focus upon those programmes which are its true mandate and thereby make a real impact where needed: in the "ongoing war against poverty, through education and the nurturing of human resources."

Among the priorities singled out for his mandate, he plans to:

- assist and reinforce basic education with due regard for the local culture as this is the key to their future, hope for employment, livelihood, and social emancipation;
- concentrate on scientific programmes where UNESCO can play a truly original role, such as those pertaining to ecological issues and to the rational husbanding of natural resources, as well as those where the Organization can promote international cooperation and exchange;
- safeguard the World Heritage to ensure informed respect for the achievements of the Earth's many peoples;

- champion free expression, defend international diversity in the production and flow of cultural goods;
- democratize and facilitate access to information

and knowledge in all forms with due consideration to the social, cultural and ethical challenges raised by the information society.

## Electronic Theses

**A**CCCESS to information is crucial for education, sciences, and culture and for fostering democracy in the information society. The principle of free and universal access to information as well as freedom in the creation, treatment and dissemination of knowledge, is a fundamental element of the global common good of humanity.

Mandated by its Constitution to ensure the “free exchange of ideas and knowledge”, one of the main goals of UNESCO is to redefine universal access to information and the minimum level of service to be provided to information users by the public sector.

New information and communication technologies have the potential to better ensure free and universal access to information and to reduce inequalities in favour of social justice and economic well-being. This is particularly important to the scientific community which is concerned about the free flow of scientific information and universal access to it; intellectual property and copyright issues; changing practices in scientific communication, etc.

In industrialized countries, scientific advances and complexity of research programmes make it difficult for researchers to keep abreast of current developments. In developing countries, the situation is even worse due to poor communications, comparatively smaller research communities and the lack of resources.

Universities and research institutes in developing countries must therefore rely on new technologies to keep up to date with developments and discoveries elsewhere. However, the flow of scientific information between developing countries and from the South to the North is often

hampered by poor communication and publication channels and by limited knowledge of application of new technologies in scientific information exchange.

The scientific community expects, therefore, the principle of free flow of scientific information to be respected and that initiatives be taken to facilitate access to scientific information sources by scientists from developing countries. Countries with high scientific expertise should share and transfer knowledge through the support of specific programmes set up for scientists and the users of scientific information worldwide.

Since UNESCO promotes free and universal exchange of scientific information and the transfer of advanced digital library and publishing technologies to developing countries, the Organization is examining possibilities of formulating an international strategy for creating and disseminating electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs). It therefore organized a workshop on ETDs from 27 to 28 September 1999 to discuss the feasibility of an international project for the dissemination of electronic theses and dissertations. Such a project should be designed to facilitate transfer of expertise from developed countries to developing countries, both in the scientific areas covered by the thesis and dissertations and in the techniques to be used for the electronic dissemination of scientific literature.

✉ *For additional information please contact Mr Axel Plathe, CII/INF, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.44.67. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: a.plathe@unesco.org*

## INFOYOUTH Network

THE Government of Pakistan has established an on-line Observatory on Youth in the Information Society in Southern Asia with UNESCO's assistance. The Observatory, which is available at <http://www.asia-infoyouth.org>, provides links to websites related to politics, economics and culture in the region, information on youth organizations in the region, a list of youth organizations and university websites in South Asia and links to websites specializing in regional youth issues.

The observatory also offers links to websites world-wide providing information of interest to young people in the region such as grants to study abroad, events in the world of interest to young people, networks, job opportunities for youth and other issues related to young people and intercultural exchange. It is also planned to set-up discussion groups to help young people in the region to communicate in cyberspace.

The project has been supported by UNESCO within the framework of INFOYOUTH; UNESCO's international network for youth related information.

The INFOYOUTH Network has also been active in a number of areas to continue meeting the needs of young people in a range of interests.

The establishment of Information Technology Community Centres in Armenia, Brazil and

Georgia has enabled the collection and provision, at national level, of information concerning different youth activities and projects. These have been particularly useful sources of updated and reliable information for youth NGOs.

Internet Youth in Action International Awards have been awarded to outstanding initiatives designed by young people in their effort to contribute to social development. This activity, realized in cooperation with the Foundation of America, reflects global thinking and international concerns expressed by youth. This allows reliable information about UNESCO's objectives and activities, to reach a large number of young people as well as education specialists and institutions.

One far-reaching activity is the organization of training sessions in computer skills for disadvantaged youth living in poor and/or rural areas in order to improve their access to information and thus increase their potential when facing the requirements of the labour market. The Network has also funded specific training sessions on Internet development for young leaders especially in South Africa, Brazil and Eastern Europe.

☞ *For additional information on INFOYOUTH please contact Mr Boyan Radoykov, CII/INF, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.33.27. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: [b.radoykov@unesco.org](mailto:b.radoykov@unesco.org)*

## Latin America and The Caribbean

### Latin American Jesuit Universities

The Executive Secretary of the Latin American Jesuit Universities Association (AUSJAL) organized a meeting for university informatics authorities from 8 to 12 December 1999 at the Rafael Landívar University in Guatemala. The meeting was attended by representatives from the twenty-six Jesuit universities in Latin America, in eleven countries in the region, the Director of the Jesuit Colleges and Universities Association, which groups twenty-eight universities in the U.S.A., and a representative from the Spanish Jesuit Universities Association (seven universities) in addition to representatives from the private sector.

One of AUSJAL's objectives is to create a worldwide model for Higher Education, primarily computer-based, which seeks to transform the educational system in order to guarantee a continuous and lifelong education for all. AUSJAL also intends to promote the creation of its own univer-

sity credit system with a direct impact on the quality of higher education. Jesuit universities will likewise strive to influence the recovery of the Latin American public education system. One way to achieve this would be through the establishment of a distributed information system, a democratization of knowledge offering high quality information to all and linking academic content to informatics infrastructure.

This could form the basis of a powerful information network to share experiences as well as research and teaching tools to trickle down towards the secondary and primary education levels. However, connectivity deficiencies to Internet is perhaps the main weakness which needs to be addressed as part of the current infrastructure problems faced by Jesuit universities in Latin America. One of the private companies present proposed to connect twenty-six AUSJAL universities to Internet via satellite, guaranteeing the necessary band width and provide all satellite

equipment, personnel training and software applications for teleconferencing, in exchange for each student signing up for a monthly US \$5 dial-up account allowing for 100 hours total access to Internet. The possibility of extending the proposal made to AUSJAL to other universities and libraries in the region was broached and the company showed interest, expressing the wish to participate in UNESCO projects which may require the international telecommunication carrier services.

### Destruction of Archives and Libraries in Venezuela

Torrential rains in Venezuela in December 1999 caused severe loss of life and damage to basic infrastructure including the country's libraries and archives. According to Venezuela's National Library, a major part of the public library network of the states of Vargas, Miranda and Falcon has been destroyed with many library service staff dead or missing as well as heavy losses in

equipment, collections, furniture and facilities.

Huge areas of the country are completely destroyed and it is estimated that reconstruction cost will be in the vicinity of 1.5 billion dollars. The overall damage in the information sector is yet to be estimated. Also severely affected are schools, museums, archives and cultural institutions.

UNESCO's Information and Informatics Division for Latin America and the Caribbean launched an *appeal for worldwide solidarity* from regional and international organizations, and from public and private institutions to offer prompt and generous cooperation to assist the Venezuelan Government in its efforts towards national reconstruction.

☞ *For more on regional information activities in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, please contact Mr Isidro Fernández-Aballí, Regional Adviser, UNESCO/INF/LAC, Apartado postal 68394, Caracas 1062-A, Venezuela. Tel: (582) 286 15 25. Fax: (582) 286.04.60. E-mail: i.fernandez-aballi@unesco.org*

## Focal Point for Regional Informatics Network for Africa (RINAF)

Cape Verde has nominated Antonio Varela, Chief of the Electronics and Computer Department of the Instituto Superior de Engenharia e Ciências do Mar as its focal point for the Regional Informatics Network for Africa (RINAF), making Cape Verde the 43rd country to join this UNESCO Programme. RINAF is the framework of all

UNESCO's telematics support activity for development in Africa.

☞ *For additional information please contact Mr Günter Cyranek, Regional Informatics and Telematics Adviser, UNESCO Office, P. O. Box 1177, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Fax: (251-1) 51 14 14.*

## Extrabudgetary Projects

### TecMóvel - Technological Information Mobile Unit (Project 914/BRA/60)



*Mobile Information Technology Unit*

This project aims at providing technological information to small and medium enterprises in the Brazilian province of Rio Grande do Norte, through a mobile information technology unit. In its first phase, a survey on user needs has been completed and has identified technological information needs on the economy sectors of textile, natural gas, food and environment. A methodology has also been developed to set up TecMóvel with pilot testing having already been carried out. Some training activities in other countries on technological information marketing is envisaged. The National Project Coordinator is Prof. Marcos José de Santos Guerra (mgseai@truenet.com.br), the Project Technical Coordinator is Mr. Guido Salvados Santos (tecmovel@zaz.com.br) and the UNESCO Project Officer is Mr. Cláudio Menezes (cmenezes@unesco.org.uy).



### Advanced Information Technology Development (UKR/99/050)

A new project is being implemented by UNESCO with UNDP funding and government cost-sharing to generate information technology capacity assessment in the National Kiev Taras Shevchenko University. The objective of the project is to provide a computerization framework with a focus on library modernization through a comprehensive programme, including Internet connectivity, as well as opening up a wide area network covering principal libraries in Ukraine and an international library electronic network. The project is also intended to finalize a strategy for strengthening the KTSU information technology capacity.

☞ *For additional information please contact Mr YonNam Kim, CII/INF, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.40.55. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: yn.kim@unesco.org*

### TEN

The TEN project consists of a backbone VSAT network of eleven nodes connected through the use of satellite communications with UNESCO

being the coordinating body for the project extension into the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania and Poland. Based on the “Virtual Classroom Model”, which has been clearly identified as one of the approaches with expected future viability and which may in due course become the support for a universal service, a number of training courses on telematics applications and technology (e-commerce, multimedia material design and production, telecommunication) have been defined, based on a user needs survey conducted by UNESCO.

A TEN guidebook including a methodology on course presentation has been elaborated and presented to four tutors and four project managers from the Eastern European universities during a training session on the TEN system held in Madrid in September 1999 with the collaboration of the TEN system provider (SIRE, Spain), the Spanish telecommunication provider (Telefonica, Spain) and performed by trainers from the Portuguese TEN partner (Linha Verde).

☞ *For additional information please contact Mr René Cluzel, CII/INF, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.38.85. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: r.cluzel@unesco.org*

## UNESCO WEB PRIZE

The UNESCO 1999 Web Prizes were awarded to Nirvanet, an artistic ezine (<http://www.nirvanet.com>), and to a website featuring the works and life of the Chilean poet Vicente Huidobro (<http://www.uchile.cl/cultura/huidobro>).

Nirvanet website presents cultures and places around the world through art, music and video in a clean, clear and avant-garde design with strong navigational tools. The International Jury hailed Nirvanet as a “subtle mix between global and local”, and as an “excellent combination of audiovisual arts, advanced technology and cyberculture”. The site, offering a “new vision of a multicultural world”, is available in four languages thus contributing to enhancing multilingualism on the web. Nirvanet is created and maintained by an international team of webdesigners based in Brussels, Belgium.







The “Vicente Huidobro” website was created by a team of students and professors at the University of Chile, and offers a selection of poems, narratives, letters and manifestos of the Chilean poet. The site also includes a biography, images, critical texts and bibliographical information. The Jury stressed the high quality of the site and hailed its “unique and tasteful” design and its logical navigational system. It was also awarded the Prize as an example of an artistic presentation of literature in the public domain rendered easily accessible through this website .

The prize, consisting of two awards of US \$5,000 each, is awarded annually by UNESCO’s Director General for outstanding artistic websites in two categories: for the best website on a Free Theme related to international cooperation in education, science, culture and communication, and for the best website on a specific theme. This year’s theme “Public Domain” invited the creation of a website offering access to texts, music or art,

that are not restricted by copyright, or websites that take into account the intellectual and social issues as well as benefits of accessibility to information in the public domain.

In the category “Free theme”, two Honourable Mentions were awarded by the Jury to “Mondomix” (<http://www.mondomix.org>) created by Marc Benaiche and team (France), highlighting world music and making it more accessible to the general public, and to “Moondance, Celebrating Creative Women” (<http://www.moondance.org>) created by Loretta Kemsely, U.S.A., as a high quality online literary arts magazine supporting and promoting art and literature by and about women.

In the category “Public Domain”, honourable mention also went to “Wolfgang Amadé Mozart” (<http://www.wamozart.com/mozart>), created by an international team from Belgium, Portugal, Brazil, England and the U.S.A. The monographic site about the composer offers a biography, sheet music, compositions and audio clips and is recognized for its excellent layout, beautifully illustrated, meaningful content and outstanding use of technology for sound reproduction.

The International Jury, composed of seven jurors from all regions of the world, selected the winning sites from almost five hundred projects submitted by web-designers from seventy-one countries.

These winning websites are highlighted on UNESCO’s website at <http://www.unesco.org/webworld/webprize> where information on the UNESCO Web Prize 2000 competition will soon be available.

## REPORTS FROM OTHER CII DIVISIONS

### USP

UNESCO recently released its World Communication and Information Report 1999/2000. The eighteen articles of the Report give an overview on the development of information and communication technologies and their socio-cultural impacts, in an environment where economic concentration, technical integration and business mega-mergers are the key-words. Print versions of UNESCO’s World

Communication and Information Report 1999-2000 can be obtained through UNESCO’s Publishing House, 31 rue François Bonvin, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. An on-line version will soon be available.

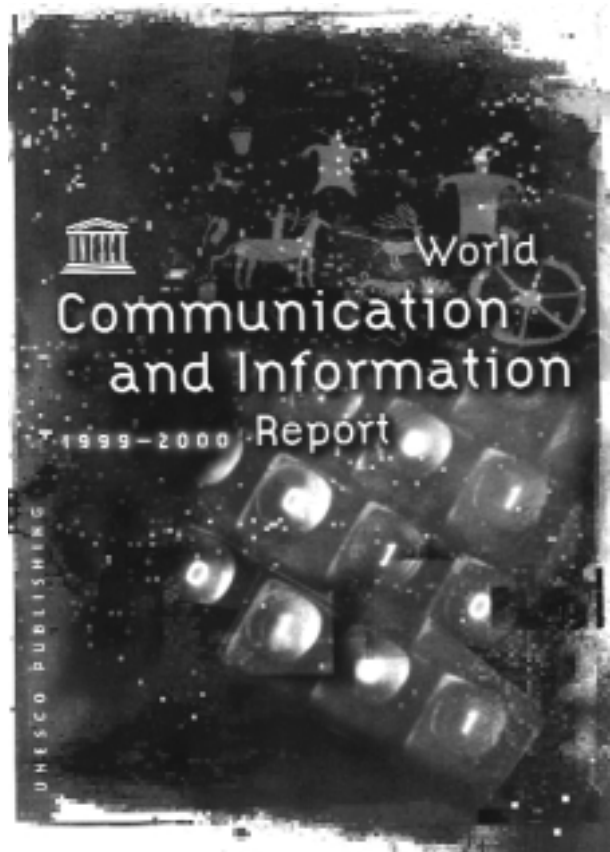
The Report examines issues such as freedom of the media, the role of public-service broadcasting, editorial independence, the use of the Internet in education, cultural pluralism, worldwide access to

information resources, challenges to the intellectual property and censorship on the Internet.

It addresses the impact of information and communication technologies on human development and the role that governments should play in this respect. Regional chapters examine to what extent, newspapers, radio, television, telecommunications, computers and the Internet reach developed and developing countries, urban and rural areas, literates and illiterates, the rich and the poor.

The report features selected statistics on the development of communication and information throughout the world.

☞ For additional information please contact Mr Yves Courrier, CII/USP, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.45.27. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: [y.courrier@unesco.org](mailto:y.courrier@unesco.org)



## COM

UNESCO recently launched its “*Innocence in Danger*” website showcasing the work undertaken by the Organization and by the World Citizens’ Movement to Protect Innocence in Danger, established under UNESCO’s auspices to protect children and combat paedophilia on the Internet. The site will serve as a forum of the exchange of ideas to prevent the sexual abuse of children.

The World Citizens’ Movement to Protect Innocence in Danger, is an international coalition of personalities and citizens to support the work of many hundreds of non-governmental organizations and specialists, and was launched following the experts meeting on *Sexual Abuse of Children, Child Pornography and Paedophilia on the Internet: an International Challenge* which took place at UNESCO in January 1999.

This initiative forms part of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to alert world opinion to the need to fight child pornogra-

phy, to combat sexual abuse of children resulting from the misuse of the Internet, and the mobilization of human, technical and financial resources to support the work of professionals and non-governmental organizations in the protection of children and to safeguard their rights in the media and on the Internet.

The “Innocence in Danger” site also serves to disseminate information on the work of different action committees, as a link to non-governmental organizations specializing child protection, a research and results-sharing tool, and as a resource for the preparation of an information kit. Its role is also to act as a catalyst intended to sensitize public opinion to the need for prevention and for the mobilization of aid and financing.

☞ For additional information please contact Mr Carlos Arnaldo, CII/INF, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.42.40. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.57.55. E-mail: [c.arnaldo@unesco.org](mailto:c.arnaldo@unesco.org)

# UNESCO CLEARINGHOUSE

## UNESCO Mirror Website in Japan

**F**OLLOWING the opening of a first mirror at the University of Nebraska (Lincoln, NE in the United States), in May 1999, a second mirror of UNESCO's website is now available in Japan at <http://mirrorjapan.unesco.org>. The mirror in Japan has been coproduced with the Institute of Advanced Studies of the United Nations University in Tokyo. With its more than 45,000 pages and about ten databases updated daily, UNESCO's website provides information on all of the Organization's activities, documents and publications as well as conferences and other events. The website also features a virtual gallery presenting a selection of works of art exhibited at the Organization's Paris Headquarters. Electronic versions of the UNESCO Courier and UNESCO

Sources are being posted on the website at the same time as the printed versions are being distributed. A selection of statistical data on education can also be consulted. The website includes numerous hyperlinks to websites of sister organizations in the United Nations System and to UNESCO's main partners.

The Japan mirror is expected to give a quicker response time to users from the Asia and Pacific region and to offer an alternative and greater security in the case of the main server's breakdown.

*☞ For more information please contact Madame Denise Pélissier, Chief of Information and Library Division, UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France. Tel: (331) 45.68.24.46. E-mail: [dpelissier@unesco.org](mailto:dpelissier@unesco.org)*

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

**D**OCUMENT requests from Africa, Arab States, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean should continue to be sent to: Information and Informatics Division (INF), UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75732, Paris Cedex 15, France. Requests

from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, United States of America, Venezuela and the Asia and Pacific Region should be sent directly to INF documents resource centres whose addresses are indicated below:

### ARGENTINA

Sr. Coordinador Nacional, RENBU  
Universidad de Buenos Aires  
Azcuena 280.1029  
Capital Federal, Argentina

### BRAZIL

Director  
Instituto Brasileiro de Informação  
em Ciência e Tecnologia (IBICT)  
SC – Quadra 2 Bloco K  
70710 Brasília DF, Brazil

### MEXICO

Sr. Director  
Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología  
Centro de Servicios de Información  
y Documentación  
Circuito Cultural Universitario

Ciudad Universitaria  
04515 Mexico DF

### PORTUGAL

Sra. Gabriela Lopes da Silva  
Directora  
Serviço de Informação  
Documentação (SID)  
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)  
Av. D. Carlos 1, 126  
1200 Lisboa, Portugal

### SPAIN

Sra. Directora  
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas  
Centro de Información y Documentación  
Científica, C.I.N.D.O.C.  
Calle Joaquin Costa, 22  
28002 Madrid, Spain

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Director  
West Virginia Library Commission  
Cultural Centre  
Charleston,  
West Virginia 25305, U.S.A

**VENEZUELA**

Sr. Isidro Fernández-Aballi  
Regional Adviser for  
Latin America and the Caribbean

CII/INF/LAC  
Apartado postal 68.394  
Caracas 1062-A, Venezuela

**ASIA/PACIFIC REGION**

UNESCO/INF Documents Supply Service  
c/o The National Library of Thailand  
Samsen Road  
Bangkok 10300, Thailand

All documents may be consulted at the premises of each of the institutions mentioned above. Copies may be obtained on a cost recovery basis at prices set out by the distributing institutions. All current and out-of-print documents are also available on microfiche, at a price of FF20 per fiche corresponding normally to 96 pages. Orders for microfiches should be sent to: *Archives Records Management and Microform Division, UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France.*

Below is a list of new publications:

- *Guide to the archives of intergovernmental organizations.* Paris: UNESCO, 1999. 325 p. (CII.99/WS/2).
- SIEGAL, Elliot; CARROLL, Bonnier C; THOMPSON, Patricia. *Projet pilote sur l'accès aux moyens télématiques dans les Caraïbes orientales.* Paris: UNESCO, 1999. 32 p. (CII.98/WS/17 Rev.). French Edition of Pilot Project on Access to Telematics Facilities in the Eastern Caribbean.
- VARY, James P. *Report of the Expert Meeting on*

*Virtual Laboratories*, organized by the International Institute of Theoretical and Applied Physics (IITAP), Ames, Iowa with the support of UNESCO. Paris: UNESCO, 2000. 64 p. (CII.00/WS/01).

- *Information Technology for Development. Volume 8, Number 3, 1999.* IOS Press, Amsterdam, Netherlands... 181 p. ISSN 0268-1102.

Limited copies of the following publications are still available for distribution free of charge:

- *The Information Revolution and National Security: dimensions and directions*, edited by Stuart J.D. Schwartzstein.
- *The International Information and Library Review. Volume 29 Numbers 1-2 and Volume 29 Numbers 3-4, 1997.*
- *Memory of the World: Proceedings of the First International Conference, Oslo 3-5 June 1996.*
- *Survey and Analysis of the Major Ethical and Legal Issues Facing Library and Information Services* by Thomas J. Froehlick.

The Newsletter provides information on the activities of the UNESCO Division of Information and Informatics and other related issues. Published twice a year in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, the Newsletter is distributed free of charge by the Division.

*Editor: Mr Philippe Quéau; Assistant Editor: Mrs Joie Springer; Editorial Assistant: Mrs Grace Mensah*

Readers are invited to communicate their comments, suggestions or relevant information by writing to: UNISIST Newsletter, Division of Information and Informatics, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.44.97. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.82. E-mail: [j.springer@unesco.org](mailto:j.springer@unesco.org) Requests for copies of Newsletter may be directly sent to: [g.mensah@unesco.org](mailto:g.mensah@unesco.org)

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<http://www.unesco.org/webworld/publications/index.html>

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