

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS  
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE BIBLIOTHECAIRES ET DES BIBLIOTHEQUES  
INTERNATIONALER VERBAND DER BIBLIOTHEKARISCHEN VEREINE UND INSTITUTIONEN  
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE ASOCIACIONES DE BIBLIOTECARIOS Y BIBLIOTECAS  
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ БИБЛИОТЕЧНЫХ АССОЦИАЦИЙ И УЧРЕЖДЕНИЙ



STATISTICS AND  
EVALUATION SECTION  
**NEWSLETTER**

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**Contents**

<b>1</b>	<b>Meetings in Durban</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Global statistics for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Satellite Conference Montreal 2008</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>The Finnish Research Library Statistics Database</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>ISO meeting</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Future meetings</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Performance Measurement Conference</b>	<b>8</b>

## 1 Meetings in Durban

### IFLA STATISTICS & EVALUATION SECTION STANDING COMMITTEE



The First Standing Committee meeting will be held 14:30-17:20 on Saturday, 18 August 2007, Session 45. The Second Standing Committee meeting will be held 14:00-

16:50 on Friday, 24 August 2007, Session 201.

#### **AGENDA** (draft)

This draft agenda covers both meetings; we expect to cover items 1-9 at the first meeting and 9(again)-15 at the second meeting, but this arrangement is flexible

1. *Welcome & introductions*
2. *Adoption of the agenda*
3. *Adoption of the Minutes from the Standing Committee meetings in Seoul (published in the December 2006 Newsletter)*
4. *Report from Professional Board and Co-ordinating Board Meetings*
5. *Report of Treasurer*
6. *Election of Officers*
  - (a) *Election of Chair*
  - (b) *Election of Secretary*
  - (c) *Appointment of Treasurer and Information co-ordinator*
7. *Statistics and Evaluation Section events at the Oslo Conference*
  - A. Quality Issues in Libraries Discussion Group:

*The new entrance to the library: effectiveness and use of the library web-site* 13:45-15:45 on Sunday 19 August, Session 74

#### B. Open Program:

**(a)** *Developing a new assessment model for the new millennium: is the South African experience extensible?*, 08:30-10:30 on Wednesday 22 August, Session 131

**(b)** *Special libraries need special measures*, 08:30-10:30 on Thursday 23 August, Session 152

#### C. Poster Session

*Global statistics for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*

#### *8. Activities of the Standing Committee*

##### A. Projects

1. *Global statistics*
2. *Library schools*

##### B. Publications

1. *Newsletter*

9. [1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting] *Review of Strategic Plan 2006-2007 and development of Plan for 2008-09*

10. [2<sup>nd</sup> meeting] *Review of Performance Measurement conference*

11. *Review of Durban conference*

12. *Quebec WLIC 2008*

13. *Post-conference IFLA/UNESCO Montreal 2008*

14. *Planning for Milan 2009*

15. *Member activities*

16. *Any other business*

## 2 Global statistics for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



The project group for the Global Statistics Project met with Simon Ellis of UNESCO Institute for Statistics in Oxford, UK in January 2007. The proposed questions were reviewed, and plans were made for the presentation of initial results at the IFLA satellite post-conference planned for August 2008 in Montreal (see below). At the same time Tatiana White was gathering information for the worldwide contacts database for library statistical information. This was supplied to UNESCO Institute for Statistics in May 2007. UNESCO Institute for Statistics has now produced the questionnaire and it has been translated into Spanish for the pilot in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Pierre Meunier has been working very hard in Montreal to organise the follow-on conference and has in addition secured the co-operation of the School in Library Science of the University of Montreal (EBSI) and the Graduate School in Library Science of McGill University in the analysis of the results.

We are very grateful to Simon Ellis and his colleague Subramaniyam Venkatraman and Claude Akpabie at UNESCO Institute of Statistics for their work in drafting and designing the questionnaire and to our colleagues in ISO TC 8 for their continuing input into the development of the statistics.

We are continuing to collect data on contacts for library statistics and welcome any further information from any country, worldwide.



*The questionnaire*

### 3 Satellite Conference Montreal 2008

The Satellite Conference on *Library statistics for the 21st century world: an initiative of UIS (UNESCO Institute of statistics), IFLA and ISO* will be held at Montréal (Quebec) on 18-19 August 2008.

This Satellite conference is sponsored by IFLA Section on Statistics and Evaluation, with the collaboration of UNESCO Institute for Statistics and of ISO/TC48/SC8 and will be one of the outcomes from the Section's Global Statistics project.

The local organizing Committee is coordinated by the Direction of Montréal Public Libraries System with the collaboration of the Administration of Concordia University Libraries System. The Conference will be held at the



campus of Concordia University in downtown Montreal.

The Conference programme will provide a presentation of the first phase of the project on Global statistics, with data on academic and public libraries located in Latin America and the Caribbean. The analysis of results by an Expert Committee will be presented by UIS and researchers from the School in Library Science of the University of Montreal (EBSI) and the Graduate School in Library Science of McGill University, together with delegates of some countries located in the region. Also, recent developments in benchmark studies, standardization and improved experience in terms of comparative analysis of performance evaluation will be presented by experts from Canada, USA, Europe, Australia and countries in development. This will facilitate

discussions and decisions concerning new orientations to be developed for the next phase of this project on and the development of new international standards for statistical indicators.

Pre-registration with the opportunity to participate in a pre-conference cultural and sightseeing tour of Montreal will be offered.

A special dinner and cultural presentation on the Mont-Royal belvedere will also be provided as an invitation to a magical summer evening in Montreal.

Delegates will be accommodated close to Concordia University.

*Pierre Meunier, Montréal*

#### 4 The Finnish Research Library Statistics Database

*Tieteellisten kirjastojen tilastotietokanta*

VETENSKAPLIGA BIBLIOTEKENS STATISTIKDATABAS  
RESEARCH LIBRARY STATISTICS DATABASE

The annual statistics of Finnish scientific libraries have been collected into a public database for the past five years. The database is open to all interested parties through the Internet. The database is maintained by the National Library of Finland.

The statistics are collected according to the standard ISO 2789. The statistics of the scientific libraries give a general view of the resources, collections and services of Finnish scientific libraries. The statistics contain information about the national library, university libraries, polytechnic libraries and about several special libraries.

So we already have a statistical time series of half a decade available to everyone. The statistics contain a large body of uniformly reported information about the operation of Finnish scientific libraries from the years 2002–2006.

The database was brought into use as early as 2003 but since then it has been strongly developed and now the database is better and more reliable than ever in its capabilities and data content.

Reliable statistics are of vital importance in collecting information as the basis of decision-making and planning in libraries. So we have paid more attention to education, and the readiness of those in charge of producing the statistics in their libraries is now much better than before.

Further, more attention than before is paid to checking the information before

the publication of the annual statistics. Even though the statistics can never be perfect, they are now, however, as good as the libraries are able to deliver thanks to the hard work that has been put into them.

So we can trust the fact that in spite of their possible shortcomings we have statistics which have been delivered well enough to give uniformly delivered comparable facts about the operation of our libraries.

So it is the time now to begin to use our common tool. The estimating and measurement of the social effectiveness of library activity are ever more important, and libraries, as the basic service units of their parent organizations, must be able to show the effectiveness of their operations. This will be an important theme in the further development of the statistics.

New indicators will be developed in addition to the present ones, and a functional statistical tool is necessary to produce reliable facts (e.g. investment in library materials, staff, facilities etc.).

In the future professional education of librarians there will be more weight than before in the utilizing and developing of statistical data to meet the demands of measuring of functions.

So development continues; the final objective is to establish the statistics database as a routine tool used in libraries, from which they can easily and reliably obtain the central indicators corresponding to their needs and describing their operations.

The address of the database is <https://yhteistilasto.lib.helsinki.fi/>  
The language choice (English, Finnish or Swedish) is found in the central part of the upper bar and there is no need to

log in the database: it can be freely browsed.

*Markku Laitinen*  
*Planning officer, The National Library of Finland*  
[markku.laitinen@helsinki.fi](mailto:markku.laitinen@helsinki.fi)

### Technical information about the database

The database was performed in cooperation with Onesta Solutions Ltd and the solution was based on the use of Middleware software, Enterprise Java and Orion and XML standards. Enterprise Java offers the standardised programming interfaces to other systems to guarantee compatibility. An Orion application server which is based on the J2EE standard was chosen as an application server.

Many publication tools of printed matter support data input in XML format directly. Later it will be possible to carry out the function which converts the statistics data of the database in XML format from which its conversion to the different formats to be printed succeeds for example with the help of XSLT techniques.

The database solution is Oracle 8i relation database software which also is used in the Voyager library system. This solution answers well the demands for the long time storage of the information and for the need for further development.

### **5 ISO meeting**

ISO Technical Committee 46  
SubCommittee 8 (for Library statistics)  
recently met in Santiago de Compostela:

\* Working group 4 dealt with the comments on the Draft International Standard of ISO 11620: Library performance indicators. The final draft

should come out soon, and the standard is to be expected end of 2007.

\* Working group 7 (Quality measures for National Libraries) discussed the drafts for indicators in the projected Technical Report. The Project is already well on its way, though it started only in January 2007.

\* The standard ISO 9230: Determination of price indexes for print and electronic media purchased by libraries was published recently, in April 2007

*Roswitha Poll, Muenster*

### **6 Future meetings**

It is not too early to start thinking about the themes for the Section's programme at the next meetings of the World Library and Information Congress:



*Quebec 2008: 74th IFLA General Conference and Council: "Libraries without borders: Navigating towards global understanding", 10-15 August 2008, Québec, Canada*



*Milan 2009 the theme will be announced shortly,*

***Education is the great engine of personal development – Nelson Mandela***

***7th Northumbria International Conference on  
Performance Measurement in  
Libraries and Information Services***

***an IFLA Satellite conference***

**13-16<sup>th</sup> August 2007,**

**Spier Wine Estate, between Cape Town and Stellenbosch, South Africa**

- Invited Speakers
- Papers
- Posters
- Workshops
- 

***KEYNOTE SPEAKERS include:***

- Professor Peter Brophy, Director of the Centre for Research in Library & Information Management (CERLIM) at the Manchester Metropolitan University
- Professor Saleem Badat, Vice Chancellor, Rhodes University, South Africa
- Simon Ellis, UNESCO Institute for Statistics

***CONFERENCE TOPICS***

- Measuring library performance
- Organisational effectiveness
- Building a Culture of Continuous Improvement
- Leadership, quality and management development
- Effectiveness of staff development and training
- Outcomes and value of library and information services
- Management of change
- Meeting the changing needs of users
- Evaluation of the Digital Library
- Evaluating Performance Measurement
- Role of research in library and information services
- Research into practice
- Methodologies
- Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis
- Research Projects
- Benchmarking studies
- 

**<http://www.lib.sun.ac.za/Northumbria7/Index.htm>**

For the past two years this newsletter has been produced by Colleen Cook and her colleagues at Texas A&M University, for whose support we are very grateful