

**AN EXAMINATION OF NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND THEIR ADHERENCE TO ICNBS
RECOMMENDATIONS
FINAL REPORT TO THE IFLA STANDING COMMITTEE ON BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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BACKGROUND

Project Assignment (1999/2001)

Towards the end of 1999 the Standing Committee on Bibliography appointed a Working Group consisting of Barbara L. Bell, The College of Wooster, Ohio and Anne M.H. Langballe, National Library of Norway, Oslo Division, with a charge to:

- 1) Identify those national bibliographic services which are especially effective by virtue of their ability to meet the criteria and provide the features identified in ICNBS (International Conference on National Bibliographic Services) Recommendations 5-11; and,
- 2) Identify those Services that could improve effectiveness through greater conformance to these Recommendations, suggesting ways to request that they implement ICNBS Recommendations.

In addition, Recommendation 1 (on legal deposit legislation) was later added to the charge, as this turned out to be useful in connection with the other points examined.

The Standing Committee suggested that the basis of the work be Barbara L. Bell's *An annotated guide to current national bibliographies*, München : Saur, 1998, and viewed it as a one year project with some funding from IFLA.

Working methods

The Working Group noted the time frame set by the Standing Committee and established an approach that would make it possible to finish the project within one year.

Bell spent spring 2000 in Stellenbosch, the Republic of South Africa, autumn 2000 and spring 2001 at home in Ohio. Langballe has been at home in Oslo, Norway for the duration of the project. The investigators maintained communications by e-mail and fax. Since Bell was commissioned by the National Library of Norway to evaluate the Norwegian National Bibliography, the authors were able meet to discuss their project during her stay in Norway in June 2000.

The authors divided responsibility for their investigation, as follows, taking into account language difficulties:
Bell: Africa, the Middle East, and Asia (East, South, South East, Central and Transcaucasia)
Langballe: Europe, North America (including Central America and Caribbean), South America, and Oceania with Australia and New Zealand.

The basis of the work was Bell's *Annotated Guide*. In addition, all printed bibliographies or CD-ROMs found in Oslo, Stellenbosch, and selected other locations have been examined. Several printed national bibliographies consist of more than one part – e.g. a monograph part, a serial part, an article part – and many are published in more than one format. As a result, the authors decided to examine one part (usually the monograph part) and at least one format, assuming that findings regarding this part would be typical for the whole national bibliography. All home pages of national libraries on the Internet were searched for information about the national bibliography; these were found through *Gabriel, the information service for the National Libraries of Europe*,

IFLANET's list *Web Accessible National and Major Libraries, Directory of LAP* [Libraries of Asia and Pacific], and search robots.

In filling out worksheets, the investigators discovered that a few of the ICNBS Recommendations called for specific information not readily available in the sources they were using. Examples of this were looking at how national bibliographic agencies accommodated national bibliography users who have special needs; where copyright, availability, ISSN, and price were given in the national bibliography: on the title page, its verso, or in an introduction of the national bibliography; and whether a certain script was used in the bibliographic records. For specific points such as these, it was necessary to view a current issue of the national bibliography.

During autumn 2000 and spring 2001, the authors traveled to libraries where bibliographies they needed to view could be found: Langballe went to Stockholm, Sweden, and Bell to the Library of Congress as well as the University of Wisconsin, Madison. As there were still some bibliographies left to be seen, the lending departments of their own libraries helped by borrowing them or obtaining copies of relevant pages from foreign libraries' holdings.

To a certain extent the authors also corresponded with national libraries to get more information. They decided not to contact all national bibliographies in order to be able to answer all details of recommendations 5-11. This was partly due to time constraints; also because, in compiling her book, Bell had requested national bibliographies to provide information about their future plans. However, as Bell's *Annotated Guide* was published in 1998 and the volumes she examined for that work sometimes had been published some years earlier, it is likely that some national bibliographies may have experienced changes. Such changes would most likely have occurred in cases of national bibliographies that had individuals attending the ICNBS to represent them. In August, the investigators sent a letter, including with it the ICNBS Recommendations, to the participating agencies asking them to advise whether changes had been made to their national bibliography as a result of these Recommendations. Of 71 letters sent, the authors received 30 replies, for a return rate of 42.3 %. The information received is now part of their findings. They used the participants list of the Programme and addresses found on IFLA's *National Libraries of the World: an Address List*, as the ICNBS Conference Secretariat was not able to provide an updated participants' address list. The inquiry was sent by e-mail (when such address was found and worked), fax, or post. In some cases, but not all, unanswered letters were sent again during the autumn. Bell was able to supplement information about southern African countries with information derived from a recent investigation conducted for another article. The authors believe the 42.3 % return rate noted above is disappointing, but feel that they may not have reached the appropriate addressees in some cases. On the other hand, many answers were very encouraging and led to more correspondence. The national bibliography of the Czech Republic was the first to reply and proved very helpful on several later occasions later. Also meriting special mention were the national bibliography in Mongolia, where the Recommendations were translated and published in their library journal; and the national bibliography of Jamaica, which thanked the authors for their interest.

The authors have also read several articles on national bibliographies published in library journals during 2000-2001 and consulted with subject bibliographers who had expertise in specific countries.

The authors are aware of the fluidity of the field of national bibliographies, particularly with regard to the use of electronics in creating various formats. Consequently, they have consulted the separate studies undertaken by Robert Holley and John Byrum (see below); the authors also checked for Web sites that might not have been available one or two years ago. Even with this the authors know that important information must have been overlooked. In the compilation of the *Annotated Guide* the national bibliographic agencies (NBAs) were asked to report future plans, and it is gratifying to see now that many of these plans have been implemented. Equally, it is sad to see that, in some cases, civil war, natural disasters, and other unforeseen problems have kept national bibliographic agencies from accomplishing goals.

In summary, there are only a few bibliographies the authors did not see either as a print, CD-ROM, or Web version – or through copies of some pages. But, despite attempts, in many cases they did not prove able to view

the newest issues. There are certainly developments of which they probably are not aware, so some information reported below may be outdated. And developments often happen quickly in this field. Thus, in several cases, information noted from home pages in February 2000 when the investigation began no longer applied when rechecked in November. As the latest revision of the ICNBS *Final Recommendations* was February 2, 1999, they were not implemented in the national bibliographies before the volume covering 1999, only in the “best” cases published in 2000. So probably more changes will be seen in the following years – especially concerning inclusion of remote electronic resources, standard number systems for those, and metadata.

This survey compared to earlier surveys

Members of the Standing Committee on Bibliography have conducted two surveys related to features of national bibliographies in recent years: Robert Holley’s “Results of a survey on bibliographic control and national bibliography, IFLA Section on Bibliography”^{*} and John Byrum’s “Inclusion of information covering electronic resources in national bibliographies: results of a survey conducted May-June 1998”^{**}.

Both surveys concentrated on types of documents included in the national bibliographies. Holley’s also focused on standards used. The current survey, however, mainly deals with the *formal presentation* of document descriptions included in the bibliographies and of the *formal presentation* of the bibliography itself, but also looks at standards used. In accordance with the *Final recommendations of the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services* of 1999, paragraphs 1, 5-11, the questions which this study attempted to answer have been:

- Is there a current legal deposit law?
- Does the bibliography follow international standards when describing documents?
- Is the bibliography arranged in a user-friendly way?
- Are there enough indexes or search possibilities to enable efficient information retrieval?
- Is there a user-friendly introduction that describes the bibliography properly as to what is included and how the information is arranged?
- What would make this a better national bibliography?
- What can the Standing Committee do to encourage NBAs to implement the ICNBS Recommendations?

The authors sincerely hope their report will be useful to the IFLA Standing Committee on Bibliography and to the editors and publishers of national bibliographies.

^{*} Holley, Robert P. In *International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control (ICBC)*, 29:1 (January/March 1998), p. 3-7.

^{**} Byrum, John D., Jr., with Patricia Myers-Haver. In *ICBC*, 29:1 (January/March 2000), p.4-7.

African Nations :

Of the 53 nations in Africa (including the islands of Cape Verde, Comoros, Seychelles, and Mauritius), 29 have a current national bibliography or suitable substitute.¹ Two of these, Angola and the Cote d'Ivoire, have national bibliographies that are currently in hiatus; probably D.R. Congo should also be in this category. When these national bibliographies are resurrected, they should be encouraged to adopt the current ICNBS recommendations. Two countries have suitable substitutes (Lesotho, Sudan); a proper current national bibliography following ICNBS recommendations should be a goal of the National Bibliographic Agency in those countries. There are 24 countries that have no current national bibliography.²

The first national bibliographies in Africa were South Africa (with the forerunner of *SANB* titled *Publications received in terms of Copyright Act No. 9 of 1916*, published from 1933-1958) and Nigeria (with *The National bibliography of Nigeria's* forerunner titled *Nigerian publications: current national bibliography* with coverage 1950/52-1970). Most countries with a national bibliography have established national bibliographies existing for more than a decade. The newest bibliography is from Namibia. The first automated current national bibliography was in South Africa.

1. **LEGAL DEPOSIT:** If legal deposit laws are not effective, it can affect timeliness and distribution of a national bibliography. In the literature many of the African countries indicate that their legal deposit laws are not effective. Countries with legal deposit laws dated 1985 and earlier may not include formats other than printed material in their laws; updates to the legal deposit law or a new law may thus be in order. These countries are: Algeria (1956), Angola (1979), Benin (1975), Cote d'Ivoire (1962, 1969), D.R. Congo (1974, 1978), Ethiopia (1975), The Gambia (1976), Ghana (1961, 1963), Lesotho (none), Libya (1984), Malawi (1947), Mauritania (1963, 1965, no national bibliography), Mauritius (1952), Morocco (1972, 1951, 1944) Nigeria (1970), Senegal (1976), Sierra Leone (1962), Somalia (1977, no national bibliography). Sudan (1966, 1971, 1978), Swaziland (1912, 1978), Tanzania (1962, 1975), Uganda (1958, 1964, 1969), and Zimbabwe (1975).

African countries that have updated their legal deposit within the last fifteen years are: Egypt (1995), Kenya (1987) Madagascar (1990), Namibia (2000), South Africa (1997), Tunisia (1993), and Zambia (1995). Botswana's law is currently in revision. It would be interesting to hear if these countries feel their recent legal deposit laws are effective. Kenya, for example, has mentioned that their legal deposit law is not effective. If not, what else needs to be done? It is imperative to work directly with publishers and through publishers' associations to communicate the benefits and importance of legal deposit for them and for the national library and its national bibliography.

5. **COVERAGE: Language:** All national bibliographies register the publishing output of the country. Many also broaden the coverage to include publications by the country's citizens published abroad and/or publications about the country published abroad. The substitute national bibliographies have different parameters, e.g., Lesotho lists books about Lesotho.

There are many languages in Africa but not all are in print. In general, the main languages used in an African country have been represented by the publications of the country and are included in the national bibliographies. With the end of colonization and with the independence of nations, there is some encouragement for publishers to issue books in indigenous languages. Countries with several languages represented in their national

¹ Countries with a current national bibliography are: Algeria, Angola (hiatus), Benin, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire (hiatus), D.R. Congo (hiatus?), Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho (substitute), Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa Sudan (substitute), Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

² These countries are: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Seychelles, Somalia, and Togo.

bibliography are: Ethiopia, 8 (Amharic, English, Italian, French, German, Arabic, Geez, Tigrinya); Namibia, 20 (in their language index they list 19 languages, plus English); Nigeria, 7 (It is not known how many of the over 250 languages and dialects ³ are in print.); Zimbabwe, 4; Libya, 4 (Arabic, English, French, Italian); Kenya, 3 plus others (42 listed in their abbreviations index). South Africa's national bibliography has been bilingual (English and Afrikaans) and has now been changed to only English since the NLSA does not have the resources available to catalogue in all eleven official South African languages.⁴

Script: Northern African countries with entries in Arabic script are Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia. Most of these countries also include record entries in non-Arabic script languages such as English, French, German, Italian, Amharic (Ethiopia), or Malagasy (Madagascar).

PRESENTATION AND TIMELINESS:

6. Format: All national bibliographies are issued in the printed format, although the National Library of South Africa's October 5, 2000 response to our letter indicated that they have decided to suspend the printed *SANB* until they evaluate options available to them under the new library management system that should be in place within the year.⁵ Paper editions are important since many libraries in a country may not have computers or web access even though the National Library may. We found no African national bibliographies in CD-ROM format although Robert Holley's survey indicated that Madagascar, Mali, and South Africa had CD-ROM formats. Information received from Madagascar in 2000 indicated that the national bibliography is only in printed form. We were unable to find any national bibliography for Mali. South Africa's records were used in a commercial CD-ROM called "South African Studies;" this is not published by the National Library of South Africa and the record information was "stripped down" by the publisher. In 2000 I was told that the National Library of South Africa was considering a CD-ROM format but I have not heard about the final decision.

A few countries have other formats as well: South Africa (microfiche, magnetic tape, in SACat available through SABINET, and SANB database in WorldCat), Namibia (their searchable national bibliography database is accessible from the National Library's web site <http://yaotto.natlib.mec.gov.na/database.html>), Swaziland (the national bibliography is part of the Catalogue database at <http://library.uniswa.sz>); Tunisia (microfiche); Zimbabwe (considering a web version). We probably will see more countries following the lead of Namibia in making their national bibliography available on a web-site, or Swaziland in having the national bibliography as part of their catalogue database.

There is a need to encourage the use of acid-free paper and ink suitable for preservation and to assure that storage conditions are conducive to preservation.

No countries had formats of the national bibliography designated for users with special needs. This was a concept introduced in the ICNBS Recommendations but was not in the ICNB 1977 Recommendations. We may need to think what this means and how it should be implemented. It seems that it will be up to each National Library to interpret this recommendation as needed.

7. Timeliness and Distribution: In general, it is necessary to have three areas under this heading: 1) timeliness of entry records, 2) timeliness of the publication date of the national bibliography, and 3) timeliness in distributing the national bibliography from the publication date to its destination.

Of the 27 national bibliographies analyzed for the first category, 18 are adequate in listing timely entries, and nine need to improve. It should be noted that there has been improvement in this area in the last several years. Those needing to improve are: Ethiopia, The Gambia (new legal deposit law needed), Lesotho, Madagascar,

³ Some estimates have been closer to 400.

⁴ Susan Battison's Oct. 5, 2000 email

⁵ Input into the internal database was maintained until the end of 1999. Due to staff constraints they can not continue to do this. Since the printed SANB is produced from the internal database, they had to suspend the publication. (Susan Battison, Oct. 5, 2000 email.)

Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia. Although Kenya is listed in the "adequate" category, there is some room for improvement. Good examples to follow for current imprints are Botswana, Swaziland, and South Africa.

The second category is a major factor in contributing to an untimely national bibliography. Some of these national bibliographies have timely entries but become untimely because of the long publication process. There are several reasons for this; e.g., lack of staff, financial considerations, and government/bureaucratic delays. Countries needing to improve in this area are Algeria, Benin, D.R. Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. A good example to follow are the recent issues of the *Swaziland National Bibliography*.

A few additional observations may be noted in this second category. Some countries publish their national bibliographies in a multi-year volume, which can create a larger lag time between imprint dates and information given in the national bibliography when the national bibliography is published at a much later date. Examples of multi-year volumes are Benin (1984-1988, 1989-1994), Libya (1984/1985/1986 through to the volume for 1993/1994/1995), Namibia, Senegal, and Zambia. A few countries are so far behind in publishing their national bibliography that they decided to begin a second publication to cover the gap. Examples of this are seen in Madagascar and Angola.

The third category shows there is a lot of room for improvement. Of the 27 titles analyzed, 16 need improvement in this area. This is defined as the time from the date of publication until the national bibliography's arrival at its destination. Some countries that have several issues per year may "batch mail" the national bibliography only once a year. National bibliographies needing to improve are : Algeria, Benin, Botswana, D.R. Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, The Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia.

Nations that are doing well in all three of these areas should be commended, namely, Swaziland (since 1998) and South Africa, although now the national bibliography is in non-print format and harder to identify as a national bibliography--e.g., *SANB* is available as a part of the OCLC database (available by subscription), or it is available for those subscribing to SABINET. Some countries are beginning to improve in one or more of the areas, Libya, for example, has moved to a more timely publication date. Overall, it is heartening to see a vast improvement in the timeliness of entry records from a few years ago, but there is still room for improvement, especially in the nine countries listed in category one. There are eleven countries that need to improve in two categories (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, D.R. Congo, The Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda) and one listed in all three categories (Zambia).

With regard to cumulations, many African countries have an annual or multi-year publication for the national bibliographies, so in that regard there is a "natural" cumulation with each publication. This is true for Angola, Benin, Botswana, D.R. Congo, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana (also has a five year cumulation), Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal (annuals cumulated), Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania (may have three year cumulations), Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Nigeria strives to have more frequent publications with an annual cumulation but has had problems in the 1990s; Tunisia has quarterly issues and is cumulated annually. Egypt and Morocco have annual indexes.

Countries having (or attempting) more frequent publication schedules than annual but not having cumulations are Algeria, Lesotho, and Madagascar. It is assumed that South Africa continuously adds to its online formats with no cumulation.

8. Information included on the national bibliography itself for identification: Most of the national bibliographies include the title, period of coverage, place and name of the publisher, and date of publication on the national bibliography itself. Availability (where and how to purchase the national bibliography) and price of both the national bibliography itself and price of publications listed within the national bibliography are not included in many national bibliographies. The national bibliography CIP entry is not included in most bibliographies but is

available in Egypt, Libya, Nigeria, and The Gambia. About half of the national bibliographies do not have the ISSN or ISBN of the national bibliography itself (Algeria, Angola, Benin, D.R. Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia).

9. Introduction and user guide: The introduction and user guide are essential to users of a national bibliography. Scope notes including exceptions, legal deposit information, frequency, arrangement, rules followed, terms used, and classification outlines should all be in an introduction. A few countries have no introduction (Mauritius, Morocco, and Senegal from 1990 on). South Africa had one in paper format but not so in its current format); these countries should be encouraged to add information included in an introduction by the Standing Committee. Countries needing to include more elements suggested in this recommendation are: Angola, D.R. Congo (add information on authority control, filing system used), Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt (it would also be helpful to have an introduction in English or other language in addition to an Arabic introduction), Lesotho, Malawi, Sudan, and Senegal. At present, Senegal has an outline, CDU information, and subjects connected to CDU. It would help to have a more complete introduction stating the scope, languages included, authority control, and standards used.

Countries with an adequate introduction are Botswana, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Examples of a good introduction with most of the elements suggested are Namibia and Nigeria; however, they do not mention authority control.

Many of the countries using Arabic script do not have an introduction to the separate section where non-script languages are included; this would be helpful for users not knowing Arabic.

We did not find user guides since, as indicated earlier, no African national bibliographies are available in CD-ROM format, and we did not find one for those included in a database format. Useful information could be included as a "help" feature.

10. Bibliographic records: Bibliographic records should be based on internationally recognized standards and be arranged in an appropriate manner, including access points that satisfy the needs of the users in accordance with the format.

The majority of countries use DDC for the arrangement of the national bibliography.⁶ A few countries use UDC (Libya, Madagascar, Morocco, Senegal, and Tunisia). Those not using an international classification scheme are: Angola, Mauritius, Sudan (uses own classification), Lesotho.

Accessing the records through indexes is adequately but not uniformly provided by countries publishing a national bibliography. Some countries have a single alphabetical index which includes author, title, subject and/or series. Other countries have separate indexes for author, subject, and title. Namibia is a good example to use for separate indexing options. Countries not having any index in the issues in which I looked are the D.R. Congo and Mauritius. This should be addressed by the Standing Committee. As automation becomes more prevalent in Africa, good access points will serve the function of an index in non-print products and services.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS USED

11. The national bibliographic agency is responsible for preparing comprehensive bibliographic records. In Africa, the NBA was found to be responsible for publishing the national bibliography, with two exceptions, Swaziland and Lesotho. Both have national library services but the national bibliography is not published by them. In the case of Swaziland, the university and the library services are in communication, but the records and production are done by the University of Swaziland Libraries. *Lesotho Index* is a "substitute" national

⁶ Countries using DDC in their national bibliography are: Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire (in arrangement of entries), D.R. Congo, Egypt, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe. DDC subject headings are used in Ethiopia.

bibliography which is a subject bibliography; it is worth investigating the possibility of the Lesotho library services producing a national bibliography following international recommendations.

International principles: Almost every country states that it uses ISBD and/or AACR2. Those not using it are Ethiopia (AACR67), Lesotho and Mauritius. Sudan does not state what is used, but most information, except for place of publication, is given as in AACR2.

The Standing Committee could recommend and encourage NBAs to adopt ISBN and ISSN for their publishers/publications where the systems are not used: Mauritius, Malawi (no ISSN), Madagascar, Lesotho, Kenya (no ISSN except in foreign titles), Ethiopia, D.R. Congo, Benin (no ISSN), Cote d'Ivoire (no ISSN?), Angola, Algeria, Morocco, Senegal (ISSN?), Sierra Leone (no ISSN?), Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia.

Authority control should be encouraged by the Standing Committee. Two countries that have made strides in this area are Namibia and South Africa. The lack of authority control is easy to spot if it is not practiced by the NBA; variant spellings of names, geographic names, and subject headings appear in the national bibliography.

Metadata and the permanent naming of digital objects were not used in any of the African national bibliographies that we saw.

Observations: National Bibliographic Agencies: 27 national bibliographies or suitable substitutes are published by NBAs; two are not (Swaziland, Lesotho).

Those countries with a national library and legal deposit legislation, but having no national bibliography are: Guinea, Mauritania, Somalia, Togo, Liberia, and Mali. Sudan (substitute national bibliography) should also be added. These countries may be in a position to begin development of national bibliographies, since their infrastructure is in place. However, one needs to consider why it is that a national bibliography does not already exist. The political situation in Liberia, for example, is not conducive to begin a national bibliography.

Countries with no national bibliography and no legal deposit are: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mozambique, Seychelles (no legal deposit?), and Rwanda. Lesotho (substitute national bibliography) should also be added. These countries may be good places to inquire about the existence or establishment of national bibliographic agencies, the desire to begin a national bibliography and the development legal deposit legislation.

Many African countries are benefiting from the experiences learned from countries already automated. As necessary conditions such as a stable electrical supply and Internet capabilities are provided, automation and Internet access can be accomplished more quickly. It will not be surprising to see countries move from mimeographed formats to the digital age, skipping most of the usual in-between steps.

Namibia is a good example of a national bibliography following most of the recommendations and could be used as a good example for other countries to follow, except for its multi-year publication schedule and untimely publication date. Its database, [housed temporarily on the University of Namibia's web site](#), is searchable. In recent years Swaziland has been a good example for currency, publication, and distribution. The Gambia has a good preface. Nigeria includes many of the recommendations and has a lot of information about its publishing world, but timeliness and distribution need to be improved. Botswana has a pleasing format.

Legal deposit laws need to become more effective. The currency of the national bibliography is affected when a country has ineffective legal deposit laws. Kenya and Gambia mention this.

It is unsettling to see South Africa pull back from some of the ICNBS Recommendations during the reorganization of the National Library.

Some countries include book statistics as part of their national bibliography. This is done in Nigeria and Tanzania.

Middle East Nations :

There are fifteen Middle East nations and one "territory/state" : Bahrain, Djibouti, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Palestine (territory/state). There are eleven national bibliographies or suitable substitutes.⁷ Bahrain and UAE began publication in the 1990s, and Kuwait, Jordan, Syria, and Palestine in the 1980s. The oldest national bibliography is Israel's, which began publication in 1924.

Five Middle East countries do not have a national bibliography: Djibouti, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. Of these countries Lebanon and Saudi Arabia have a NBA, and Djibouti, Oman, and Yemen do not. Legal deposit exists in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen but not in Djibouti and Oman. Thus, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia have the infrastructure in place to establish a national bibliography; i.e., they have a national library and legal deposit legislation.

1. LEGAL DEPOSIT: Legal deposit legislation exists in twelve countries, with the most current legislation dated 1983 (Jordan, Syria). Other legislation in the 1980's included Qatar (1982), and Saudi Arabia (1981). Iran, Iraq, and Kuwait have legal deposit legislation dating from the 1970s, Yemen from the 1960s, Israel and Lebanon dating from the 1950s, Turkey from the 1930s. Bahrain has legal deposit laws but the date is not given in *AGCNB*. Three countries (Oman, UAE and Djibouti) and Palestine have no legal deposit. In summary, legal deposit legislation needs to be updated in all countries.

5. COVERAGE: Language and Script: In this area of the world several languages are used as well as several scripts. Arabic is the most frequently represented in the national bibliographies of Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, and UAE. Persian (Iran), Turkish (Turkey), Hebrew (Israel), Greek (Cyprus), Kurdish (Iraq), Turkoman (Iraq) English (Jordan, UAE, Turkey, Israel, Iraq), French (Israel, Cyprus), and indigenous languages are found in the national bibliographies of this region. In general, the main languages and scripts have been represented by the publications of the country and are included in the national bibliographic record.

PRESENTATION AND TIMELINESS:

6. Format: All of the nations in the Middle East use the printed format. In addition, Iran has CD-ROM and disks; Israel and Turkey have their national bibliography on the web.

7. Timeliness and Distribution: It is easier to present the facts and recommendations country by country for the Middle East. We were not able to read the numerals as given, so it was difficult to identify timeliness of entries and effective distribution in the Arabic national bibliographies. However, some comments can be made.

In July 1997 the latest issue for Bahrain was for 1991/1992/1993, published in 1994. The title is published in a timely fashion for the time period covered, but the multi-year coverage causes the bibliographic information to be delayed in getting to the user, and the publications list in the national bibliography may no longer reflect availability for purchase. Entries in the bibliography were for the current year or one year earlier.

Since 1982, Iraq has had a stated publication schedule of three times a year. However, the latest issue found in the US and England was for the year 1982. It may be that this is the latest published, or it may be that the distribution of this title needs to be improved. Iraq did not reply to letters sent to its National Library. Currency of record entries also needs to be improved. Judging from earlier issues, about half of the entries are from the period covered, and the rest are for earlier years.

Jordan's entries are within a two-year period from the date of coverage. The latest volume in the Library of Congress in March 2001 was for the year 1996, published in 1997. This is the first issue published by the

⁷ They are Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Palestine (territory./state).

Department of the National Library rather than the Jordan Library Association; even so, the distribution needs to improve.

The latest issue available in the Library of Congress of the Kuwaiti national bibliography was for the year 1983, published in 1985. Again, the frequency stated is annual. Kuwait needs to concentrate on both the publication and distribution of their national bibliography. Imprints are from the period covered, thus the timeliness of entry records is achieved. One wonders if this is currently being published. No information was received from letters sent to the country.

Palestine--local bibliography, a subject-based bibliography published by the Arab Studies Society, is the closest publication to a national bibliography found. It has a fairly regular publication schedule and appears to be printed the year after the coverage date. Although the frequency is stated as annual, there are frequently combined issues of two or three years. It would aid the user if the publication could adhere to the stated frequency. The distribution of this title appears to be a problem, as it was not in the several research libraries that were checked.

The List of Intellectual Production of Qatar is a timely publication, e.g., the 1990 volume was published in 1991. However, this is the latest we were able to locate. The entries were not analyzed for currency but from a statement in the introduction this title includes the year covered or the preceding year. Again, if the publication is an annual, their distribution needs to be improved.

The entries of the Syrian national bibliography were not analyzed for currency but a comment made in the *AGCNB* states that if distribution could be improved it would benefit researchers and librarians. From that, the Syrian national bibliography probably covers the period stated. In 1997 the latest published year was 1994. Thus timely publication and timely distribution are areas that need attention.

The *National Bibliography of the United Arab Emirates* is an annual, but the latest volume found in several research libraries in December 1996 was for the 1991/1992 year. Arabic entries were not analyzed for dates but in the dates in the English section were mainly from 1988-1991 with most entries being from the 1988-1990 period. Timeliness of entry records and timeliness of distribution need to improve.

Comments on the timeliness and effective distribution on the non-Arab national bibliographies follow. The entries in the Iranian national bibliography were not analyzed for currency; however, entries appeared to be about two years around the coverage date, maybe a bit less. They are still trying to catch up with volumes that were delayed because of the revolution and the computerization of the library.

Now that computerization has been completed for the Israeli national bibliography, delays for the entries should not be experienced, as occurred before 1997. The index was particularly delayed for five years. Effective distribution should be improved beginning with 1997; before 1997 it was taking 10 to 20 months for libraries to receive the bibliography overseas.

Turkey's entries are within the stated period of coverage or previous year. The publication delays during this time were caused by the transition to automation. Distribution needs to be improved.

Cumulations are seen in an annual index for Israel, a five-year cumulation for Kuwait, and an annual index and a decennial or less cumulation for Turkey. Many national bibliographies are issued on an annual basis.

8. Information included on the national bibliography itself for identification: Presentation of information on the national bibliography itself is generally adequate, but there are a few items that could be added to enhance the adherence to the Recommendations. The two elements missing the most are the national bibliography CIP entry and the price of the national bibliography. The use of an international identification number, use of the copyright symbol and information, CIP entry, availability, and price are needed in Iraq, Kuwait, and Qatar. Other countries and what they need to supply are as follows: Iran, Israel -- copyright, CIP entry; Syria -- international

identification number, use of the copyright symbol and information, availability, and price; Bahrain and UAE -- copyright symbol and information, and it is not certain if the availability and price are given; Turkey -- CIP entry; Palestine -- international identification number, use of the copyright symbol and information, CIP, and price; Jordan -- international identification number, use of the copyright symbol and information, and price. Seven nations do not supply the ISSN in their publications (Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Palestine, Qatar, and Syria).

9. Introduction and user guide: Israel and Jordan do not have introductions in their national bibliographies. This feature would be an extremely useful addition. Turkey does not have an introduction, an abbreviations list, or publishers' directory in each issue; if not possible to do this for each monthly issue, a statement which guides the user to the most current information would be helpful. Of the Middle East countries, Turkey supplies almost all of the information asked for in an introduction. Syria has many of the elements suggested for prefatory material (table of contents, introduction, tabular subject breakdown by publications, language, and classes, UDC principal tables); so do Iran and Turkey. It is hard to identify the most complete introduction to use as a good example for this region, but it would be one of these last three.

10. Bibliographic records: The DDC classification system is used by nine countries; in addition, the UAE has the DDC subject headings arrangement without assigned numbers. LC classification is the second number supplied by Iran. Israel uses its own subject headings and does not assign a number to the entries.

ISBD or AACR2 is used by Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, Syria, Turkey, UAE, Cyprus (without punctuation), Jordan, and Iraq (not stated).

All have adequate access points.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS USED

11. The national bibliographic agency is responsible for preparing comprehensive bibliographic records.

The national bibliographies of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan (since 1994), Kuwait, Qatar, Syria, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates are produced by their national libraries or national bibliographic agency. Palestine is published by the Arab Studies Society.

Metadata and the permanent naming of digital objects were not used in any of the national bibliographies examined.

Observations: Areas where improvements are needed and the Section on Bibliography can help:

1. Consider talking with countries that have national libraries and legal deposit laws but do not have national bibliographies to see if it is feasible to begin one: Lebanon, Saudi Arabia.
2. Urge all countries to update their legal deposit legislation.
3. Request that an introduction following the ICNBS recommendations be included: Iraq (not in latest issue seen; was included in earlier issues), Israel, Jordan, Turkey (needs to be included in each issue if possible).
4. Encourage countries not using ISBN/ISSN to do so: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran (does not have ISSN), Iraq, Israel (does not have ISSN), Jordan, Kuwait, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, and United Arab Emirates.
5. Timeliness of publication and distribution need to improve in all countries.
6. Encourage National Bibliographic Agencies to include the international identification number, copyright symbol, availability, CIP entry for the national bibliography, and price of the national bibliography in each issue. Turkey has included most of the elements mentioned in ICNBS Recommendation no. 8 and could be used as an example.

Iran's national bibliography follows the ICNBS recommendations and would be one to use as a good example, although the timeliness of publication (date and distribution) could be better. The United Arab Emirates is one of the newest national bibliographies in the region (1990-) and is attractively presented.

The Middle East provides encouragement in the national bibliography scene with many recent positive changes: four of the eleven national bibliographies have beginning dates of 1985 or later (Bahrain, Kuwait, Syria, United Arab Emirates), with two others coming into existence in 1980 and 1981 (Jordan, Palestine), and the Jordan National Library has assumed the publication of the national bibliography from the Jordan Library Association. A discouraging factor is that many countries do not have timely distribution of the national bibliographies to their users.

South Asian Nations

Seven nations are included in South Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. All except Bhutan are publishing national bibliographies.

1. LEGAL DEPOSIT: Legal deposit laws are used in four of the six countries. Nepal and Maldives do not have a legal deposit law. A legal deposit law also was not found for Bhutan. The most recent laws are from the 1970s (Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka's latest amendment to their 1885 Act), with Pakistan's law dating from the 1960s, and India's law dating from the 1950s. All of the legal deposit laws need to be updated in these countries to include recent formats such as CD-ROM, etc.

5. COVERAGE: Language and Script: There are many languages in this area, many of which are written in non-Latin script. In all cases except Maldives, this script is transliterated into the Latin alphabet using diacritical marks. So far, computers have not been able to handle the vernacular scripts. The new Recommendations urge nations to list the publications in the original script, so when software can accomplish this task, it is preferable to use the script. This is particularly true for India (14 languages), Nepal (six languages), and Pakistan.

PRESENTATION AND TIMELINESS:

6. Format: The only format in these countries for the national bibliography is the print format. Nepal has stated that their records are in machine-readable format and they can produce a laser-printed national bibliography separate from the *Journal of the Nepal Research Centre*, the journal in which the national bibliography has been listed until the mid-1990s.

7. Timeliness and Distribution: The entries included in the national bibliographies of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka have been timely and within the stated period of coverage. Pakistan needs to improve the timeliness of the entries for a specific time period. It is hoped that the next issue of Maldives' [national bibliography](#) will have a shorter coverage period so that users will have more timely information.

The time between the stated coverage date and the date of publication of the national bibliography needs to be improved in all of the nations. There have been some recent attempts to improve this in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The national bibliography of Nepal, now independent of the *Journal of the Nepal Research Centre*, should be able to be set its own publication schedule. Maldives does not state its publication date; this is easy to remedy and should be done with the next volume.

There is also a noticeable gap between publication and distribution to subscriber libraries. This is an area on which to concentrate for improvement. Bangladesh and Pakistan are improving from earlier years. The norm has been that it takes between one to three years after publication to receive the national bibliography in subscriber libraries. This is not acceptable and negates the timeliness of the entries in the stated coverage date.

Cumulations appear as an annual or annual index cumulation in Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka. Bangladesh used to be monthly and had an annual cumulation, but now it is an annual publication. The first issue of the Maldives NB covered the years 1990-1995, and some issues of Nepal's have been combined (as have those of other countries from time to time).

8. Information included on the national bibliography itself for identification: With regards to information presented on the national bibliography itself, Pakistan lists all of the suggested data except the national

bibliography CIP entry, which indeed is not given in any of the countries. The international identification number needs to be added to the [national bibliographies](#) of Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, and availability needs to be added to Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

9. Introduction and user guide: It would be helpful to have the following added to comply with the Recommendations: Sri Lanka -- a table of contents, an analyzed entry, statement of filing rules, and authority control statement; Nepal -- statement of filing system, authority control statement; India -- table of contents and scope statement in each monthly issue, statement of filing system, authority control statement; Bangladesh -- statement of filing system and authority control statement; Maldives -- authority control statement and description of filing system.

10. Bibliographic records: All six nations in South Asia use international standards to prepare the entries for the national bibliography. For classification, all six use the DDC, and India also uses the Colon system. In cataloguing, the AACR is used, although not the latest version in Nepal, and possibly not in Bangladesh (didn't specify version).

The ISBN and ISSN are not used in Bangladesh and Nepal.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS USED

11. National bibliographic agency is responsible for preparing comprehensive bibliographic records. All NBs in this area are published by the National Bibliographic Agencies (that is, if the Tribhuvan University Central Library is the NBA for Nepal.)

It should be noted that the Sri Lanka National Bibliography has improved quite a bit from the 1980s with the inclusion of DDC, increased frequency from quarterly to monthly, and more timely entries. It also has information about its national bibliography on the NBA web site (<http://www.sit.lk/nlib>). The new Maldives national bibliography is also to be commended; this bibliography contributes to the universal bibliographic network of the region.

Observations: Legal deposit laws need to be written in Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan, and all nations need to update their legal deposit laws. Efforts need to be made to have more timely publication and distribution of the national bibliographies. The *Indian National Bibliography* should be encouraged to send out each issue as it is published rather than "batch-mailing" all issues for the year at one time. Use of ISBN and ISSN should also be encouraged in Bangladesh and Nepal. Another area for improvement is to be sure that the archival copy of the national bibliography is on acid free paper of a quality suitable for preservation.

Bhutan has a national bibliographic agency, National Library of Bhutan, but no legal deposit legislation was located.

Southeast Asian Nations

There are eleven nations in Southeast Asia; eight have national bibliographies. They are Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Three countries have no national bibliographies: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar (Burma). Of these three, Myanmar and Laos are working towards preparation of a national bibliography. Insufficient funding, shortage of qualified staff, and computer problems are some of the holdups that they are experiencing.

1. LEGAL DEPOSIT: Legal deposit legislation is important for a good national bibliography. Singapore has the most recent legal deposit legislation with a date of 1995. Other countries with legal deposit laws from the 1990s are Papua New Guinea (1993, gazetted in 1994), and Indonesia (1990). Malaysia's legal deposit is dated 1986, and the Philippines has 1982 and 1976 dates. Brunei has a 1967 date. Vietnam has 1941 and 1946 dates. Thailand is working on a revision of its 1941 legislation. Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar have no legal deposit legislation (in Laos the 1969 legislation has never been approved or implemented).

5. COVERAGE: Language: Many languages are listed in the national bibliographies of this area. Indonesia has over 400 languages and dialects in addition to English. Malaysia registers English, Chinese, Malay, Tamil, and East Malaysian languages. Papua New Guinea lists titles in Melanesian and English. Philippines lists titles in English, Filipino, and other Philippine languages such as Tagalog, Ilocano, Cebuano, etc. Singapore includes Malay, Chinese, Tamil, and English. Thailand lists titles in Thai and English, and Vietnam lists Vietnamese. Brunei includes entries in the Malay and English language, but not any entries in Chinese or Arabic script.

Script: Many of these languages use non-Latin scripts and that is a problem for several countries. Most have computer programs which can not handle non-Latin scripts, and so a decision not to include the titles or to transliterate the title has to be made. In Indonesia, romanized scripts are included in its national bibliography; some scripts don't have transliteration schemes, so books in non-Latin script are not presently included; Arabic scripts are romanized. Malaysia seems to have handled the Chinese and Tamil without transliterating. Singapore does not provide information on non-romanized script, and transliterates when necessary. Thailand and Vietnam use the original script in their national bibliographies.

PRESENTATION AND TIMELINESS:

6. Format: Singapore no longer has a printed bibliography, using instead CD-ROM, magnetic tape, cartridge tape and floppy disk. Brunei, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea have only print. Besides the printed version, Thailand and Vietnam are planning to have CD-ROM and web versions. The Philippines has both a printed and disk version of its national bibliography.

7. Timeliness and Distribution: With the exception of Singapore, the seven other nations need to work on having entries more timely for the period covered (or within a specific stated scope, e.g., two previous years). Also, a timely publication date needs to be attained in all countries with the possible exception of Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Singapore.

Effective distribution has been accomplished in Singapore, and Papua New Guinea. Malaysia has grouped several years on its CD-ROM and waits until it finishes grouping (e.g., 1989-1993) before releasing. (At least this is the way the information given in the user guide [was interpreted](#).) It would be more helpful to the user to have the disk reissued each year with another year added to the most recent disk. This way users can use the national bibliography as an acquisitions tool.

Annual cumulations are found in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines; Vietnam has an annual index. Brunei's first issue covers 1967-1991 and Thailand has no cumulations. Malaysia has several years on CD-ROM (e.g., 1966-1988, 1989-1993) with searching capabilities. Singapore's CD-ROM is issued twice a year on cumulating disks.

8. Information included on the national bibliography itself for identification: The Philippines has included all of the elements mentioned in the ICNBS Recommendations. Brunei needs to add the international identification number and price of the national bibliography; Indonesia needs to add copyright information, Papua New Guinea has everything except price, Singapore doesn't have the national bibliography CIP entry, availability, and price; Thailand and Vietnam need copyright information, CIP entry, availability and price.

9. Introduction and user guide: Ten of the eleven countries that have national bibliographies include introductions; it would be helpful if Vietnam would add an introduction to its national bibliography. Papua New Guinea and the Philippines include all elements and have good introductions. Brunei needs to add a frequency note, a statement about the cataloging tools used, and a guide to the filing system. Malaysia needs to add an abbreviations, special terms list (?), and an outline for DDC. Singapore needs an abbreviations and special terms list. Thailand needs to add information about legal deposit and information about the filing system.

10. Bibliographic records: Two of the unifying features of national bibliographies in this region are the use of the Dewey Decimal Classification system (all use this except Vietnam, which uses its own classification similar to

LC), and the use of AACR2 for cataloguing. The *Library of Congress Subject Headings* is used by Singapore, Philippines, Papua New Guinea. AACR2 is used in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Vietnam doesn't state that it uses AACR2, but this appears to be the case.

Access points are adequate in all national bibliographies. However, it would be helpful for Thailand to add an annual index, and for Vietnam to add monthly indexes (in each issue) in addition to its annual index.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS USED

11. The national bibliographic agency is responsible for preparing comprehensive bibliographic records. Of the eleven countries in this area, ten have a National Bibliographic Agency, usually the National Library, with Papua New Guinea having a National Library Service. Only Brunei has no designated National Bibliographic Agency. Libraries in Brunei share bibliographic functions, and it is the Brunei Museum Library which is responsible for compiling the new "substitute" national bibliography that lists titles in that library for the time period covered.

Observations: The following are priorities for consideration (not in any order).

1. Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar need legal deposit laws. Brunei, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam need to update their legal deposit legislation.
2. Myanmar and Laos should be encouraged to publish the national bibliographies on which they have been working, and Cambodia to begin a national bibliography.
3. Timeliness of listing entries in national bibliographies, and timeliness from period of coverage to publication needs to be improved, with exceptions as noted.
4. Effective distribution needs to be improved, with exceptions as noted.
5. A national bibliographic agency should be established in Brunei.
6. Look into ways that would help national libraries be able to use the original script of the book so that transliteration schemes need not to be used.
7. Stress the importance of a preservation copy of the national bibliographies. A few countries print the national bibliography on newsprint quality paper (e.g., Vietnam). In addition, determine what is the preservation copy for Malaysia and Singapore with their CD-ROM cumulations. If it is in CD-ROM format, access to the information needs to be preserved if technology changes. It may be wise to print a preservation copy.
8. Attention to some smaller points would be helpful, such as requesting that Papua New Guinea include a table of contents, and that Vietnam add an introduction and index(es) with each issue; and having all introductions for national bibliographies include the points given in the ICNBS Recommendations.
9. It may be useful to have a web version of the national bibliography for countries that are ready for this. Thailand and Vietnam, for example, want to have web versions, and this may be a way that Laos and Myanmar could direct their energies if the necessary resources were available.

It is gratifying to see new national bibliographies being developed, as in the case of Brunei, Laos, and Myanmar. Of the national bibliographies in this area, probably the one most closely meeting the ICNBS recommendations is Singapore (for CD-ROM), Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines (if timeliness is achieved). Malaysia and Singapore have done a good job in handling the language issue.

East Asian Nations

East Asia includes six nations, one of which has now been absorbed into China. They are China (People's Republic), Hong Kong (as of 1997, a self-governing region of the People's Republic of China), Japan, Korea (Democratic People's Republic), Korea (Republic), and Taiwan (Republic of China). For this report Hong Kong's title will be treated as separate from China's.

There are five national bibliographies. Korea (DPR) does not have a national bibliography.

1. LEGAL DEPOSIT: All of the national bibliographies are based on legal deposit laws. However, only Japan and the Republic of Korea have had a recent revision of their legal deposit laws (2000 and 1994 respectively).

Taiwan's is from the 1970s, and China has a legal deposit law which dates from the 1950s. We have no date for Hong Kong's law. No legal deposit law was found for Korea (DPR).

5. COVERAGE: Language and Script: There are three main languages in this region: Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. The Chinese National Bibliography itself includes 21 minority languages. All NBs use vernacular scripts. Introductory information from these bibliographies is only in the language of the country.

PRESENTATION AND TIMELINESS:

6. Format: All five of these national bibliographies are in print format. In addition, China, Japan, and Korea provide a CD-ROM format. China, Korea, and Japan also produce a magnetic tape version, and China has a disk version.

7. Timeliness and Distribution: Timeliness in listing current imprints seems to be adequate in Japan (88% are from the year covered in the volume checked), Hong Kong, and Korea. For China and Taiwan the imprints seem to be from the time period.

The timeliness of the publication date of the national bibliography can be improved in Hong Kong. There does not seem to be any pattern as to when "Special Supplement no. 4" appears in the *Hong Kong Government Gazette*, and it would be beneficial to users to see this published in a more timely fashion. Because of the 1997 change in government, this may now be a moot point.

Having this "Special Supplement" appear in the *Gazette* assures effective, but not necessarily timely, distribution. Distribution also should be improved in China and Korea. The other countries appear to be within a reasonable time frame for their publication date, and also distribution to destinations for end users.

Hong Kong's NB is issued quarterly, with the fourth issue being an annual index and periodical supplement. China publishes no cumulations, and has an annual frequency, but some issues (in the recent past) cover more than one year, so in that sense there are cumulations. Japan has an annual cumulation for its weekly issues. Korea's national bibliography is issued annually and has no cumulation other than that issue. Taiwan has annual and five year cumulations published at infrequent intervals.

8. Information included on the national bibliography itself for identification: China and Hong Kong complied with all Recommendations except for having an international identification number, copyright information, and CIP entry. It is not clear if the availability information appears in China's national bibliography. Hong Kong did not list a price for its national bibliography; because it is part of the *Hong Kong Government Gazette*, it may not have its own price. Japan included everything except copyright information. Korea listed everything except a CIP entry, and the price of the national bibliography. Taiwan did not list copyright information (?), availability, or price.

9. Introduction and user guide: The introduction to China's [national bibliography](#) states that they want to broaden coverage each year, so the user needs to pay attention to the introduction to know what the national bibliography includes each year. They do not have a list of special terms, or abbreviations. An outline of the classification system is not given; that would be useful, since they use a unique Chinese system. Hong Kong's introduction is brief, and they include an abbreviations list. An outline of the classification is not given, since they do not classify their entries. It would be useful to have a more detailed introduction with more of the elements suggested in this Recommendation. The Japanese introduction lists the scope, coverage, and arrangement. It also has an analyzed entry to guide the reader. The preliminary information does not give an outline of the Nippon Decimal Classification. Introductions in the Korean and Taiwanese cases are fairly complete, giving most of the information wanted in the Recommendations, and lacking only the script conversion schemes. Taiwan also does not give a list of special terms, definitions, abbreviations. It would be helpful for all of these national bibliographies to consider having the introductory material in a non-vernacular language for the benefit of those users unfamiliar with the characters.

None of the libraries visited in this area subscribed to the CD-ROM versions of the national bibliography, so the appearance of user guides for them could not be checked.

10. **Bibliographic records:** The national bibliographies are arranged and classified by national standards as a rule, but are described according to international standards; however, Korea follows national rules. Records for China are based on Chinese national standards. Access points are arranged by their sequence in *pinyin* romanization; this system may be adequate. China's NB is arranged into 22 broad subject categories. Two classification schemes are used: Chinese Library Classification number and Chinese Academy of Science Library Classification. It is described by ISBD standards. Hong Kong is based on AACR2, is listed alphabetically for English language entries, and by stroke for Chinese entries. There was no index for the issue checked. Japan has records based on ISBD, follows the Nippon Decimal Classification system, and has adequate indexing. Korea has records based on the Korean Machine Readable Cataloguing Rules for Descriptive Cataloguing and Korean Decimal Classification, and has adequate indexing. The records are arranged by type of publication, then by classification. Taiwan's records are based on AACR2, arranged in the ten classes of the "New Classification Scheme for Chinese Libraries."

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS USED

11. **National bibliographic agency is responsible for preparing comprehensive bibliographic records:** All of these are published by the country's National Bibliographic Agency, with the possible exception of Hong Kong, where the bibliography is (or at least was before becoming part of China) compiled by the New Territories Public Libraries, Cultural Services Department and appears as "Special Supplement no. 4" to the *Hong Kong Government Gazette*.

Observations: Areas to commend: Four of the five national bibliographies have catalogued their entries according to international standards. Most have imprint dates only for the period covered.

Areas that need attention (in no order):

1. The legal deposit laws of Taiwan and China need to be updated.
2. Timeliness needs to be improved in two areas: the printing and distribution of the national bibliography, and in the distribution of the national bibliographies, especially in China, Hong Kong, and Korea. Hong Kong has a problem in timeliness between the imprint date and the entry's appearance in the "Special Supplement no. 4"; if there is a way to shorten the time gap it would be to be useful to researchers.
3. China and Hong Kong should put their international identification number on the cover and title page of their [national bibliographies](#).
4. Consideration should be given to the feasibility of beginning a national bibliography in Korea (DPR).
5. Classification: Hong Kong does not classify their information; it may be helpful to users and other libraries to provide this service, especially if it can be done without affecting the timeliness of the bibliography.
6. Including all elements in the prefatory material suggested in Recommendation 9 would help the user. A consideration beyond the recommendation would be to have the introduction also appear in a non-script language.
7. Japan, Korea and Taiwan have stated that they hope to have a web version soon. Developing some guidelines or considerations that national libraries could follow in making their national bibliographies or information about the national bibliography visible and easily accessible on the web may be helpful; indeed, this suggestion could be applied to all geographic areas.

Central Asian Nations

There are seven Central Asian nations: Afghanistan (really located in southwest Asia), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. There are five national bibliographies; Afghanistan does not have a national bibliography and Tajikistan has not had a current national bibliography since 1991.

1. **LEGAL DEPOSIT:** Information on legal deposit laws was not forthcoming for any of these countries. Two of the countries are known to have legal deposit (Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) but the dates are not known.

Introductions (when there was one) did not include a legal deposit citation or the year the law was effected. A general number given in the entries (e.g., 94-233) could be taken as a legal deposit number but it also could be an accession number. It is assumed that the national bibliographies are based on legal deposit. This is an important area for the Standing Committee to investigate further.

5. COVERAGE: Language: Because of the recent past history, the Russian language has been the dominant language in all of the national bibliographies of these countries. Now that all (except Mongolia and Afghanistan) are CIS countries their own language will begin to appear as the dominant language in the national bibliographies. Russian, Kazakh, Kirghiz, Turkmen, Tajik, Uzbek, Chinese, and Karakalpakski are languages that appear in these national bibliographies; Khalkha Mongol is the predominant language in Mongolia.

The Cyrillic script is used for the Russian language entries; the Mongolian alphabet is used in Mongolia.

PRESENTATION AND TIMELINESS:

6. Format: The five national bibliographies all appear in print format as of 1997. Mongolia is considering CD-ROM.

7. Timeliness and Distribution: Imprints are for the period covered. The problems are the time that elapses between the imprint date and the publication date of the national bibliography, and the distribution of the national bibliography to the users.

8. Information included on the national bibliography itself for identification: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan include title, period which the issue covers, place and name of publisher, date of publication, copyright information, and international identification number. CIP entries, and details of availability and price are not given.

Mongolia's NB includes title, period which the issue covers, place and name of publisher, and date of publication, availability and price as part of the colophon. The issue examined did not include an international identification number or copyright information.

9. Introduction and user guide: This is an area which needs to be improved. Three of the five national bibliographies examined had no introduction. No preliminary information except on the title page(s) and verso was available. Uzbekistan produced the most complete introduction. Kyrgyzstan's NB has a brief preface that states that the National Library provides help in bibliographic description and classification of documents. It would be helpful to users if the introduction would include a scope and coverage statement, frequency, statement on the basis for the records, legal deposit laws, abbreviations, classification and other international rules followed.

10. Bibliographic records: Cataloguing rules follow the former USSR GOST rules thus far for most of the countries of this region. Kyrgyzstan states it follows ISBD, and Turkmenistan follows "international standards;" basic information is given for entries in Mongolia but AACR2 punctuation is not used.

Classification rules used vary. Kazakhstan uses the DDC, Kyrgyzstan uses UDC. Mongolia and Turkmenistan do not use classification numbers but entries are arranged by broad subject categories similar to the former USSR arrangement. Uzbekistan uses the "United Classification of Literature for Book Publishing in USSR."

Arrangement of the national bibliographies follows the former USSR broad subject categories for Mongolia, and Turkmenistan. Kazakhstan uses the DDC scheme, and Kyrgyzstan follows the UDC scheme. Uzbekistan is by type of publication, then by language, and then alphabetical within the classification categories.

One strength of these national bibliographies is their access points. This has been inherited from the former USSR system. Most have two to three or more indexes to aid the user, such as author, name, title, geographic, and subject indexes. Kazakhstan includes author and subject; Kyrgyzstan gives name, subject, and geographic

indexes; Turkmenistan includes name, geography, subject indexes, list of journal and newspaper sources; Uzbekistan uses the name, title, subject, series for the books, and appropriate indexing for the newspapers and periodicals articles. Mongolia is an exception, however, and had no indexes in the issues examined.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS USED

11. National bibliographic agency is responsible for preparing comprehensive bibliographic records: Four of the five national bibliographies are published by the national "Book Chamber", which follows the former USSR structure. Mongolia's national bibliography is published by the Academy of Sciences Publishing House.

Observations: The existence of a national bibliography is important to note, especially in these times of economic hardship. It will be important for each country to put its own national mark on its national bibliography as it moves away from the USSR years.

It will be interesting to watch developments regarding automation and Internet capabilities. In response to our letter, we received an e-mail response from Mongolia which mentioned that as of June 2001 they had established a connected to the Internet as the result of a grant from the Soros Foundation. They also mention plans to work on the "Registration and Information Database on National Bibliographies of Mongolia."

Recommended areas for attention:

1. The timeliness of the national bibliography's publication and its effective distribution are two areas that need to be improved.
2. Determine the existing legal deposit laws and then update them to be effective; this is needed in all of the countries.
3. Introductions need to be included with the national bibliographies, with the exception of Uzbekistan. Points included in the ICNBS Recommendations should be followed.
4. In this area, it may be important for these countries to talk to each other at a regional workshop such as the recent Trans-Caucasus UBCIM workshop in 1999. All of these countries are struggling with the same issues, and it may be very helpful to share what has been done/what needs to be done in legal deposit, for instance, as well as in other bibliographic areas and who/how to proceed with national bibliography responsibilities.
5. One possibility if resources are available on a stable and continuing basis is that web sites be created by the National Bibliographic Agency and that the national bibliography be mounted on this site. It is important to make the national bibliography easy to find and easy to use. The Standing Committee, in consultation with National Libraries, could draft guidelines for placing the national bibliography on the NBA web site, or in the very least, information about the national bibliography.
6. The countries using the former USSR broad subject groupings should be asked if this continues to work for them, or would a change to another international classification system be useful to them. It also would be helpful to libraries and users if a classification number were included with the entry; this has not been the case in Mongolia and Turkmenistan.
7. Tajikistan does not have a national bibliography, national library, or legal deposit law. Afghanistan does not have a national bibliography. It is not certain there is a designated NBA. If so, probably it would be the Public Library or Kabul University Library. No citation was found for a legal deposit law, although Afghanistan has legal deposit;⁸ it probably is no longer functional and will need to be updated. The infrastructure should be in place (National Bibliography Agency, legal deposit law) before trying to implement a national bibliography.

Transcaucasian Nations

Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia comprise this area of the world. Before the breakup of the USSR, three "regional" bibliographies existed and it has been a struggle to reorganize and get support to continue them as national bibliographies. As far as can be determined Azerbaijan has not issued a national bibliography since becoming independent, but they are working on restructuring and other issues leading towards publication. A

⁸ *Bibliographic Services Throughout the World, 1975-1979* (p. 71).

recent e-mail stated that the Book Chamber is closed.⁹ Since 1995 Armenia has published their "new" national bibliography. Georgia's last published national bibliography is for 1997; 1998-2000 has not been published but entries exist in card form.¹⁰ Information was gathered for these countries at a Trans-Caucasus UBC- MARC Workshop in Tbilisi, Georgia in November 1999 and in recent correspondence.

1. LEGAL DEPOSIT: Georgia has a recently revised legal deposit law (1993); Azerbaijan has a law dated 1993 designating the National Bibliographic Agency. It is unclear if a legal deposit law exists for Armenia.¹¹

5. COVERAGE: Language: Although Russian is the common language in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, each country now wants to publish their national bibliography in their mother tongue: Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgian.

Script: The Cyrillic script is used for titles published in Russian. Titles in Georgian use the Georgian script. Titles in Armenian use the Armenian script.

PRESENTATION AND TIMELINESS:

6. Format: The format used in this region is print. The Book Chamber of Georgia is currently working on a project with the National Library to have the national bibliography in electronic form and available online. It is heartening to see the Book Chamber of Georgia and the National Library working together on this project. I believe the impetus for this came from discussions held during the Trans-Caucasus UBCIM Workshop in 1999, which was one of the first times that these two groups had come together since their independence.

The latest available issue for Azerbaijan is for 1983, published in 1988, and received at the Library of Congress in 1989. At that time, it was arranged by the Soviet subject headings. There have been no issues published since independence.

Arrangement of the national bibliography continues to be by the Soviet subject headings for Georgia (latest issue viewed is for 1991). Armenia's is by DDC subject headings.

7. Timeliness and Distribution: The issue of timeliness is not possible to assess for Azerbaijan as they are still reorganizing their national bibliography efforts. Formerly, Azerbaijan's problem with timeliness stemmed from its late publication date; one hopes that this can be improved. In its "new" national bibliography Armenia has only included entries for the period covered. We have not been able to locate a recent copy of Georgia's national bibliography in any library even though correspondence with them indicates that the latest issues published are for 1997. This indicates that both the publication date and the distribution needs to improve. It is positive that these have been published; in 1999, nothing had been published since independence, although a bibliographic record was kept in card form.

8. Information included on the national bibliography itself for identification: For this study Armenia's was the only recent current national bibliography located. It gives the title of the bibliography, the period which the issue covers, the place and name of the publisher, date of publication, and copyright information. There is no international identification number, CIP entry, price or availability information.

Earlier issues of Azerbaijan's national bibliography (pre-1991) also included the title of the bibliography, the period which the issue covers, the place and name of the publisher, and date of publication. It did not have the copyright information. There is no international identification number, CIP entry, price or availability information.

⁹ Email received from Muzhgan Nazarova, Director, Information Resource Center, USIS American Embassy Baku.

¹⁰ Email received from Irakli Garibashvili on April 26, 2001.

¹¹ According to the Director of the Armenian National Book Chamber at present no legal deposit law exists. (*AGCNB*, p. 11)

9. Introduction and user guide: Armenia and Azerbaijan did not have an introduction in the issues I examined.

International standards may need to be evaluated as each country revises its national bibliography. Armenia and Georgia continue to use GOST standards from the former USSR for their cataloguing; Azerbaijan uses ISBD. Armenia uses DDC for arrangement, but does not include a classification number in the entry information; the other two countries use the former USSR classification for arrangement; they also do not use the classification number in the entry information. Georgia uses the ISBN as part of the information given for each entry, but Armenia and Azerbaijan do not.

10. Access points are author and geographic indexes in Armenia, while the latest issue of Georgia has author, title, subject, and geographic indexes; Azerbaijan has main entry and title indexes. The access point is one of the most satisfactory aspects for these three countries' NBs.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS USED

11. National bibliographic agency is responsible for preparing comprehensive bibliographic records: Under the USSR, national book chambers had the responsibility to publish the national bibliographies. It may be that Azerbaijan's 1993 legal deposit law changes this responsibility, since a recent email indicated that the Azerbaijan Book Chamber was closed. Both Georgia and Armenia are publishing through the national book chamber. One hopes that there is dialogue between the national library and the book chamber in these countries on matters pertaining to the national bibliography.

Observations: Recommendations for improvement of national bibliographies for Transcaucasia are as follows.

1. Revise legal deposit laws to make them effective for today.
2. Consider using the classification number as part of the information given in the national bibliography's entry.
3. Encourage each country to include an introduction following ICNBS Recommendation no. 9.
4. Use this opportunity to revise the infrastructure for producing the national bibliography as it works best for each country. Some former Soviet countries have designated the national library as the NBA. Others may continue to have the Book Chamber publish the national bibliography; there should be an effective cooperative agreement between them.
5. Work on timeliness of the publication date of the national bibliography and also its effective distribution to users/subscribers.
6. Use paper quality that will preserve the national bibliography.
7. Continue dialogue and communication with each other that was started at the Trans-Caucasus UBCIM workshop.
8. Work on identifying a National Bibliographic Agency and the legal deposit law in Azerbaijan.
9. Consider if there is an opportunity for a national bibliography in Azerbaijan.
10. Consider using ISBN/ISSN in the information given for each entry. This may be easier said than done. Since the USSR dissolved, Armenia, for one, has not used this system. In any case, the international identification number should appear on the national bibliography itself.
11. Develop guidelines for listing information about the national bibliography or the national bibliography itself on an NBA web site (when available).

European Nations

44 nations are included in this survey. Two of the 44 countries do not have a national bibliography: Andorra and Monaco. Monaco's publications are listed by France, on the basis of voluntary deposit.

1) Legal deposit

The nations of Europe normally have legal deposit laws and bibliographies based on legal deposit. Exceptions are the Netherlands with voluntary deposit and Switzerland, with agreement with the booksellers' association

(and may consider if legal deposit should be introduced). Scotland and Wales are included in United Kingdom's bibliography which is based on legal deposit, but also publish their own bibliographies based on accession (stated in Scotland's bibliography, not in Wales', but probably the case).

The following nations have legal deposit laws (or amendments to older laws) from the end of the 1980s, the 1990s or 2000: Albania, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Norway, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, Yugoslavia. Belarus is probably also in this group.

The following nations are planning new laws or have new laws in the course of preparation (or perhaps already passed): Estonia (to include also remote electronic resources), Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Moldova, Romania, United Kingdom.

And these nations have laws (and also often amendments) published before 1990: Belgium (1965), Cyprus (year unknown), Finland (1980/81), Greece (1966), Iceland (1977), Ireland (1934+1953), Liechtenstein (1961), Poland (1968+1971+1981), Portugal (1982+1986), and Slovenia (1986).

4, 5) Coverage and scripts

All bibliographies register the publishing output of the country, without limitation to any single (official) language. Many also include publications by the nation's citizens published abroad and/or publications on the nation published abroad by foreigners. As noted above, within the United Kingdom the British national bibliography, which covers the union, is supplemented by the bibliographies of Scotland and Wales where publications relevant to these countries are found.

Some of the European languages have (or had) alphabets in other scripts than Latin. These are the former Soviet states and some Balkan states with Cyrillic script, and Greece with Greek script. The script pattern in these countries' bibliographies today is: Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, and Ukraine register both Latin and Cyrillic scripts. The Bulgarian and Russian bibliography use Cyrillic script only. Albania, Croatia, Romania, Slovenia, and Yugoslavia use Latin script only. Bosnia and Herzegovina: not known. The bibliographies of the Greek part of Cyprus and Greece register Greek and Latin script. Publications in other scripts (e.g. Arabic) were transliterated or transcribed. (Hereafter the word "transcribed" will be used for both terms).

Information on original language is usually given in the bibliographies. When the original is written in another script, the information is normally transcribed. In these bibliographies such information was not given (or very seldom given): Belarus, Cyprus, Ireland, Latvia, Russian Federation, Slovakia, and United Kingdom. Not known: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine.

Conclusion concerning "original scripts": the Recommendation has the wording "wherever possible these records should include the languages and/or scripts in which the publications originally appeared". In 2000, few bibliographies – if any – find it possible to render the original script when it differs from the one (or two) used in the country.

6-10) The presentation and timeliness of the national bibliography

6) Formats

Printed: Most countries of Europe have a printed bibliography.

Four countries do not: Belgium (since 1997), Czech Republic (since 1999), Finland (since 1994), Portugal (since 1988). In addition, in the Norwegian NB, only the monograph part is printed – the article part was until 1998, the music parts until 1996, the serial part until 1998.

Microform is a little used format today. It is found only in France, Scotland (*Bibliography of Scotland*) and United Kingdom (*British National Bibliography*).

Online: The bibliography is online in most countries (often as part of the catalogue), but not in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Luxembourg (plans exist), Malta, Romania (plans exist).

CD-ROM publication is found in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania (includes the catalogue, not only the bibliography), Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom.

CD-ROM is not found in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria (plans exist), Croatia (plans exist), Cyprus, Estonia, Greece (plans exist), Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Macedonia, Norway (from summer 2000), Scotland, Sweden, Wales.

Web access: Most often the library catalogue, not the national bibliography is on the web when such access exists. The catalogue includes the national bibliographic records, but they cannot be searched separately.

Sometimes the bibliography is on the web, but in some of these cases available only by subscription. In a few cases the bibliography as well as the catalogue are on the web. The different types found are listed here:

National bibliography: Denmark (some parts free, the monograph part by subscription), Finland (Telnet access), Germany (by subscription), Iceland (Telnet access), Norway, Poland, United Kingdom (by subscription), Wales.

Library catalogue or union catalogue: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation (? – not found), Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Wales.

Planning web availability of the bibliography/catalogue: Bulgaria, Croatia (plans web access to the bibliography in 2001), Czech Republic (plans access to the bibliography in winter 2000), France (now: Telnet access), Greece, Luxembourg, Switzerland (plans access from 2001)

No web access: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Romania, Yugoslavia

In addition to this, the Czech bibliography of articles connects selected journal and newspaper articles to their full texts on the internet. Also the Norwegian bibliography of serials connects description of web serials to the full texts.

All countries have formats according to internationally approved standards.

Formats for archiving/preservation: Most countries have printed editions, but it is not known if acid-free paper is used. This should be taken into account by the NBAs. The countries without printed versions (Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Portugal) have CD-ROM editions, which might be considered a format for archiving/preservation. Norway no longer uses a CD and has decided to archive an offprint of the year's production from the database at the end of each year.

Conclusion: For the time being, the paper edition and CD-ROMs still have a strong position. Microform editions are "out". Web access (but most often to the library catalogue, not the national bibliography) is developing rapidly. From my viewpoint as a user, the web access is much more user-friendly than the CD-ROMs.

7) Timeliness

Timeliness and distribution are usually good in Northern Europe (Balticum, Scandinavia, United Kingdom). The numbers or annual volume include imprints of the actual year and the preceding year, and sometimes also more preceding years. They are normally published the year after the year covered and normally received by subscribers soon after publication.

Bibliographies of this region which need improvement: Ireland (published two years after the year covered), Norway (includes the year covered and four preceding years), Wales (1994 was published in 1999).

In Central Europe the bibliographies of Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, and Switzerland are timely, whereas Germany, Hungary and Netherlands are a little behind the first group. Luxembourg seemed to be better earlier, but the 1998 volume includes several imprints back to 1993.

Southern Europe: timeliness is good in France, Italy and Spain. Portugal: not known, as there is no search possibility for year of publishing on the CD-ROM. Malta's NB is now appearing rather late, due to the lack of an organized NBA in this country. The latest volume was published in 1997 and covers 1993/1994. Distribution is effective in France, Italy and Malta; not known for Portugal and Spain.

Balkans and Greece: Timeliness is usually good. Croatia has made an effort to get rid of backlogs and has succeeded where books are concerned. Macedonia was not so good in 1994; the situation today is not known. Greece needs to improve – the year 1995 was published in 1999. Distribution seems to be effective in Croatia, Romania, and Yugoslavia, whereas Cyprus, Greece, Albania, Macedonia and Slovakia need improvement. Not known: Bosnia-Herzegovina and Bulgaria.

In the former Soviet Union (Belarus, Moldova, Russian Federation, and Ukraine) timeliness and distribution are good in the volumes or copies examined.

Cumulations are various according to types of documents included. For printed bibliographies published in several parts, the following concerns the monograph part.

Several issues and cumulated annual index: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia (probably no cumulated index), Czech Republic (until 1995, now no paper version), Estonia, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Yugoslavia.

Several issues and/or cumulations: a variety of patterns exists. Austria has several cumulated issues a year, Denmark has several cumulated issues a year and annual and multiyear cumulations; Germany has several cumulated issues a year, Iceland has monthly, annual and 5 years' cumulations; Italy has monthly, "plurimensile" and annual cumulations; Netherlands has several cumulated issues a year; Norway has fortnightly issues and annual cumulation; Portugal's CD-ROM is issued twice a year and is cumulated; Sweden has cumulations of issues, annual cumulation and 5 and 10 years' cumulations, United Kingdom has cumulations and annual edition.

Annual (or semiannual or multi-annual) volume: Bosnia-Herzegovina (multi-annual volume), Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia (semiannual), Malta, Scotland, Wales.

Web lists: three countries have "lists of new books" on the web Spring 2000: Belgium, Hungary, Sweden.

8) Information included on the national bibliography itself for identification purposes

Some of the information at this point is not given in Bell's *Annotated Guide*, some is given, but it is not clear if she has found the information in the bibliography or elsewhere. Concerning the points Availability and Price the below information may be wrong, even when the bibliographies have been examined, as this information may have been given on covers which are not included in bound volumes.

The following information is found in all European national bibliographies:
Title, period covered by the issue, place and name of publisher, date of publication.

ISBN/ISSN is found in most, but not in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg

Copyright information, CIP entry, Availability and Price: as mentioned, for several reasons these points cannot be described in detail, but are only summarized briefly. All bibliographies have information on the publisher, but not all include the copyright symbol © – which they may be recommended to do. CIP is not practiced in all countries and is therefore often not found. The publisher is always given, but the exact address is often missing. Price is rarely given.

Only Hungary gives information on all four points.

9) Introduction or user guide to the national bibliography

The Recommendations state several details which should be included in the national bibliography's introduction. Often some of these were found in other introductory pages than the introduction (e.g. an outline of the classification was given in the table of contents, a list of abbreviations was given on separate pages). The wording of the paragraph should take this into account. In the fifth point, "bibliographic, classification and cataloguing tools used ..." the first word (bibliographic) should be left out, as it seems meaningless.

During the 1998 conference in Copenhagen, it was mentioned by several that the introduction ought to be given in a world language in addition to the country's own language; e.g., the Norwegian introduction should be accompanied by a version in English (or German or ...). This point was not actually included in the recommendations, but NBAs should be encouraged to do this.

In general, the printed editions have much better introductions than other versions. The CD-ROM guidelines most often explain technical details and give very short (if any) information on the scope of the bibliography. If this information is given on the paper cover or in a separate user manual, it is lost if the CD is part of a local net (as it often is).

The web versions often completely lack information of the type found in printed introductions. Exceptions: Belgium, Denmark, Norway (where the information concerning the different parts of the bibliography is found in a separate database of databases connected to the bibliography parts and all texts are in Norwegian and English). Austria has good web information on the *Catalogue*. There may be other examples.

If a printed bibliography is issued in several numbers during the year, the introduction is often found only in the first number. In some cases it is found only in the annual volume or cumulated index (e.g., Russia). In these cases I would recommend that it be included also in the first number, which will be of help to those starting a subscription.

Some printed bibliographies lack an introduction or have only a very short introduction:

Albania (very short, but it is positive that it is also in English, French, and Russian), Ireland (very short), Romania (no introduction found in 1998, nos. 18-24 or 1999, nos. 1-6), Wales (very short).

These countries are not specified in the detailed listing below, as most or all of the information called for is missing.

Then to the details of paragraph 9:

Basis for the records: Most bibliographies are based on legal deposit, but this is not always mentioned in the introduction. Several countries should include this information (question mark means "probably" – due to a language difficulties or copies from numbers without introduction):

Estonia, Lithuania, Moldova (?), Netherlands, Russian Federation (?), Ukraine (?).

Coverage, including exceptions: Coverage is usually mentioned, but is missing in France. Exceptions are not mentioned by Latvia, Malta and Portugal.

Frequency is normally mentioned. In some cases (e.g. Ukraine) it is stated on the title page; e.g., a wording like “appears once a month”. It is not found in Malta’s bibliography.

Arrangement: Information on arrangement is found in all bibliographies, but not always in the introduction. In many cases it is revealed in the table of contents.

Classification tool, including national extensions: The classification (or sometimes subject heading system) is usually mentioned. If not, it will often be revealed in the table of contents. Most often only the name, e.g. “UDC” or “Dewey” is given, not the title of the actual classification tables. No mention of national extensions was found, but giving the title of a national classification schedule would probably be sufficient. Classification tool was not mentioned by Albania, Austria, Portugal, or Slovakia.

Cataloguing tool, including national extensions: The situation is very like the above. Phrasing like “AACR 2”, “ISBD” is often used, but more seldom the title of the cataloguing rules is given. Cataloguing tool is not mentioned by Albania, Liechtenstein, or Ukraine.

List of special terms, definitions and abbreviations: Such a list is often missing. It is not found in the NBs of Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Switzerland, Ukraine.

Outline of classification (if used): An outline is sometimes found in the introduction as a special list, sometimes in the table of contents, and in a few cases at the end of the issue (which is not practical). An outline is missing in: Czech Republic, Cyprus, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Macedonia, Netherlands, Portugal.

Outline of script conversions schemes: No such outline was found. In a few cases (too few!) transcription or transliteration system was mentioned in the introduction, e.g. that ISO’s standards were followed. It would probably be more practical and easier to follow if the IFLA Recommendations instead required information on script conversion system in the introduction.

Description of filing system: This information is seldom given and even more seldom in any detail. Many languages include special letters; e.g., the Scandinavian æ, ø, å. In what order such letters are filed should be mentioned, at least. Estonia and Latvia list their complete alphabets. Other countries which mention filing are: Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Systems requirements: This is relevant for floppy disks and CD-ROMs. The few examined outside local networks had sufficient information on the cover or in manual (e.g. Czech Republic, Portugal).

10) Bibliographic records based on internationally recognized standards; arrangement and access points

MARC based: Most bibliographies give information on standards used. Records created by electronic systems are usually based on MARC – either UNIMARC or a national MARC format. Where there are no online versions, ISBDs or AACR2 are used.

Records arranged in an appropriate manner: This has relevance for the printed editions. The 1977 recommendations state that the main arrangement of the current issues should be classified. This is not included in the new recommendations. Arrangement according to classification or broader subject groups is still dominant; this is found in 31 bibliographies. One is arranged according to LCSH (Wales), 7 are arranged

alphabetically by author. A couple are arranged in several groups of material, then classified within each type, and one is divided into one geographical and one classified part.

Additional necessary access points: In the printed editions additional access points are given in the indexes. There are several relevant indexes in most bibliographies. Switzerland's had better subject retrieval up to 1994, with a keyword index to the rather broad subject groups, but this index is not found later on.

In the CD-ROMs, even though there are usually a lot of access points, they are often difficult to use. Those which have boxes for entering queries (e.g. the French) are preferable to those in which search type like au= has to be entered. It is also often a problem to find out how to see the full records in a list of results.

In our view the web formats are much easier to use than the CD-ROMs. Most also have the possibility to choose between simple search and advanced search. The "advanced" is usually also easy to use, but presents more search possibilities.

11) Responsibility for preparing (or coordination of preparing) the national bibliography; adoption of international standards

Responsibility: The national library usually has the responsibility for preparing the bibliography. In some cases it has a coordinating function. In very few cases the bibliography is compiled by private persons. These exceptions from the general rule are listed here:

In Belarus, Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine a separate institution called in English "Book Chamber" is responsible for preparing the national bibliography. Belarus and Moldova in addition have a bibliography compiled by the National Library. Other countries of Eastern Europe which had a similar arrangement earlier, now regard this division of responsibility as inefficient and have now given the whole responsibility to the national library.

Czech Republic: the bibliography has been made co-operatively from 1998; records from all state libraries are included. In Finland, Ireland, and the United Kingdom, the bibliography is the result of the cooperation of two or several libraries.

Denmark: the National Library compiles some parts of the bibliography, but the registration of books is done by agreement by the Danish Bibliographic Centre (a commercial corporation).

Malta: the bibliography is compiled by persons who have retired from the National Library. The government is now considering giving the National Library a new status.

International standards and principles:

Cataloguing: Most bibliographies use AACR2 (some in a national version, sometimes with some exceptions) or ISBDs in connection with national rules for headings etc.

ISBN, ISSN: It is here assumed that ISSN is included if ISBN is. International standard numbers are used by most bibliographies, but missing in:

Albania, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Liechtenstein. (Of these only Liechtenstein does not have an ISBD agency.)

Script conversion: This point is difficult to answer properly. As usually only one volume or number of a bibliography (and in some cases only a copy of some pages) was examined, it was difficult to find examples of writers originally writing in another script than Roman (or Cyrillic, in the few cases where the national script was Cyrillic). It is also somewhat difficult to determine what a "national" or "international" standard for transcription is. There are the ISO standards, British standards, a Nordic one – and probably countries which do not use any of these, but have their own standard. The list below includes countries which do not use the ISO standards, as far as could be determined:

Belgium (?), Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Nor known: Belarus, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Ukraine.

Authority control: All bibliographies examined seem to have authority control today. In the web catalogues, especially where older records are concerned, different forms of the same name were found. Greece states that they do not have a proper authority control because of the declination of names.

Not known: Belarus and Moldova.

Classification: UDC or DDC is used in most bibliographies. Other systems are listed:

Denmark: *Desimalklassedeling* (based on DDC); Sweden: a special system, *Klassifikationssystem för svenska bibliotek* (with a letter notation).

Broad subject groups are found in the bibliographies of Austria, Belgium (Unesco groups), Cyprus (broad DDC headings), Germany (10 main classes of UDC and German subject headings; introduction of DDC is planned), Liechtenstein (broad decimal classification), Luxembourg, Netherlands (Unesco groups), and Switzerland. The “broad subject groups” have 20 to 37 groups, where nothing else is mentioned. Scotland uses LCSH “with modification.”

Metadata: This indicates systems like DC (Dublin Core) used for describing remote electronic resources. Such metadata were not found. In the few cases where “not hand-held” documents are included, description seems to follow ISBD rules.

Permanent naming of digital objects: No examples were found.

Summary of Europe

In general, most European bibliographies follow the IFLA Recommendations. And it is impressive to see how many of the Eastern European countries have modernized their national bibliographies.

Legal deposit exists in most countries, and old deposit laws are found in few countries. A national bibliography exists in almost every country and is compiled or edited by the National Library. In Malta there is a need for better organization and probably also in the four former Soviet states.

Coverage is satisfactory. Other scripts than Roman (with the exception of Cyrillic and Greek in some countries) are transcribed. Name of transcription system is seldom mentioned in the introductions.

The predominant format is still the printed bibliography; only four out of 42 do not exist as paper editions. Probably some countries need to think about acid-free paper. Microform is found only in three countries. Online bibliographies are usual, and 18 CD-ROM editions exist. Some online bibliographies can be accessed through the web, but usually for a fee. Library catalogues are accessible through the web without fee in more cases. Bibliographies existing only in electronic format ought to be preserved by annual paper offprints of the year's production from the database on acid free paper.

Timeliness needs to improve in several bibliographies, as well as distribution.

Cumulations: Most bibliographies are published several times a year. Only nine bibliographies are published only as an annual or multi-annual volume. Web lists of new books are found in three countries.

Information included in the bibliographies for identification purposes is usually satisfactory, but CIP, price, publisher's address and copyright symbol are often missing.

A good introduction is found in most printed bibliographies, but it ought to be included in all issues of a year, not only the first or the last. No introductory pages give outlines of script conversion schemes and description of filing system is seldom found. Albania, Ireland, Romania, and Wales ought to include a detailed introduction. CD-ROMs ought to include an introduction in the CD, and web bibliographies ought to have a link to introductory information.

The main part of the printed bibliographies is usually classified. A few are arranged otherwise, usually alphabetically by author. There are relevant indexes.

International standards and principles are used in the bibliographies: MARC format, ISBDs and AACR2. ISBN is missing in five bibliographies. Script conversion system is seldom mentioned, but the examples which were found indicate that some international system is used. Authority control is probably used by all bibliographies but the Greek. UDC and DDC classifications are used by most; other systems are broad classification groups (usually based on Unesco's), LCSH, and national systems.

Metadata and examples of permanent naming of digital objects were not found.

List of strong and weak points

Countries without national bibliography:

ANDORRA

MONACO (included in France on basis of voluntary deposit)

Findings which may inspire others:

BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA: National bibliography compiled under very difficult circumstances during and after the war and bombing of the national library in 1992.

ESTONIA: Not only preface, but also headings in the bibliography in English as well as in Estonian. Good outline of letter order in filing system.

BELGIUM: A monthly web accession list to the national bibliography with free access is found here:

<http://www.kbr.be/bb/fr/Bbstr1.htm>

CROATIA: Successful in getting rid of book backlogs in 2000.

CZECH REPUBLIC: The bibliography has been made co-operatively from 1998; a retrospective cataloguing project has added the majority of 20th century books to the database.

DENMARK: Good web information on the national bibliography – with links to descriptions and to some parts of the bibliography at this address (though the text is only in Danish):

<http://www.kb.dk/formidl/natbib/>

The new *Act on Copyright Deposit of Published Works* is found (in English) here:

<http://www.kb.dk/kb/dept/nbo/da/pligtafl/pligt-en.htm>

GREECE: Backside of cover has a useful list of earlier volumes with year of publication.

HUNGARY: A semi-monthly web accession list to the national bibliography with free access and a short guide to the bibliography (in English) is found here:

<http://www.oszk.hu/cgi-bin/mainform.cgi/bib/0506/index-en.html>

LATVIA: Good outline of letter order in filing system.

NORWAY: Good web information on the national bibliography – with links to descriptions and to the parts of the bibliography at this address (texts on homepage by May 2001 only in Norwegian – English version is under development – but the descriptions and the search forms of the bibliography parts are also in English):

<http://www.nb.no/baser/>

A retrospective cataloguing project has added the majority of 20th century books to the database.

SWEDEN: A weekly web accession list to the national bibliography with free access and information on the bibliography (but only in Swedish) is found here:

<http://www.svb.se/svbokforteckn.htm>

UNITED KINGDOM: The bibliography is made co-operatively.

Some points for improvement:

ALBANIA: Very short introduction

BELARUS: Two bibliographies

BELGIUM: Revision of legal deposit law

BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA: Timeliness (and only multiannual volumes)

CROATIA: No cumulated index found

CYPRUS: Revision of legal deposit law; Only annual volume

FINLAND: Revision of legal deposit law

GERMANY: Timeliness

GREECE: Revision of legal deposit law; Timeliness (and only annual volume)

HUNGARY: Timeliness; No longer annual index

ICELAND: Revision of legal deposit law

IRELAND: Revision of legal deposit law; Timeliness (and only annual volume); Very short introduction

LIECHTENSTEIN: Revision of legal deposit law; Only annual volume

LUXEMBOURG: Timeliness (and only annual volume)

MALTA: Timeliness

MOLDOVA: Two bibliographies

NETHERLANDS: Timeliness

NORWAY: Timeliness

POLAND: Revision of legal deposit law

PORTUGAL: Revision of legal deposit law

ROMANIA: No introduction

SCOTLAND: Only annual volume

SLOVENIA: Revision of legal deposit law

SWITZERLAND: Subject index to broad subject groups is missing

UKRAINE: Bibliography compiled by Book Chamber, legal deposit at the National Library

WALES: Timeliness (and only annual volume); Very short introduction.

Nations of North America, Central America, and the Caribbean

19 nations are included in this survey:

North America: Canada, United States, Mexico;

Central America: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama;

Caribbean: Barbados, Bermuda, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago.

Of these 19 countries ten have a national bibliography or a substitute today. Below the countries are listed in the order North America – Central America – Caribbean.

1) Legal deposit

North America: Canada has a legal deposit act (1985 + 1995) and a national bibliography. The national library staff members are currently working on revisions of the *National Library Act* and the *Book Deposit Regulations* to accommodate legal deposit of online electronic documents. The United States has a Copyright Law, not a legal deposit law as such. The United States does not have a national bibliography following ICNBS recommendations; however, *Books U.S.*, which includes those books published in the US for a specific time period, can be extracted from the NUC (*National Union Catalog*) database upon special request. Mexico has a legal deposit act and decrees from the 1950s and '60s and a national bibliography.

Central America: All the seven countries of Central America except Nicaragua have legal deposit laws, but none was passed after 1990. The law of Honduras is not effective. Five countries do not have a national bibliography: Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama. Of these, Honduras had one until (probably) 1984. Two countries have bibliographies: Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Caribbean: Legal deposit laws exist in six of the nine listed countries (not in Dominica, Jamaica and Puerto Rico) – but Haiti's is not effective. All the laws are old. Of the nine countries four do not have a current national bibliography: Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Puerto Rico. Of these the Dominican Republic has a legal deposit act (1971) and had a bibliography up to 1982, Haiti has a law that is not effective, Puerto Rico does not have a law but had a national bibliography up to 1975. Of the four countries without a national bibliography, Dominica was included in the *CARICOM bibliography* (published 1977-1986); Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Puerto Rico are included in *Bibliografía actual del Caribe*.

The five current national bibliographies are published by Barbados, Bermuda, Cuba, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. All have old legal deposit laws except Jamaica, which has no law.

4, 5) Coverage and scripts

All bibliographies register documents published in the country; some also include some documents published abroad by the citizens of the country and/or dealing with the country, written by foreigners.

Only Latin script is found in the bibliographies. When translations of works originally written in another script were found, the author's names (and sometimes original titles) were given in transcription/transliteration. Canada is investigating the capability of its system to use non-Latin script.

Information on original language was found in the bibliographies of North America. It is not given by Nicaragua. It is not known for Costa Rica, as no examples were found. In the Caribbean publications there seemed to be few translations; only one was found in the bibliography of Cuba (a translation from Russian without original title).

6-10) Presentation and timeliness of the national bibliography

6) Formats

Printed: Of the ten national bibliographies there is no printed edition in North America – though Canada's *Forthcoming Books* (a monthly publication of titles processed by the National Library of Canada's Canadian Cataloguing in Publication (CIP) program) might be mentioned. There is one in Central America (Nicaragua).

In the Caribbean all existing bibliographies are printed: Barbados, Bermuda, Cuba, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

These countries published a printed edition earlier, but not today: Canada until 1992, Mexico until 1992, and Costa Rica until 1995.

Microform is rare. It was found only in Canada until recently, but is no longer published. *Books U.S.* is published as part of Library of Congress's microform edition *NUC books*.

Online: The bibliography is online in Canada and Mexico. *Books U.S.* is online, included in the Library of Congress catalogue; separately only as tape. In Central America, an online bibliography is found in Costa Rica. In the Caribbean, Barbados' bibliography is online on *Caribbean online*, a regional database (according to letter to Bell 1996).

CD-ROM is found only in Canada.

Web access: Only Canada's bibliography has web access (by subscription). United States's *Books U.S.* is included in the Library of Congress catalogue. No Central American bibliography or catalogue has web access. Jamaica plans web access, according to its National Library homepages.

All bibliographies have formats according to internationally approved standards.

Formats for archiving/preservation: Canada has a CD-ROM and has made a commitment to continue producing a microfiche master copy for archiving. Mexico uses disks and ought to take annual offprints of the increase of the database for preservation. Of the two Central American bibliographies Nicaragua's is printed, whereas Costa Rica uses disks and ought to take annual offprints. The five bibliographies of the Caribbean are all printed.

7) Timeliness

Timeliness and distribution: In Canada timeliness and distribution are good. In Mexico timeliness is good, but distribution could be improved. Timeliness is not within the scope of *U.S. Books*, as it includes U.S. imprints regardless of date. In the two existing Central American bibliographies (Costa Rica and Nicaragua) timeliness is not so good, and distribution might also be improved. Timeliness is not so good in the Caribbean, but in Barbados it became much better in the 1990s.

Cumulations: The Canadian microform edition is published monthly, and in five-year and multi-year cumulations. The Mexican and Central American bibliographies do not have cumulations. The bibliographies of Barbados, Bermuda, and Jamaica are published quarterly with annual cumulations; Cuba has an annual bibliography; Trinidad and Tobago's bibliography was published quarterly until 1987, but is now published once a year or every second year.

8) Information included on the national bibliography itself for identification purposes

As stated at this paragraph in the survey of Europe, some of the information at this point is given in Bell's *Annotated Guide*, but the *Guide* does not state where this information is found in the national bibliography is not stated in Bell's bibliography (e.g., verso of title page, introduction, colophon). Concerning availability and price, the information below may be wrong, even when the bibliographies have been examined, as this information may have been given on covers which are not included in bound volumes.

The following information is found in all national bibliographies of North America, Central America and the Caribbean:

Title, period covered by the issue, place and name of publisher, date of publication.

ISBN is found in Canada, United States, Costa Rica, Barbados, Bermuda, Cuba, and Jamaica. It is lacking in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Copyright information, CIP entry, availability and price: as mentioned above, for several reasons these points cannot be described in detail, but are only summarized briefly. Canada meets the requirements. All bibliographies have information on the publisher, but not all include the copyright symbol ©. CIP is not practiced in all countries and is therefore often not found. The publisher is always given, but the exact address is sometimes missing. Price is sometimes given.

9) Introduction or user guide to the national bibliography

(For introductory passages to this paragraph, please confer under the survey of Europe).

The Mexican printed bibliography examined did not have an introduction. It was also missing in the file Bell saw in 1997. Mexico is therefore not included in the following specifications.

Concerning the Canadian bibliography good information was found in the CD-ROM guide. It was also easily found on the National Library homepages until they were changed during Spring 2001. Canada also plans to use the web more extensively for full explanations of cataloguing policies and practices. The user manual of *Books U.S.* gives all relevant information.

Then to the details of paragraph 9:

Basis for the records: This is mentioned in most introductions, but not in the bibliography of Cuba. (As Cuba has a legal deposit law, the basis most probably is legal deposit.)

Coverage, including exceptions: Coverage is mentioned in all bibliographies. Exceptions are mentioned by Canada, Nicaragua (not by Costa Rica), and the Caribbean bibliographies, except Bermuda.

Frequency is normally mentioned, but not by Nicaragua. Canada had good web information.

Arrangement: Information is found in all printed bibliographies.

Classification tool, including national extensions: Information on classification was not found in Canada's bibliography (if it is mentioned on the web, it is not easily found). It is mentioned in the bibliography of Costa Rica. It is not relevant for Nicaragua as the entries are not classified. Information on classification is found in all the Caribbean bibliographies but Cuba's.

Cataloguing tool, including national extensions: Cataloguing tool seems to be mentioned by all. The bibliography of Jamaica describes the details of an entry and gives examples but does not give the name of the cataloguing rules.

List of special terms, definitions and abbreviations: Such a list is found in most bibliographies, but not in those of Canada, Nicaragua, and Cuba.

Outline of classification (if used): is not found in Canada's bibliography. In Central America it is not given by Costa Rica (but an alphabetical list of subject headings is found), nor by Nicaragua (not relevant, entries are not classified). All the Caribbean bibliographies except Cuba's include an outline of classification.

Outline of script conversions schemes: No such outline was found.

Description of filing system: Such information was not found in the Canadian or the Central American bibliographies. The Caribbean bibliographies, except Bermuda's, included the information.

Systems requirements: Such information is relevant for Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Barbados. For Canada the information is found on the web and the CD-ROM guide. The other online bibliographies were not seen.

10) Bibliographic records based on internationally recognized standards; arrangement and access points

MARC based: In general, all the bibliographies have records based on internationally recognized standards. The Canadian bibliography and *Books U.S.* use a MARC format, and so does the Mexican. In general, international standards are used by all countries.

Records arranged in an appropriate manner: This has relevance for the printed editions and is satisfactory in all.

Additional necessary access points: In the printed editions additional access points are given in relevant indexes.

11) Responsibility for preparing (or coordination of preparing) the national bibliography; Adoption of international standards

Responsibility: The national library is responsible in all countries, except in Trinidad and Tobago. Their bibliography is compiled by Central Library of Trinidad and Tobago and University of West Indies Library. (One of these libraries may be designated as the national library but Trinidad and Tobago is not found on IFLA's list of national libraries.)

International standards and principles:

Cataloguing: All bibliographies use AACR 2 or ISBDs.

ISBN, ISSN: It is assumed that ISSN is included if ISBN is – though this may be wrong. The international standard numbers are used by most bibliographies, but not by the Central American bibliographies of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, nor by the Caribbean of Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago.

Script conversion: It has been difficult to find examples. It is assumed that the British conversion schemes are used if relevant.

Authority control: All bibliographies examined seem to have authority control today.

Classification: DDC is used by all bibliographies except Nicaragua's, where entries are not classified. *Books U.S.* has LC classification.

Metadata are not found.

Permanent naming of digital objects: No examples were found.

Summary of North America (including Central America and the Caribbean)

Legal deposit exists in North America (in the United States through its copyright law), in all seven countries of Central America except Nicaragua, and in six of the nine Caribbean countries (not in Dominica, Jamaica and Puerto Rico – in addition, the Haitian law is not effective). The newest law is Canada's of 1995, where work on a newer law including electronic resources is in progress.

Of the 19 countries ten have a current national bibliography or a substitute. Current national bibliographies or substitutes are not found in five of Central America's seven countries: Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama, nor in four of Caribbean's seven: Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Puerto Rico.

The national library is responsible for compiling the national bibliography in all countries, except in Trinidad and Tobago.

Coverage is satisfactory. Only Latin script is found. Canada is investigating the capability of its system to use non-Latin script. Information on original language is not given by Nicaragua and not in the few examples found in the Caribbean bibliographies.

A printed bibliography does not exist in North America. In Central America one (the Nicaraguan) of the two existing is printed and all the Caribbean five. Library of Congress's *NUC books* is the only microform edition. The bibliography is online in North America, in Costa Rica, and in Barbados (on *Caribbean online*, a regional database). CD-ROM is found only in Canada. Web access: Only Canada's bibliography has web access (by subscription); United States's *Books U.S.* is included in the Library of Congress catalogue. No Central American bibliography or catalogue has web access. Jamaica plans web access, according to the National Library homepages.

Timeliness needs to improve in the bibliographies of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and in all the Caribbean. In these countries, as well as in Mexico, distribution also could be improved.

Five of the ten bibliographies have cumulations, but not the Mexican, the two Central American, the Cuban, or Trinidad and Tobago's.

Information included in the bibliographies for identification purposes: Title, period covered by the issue, place and name of publisher, date of publication are found in all bibliographies. ISBN is lacking in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Trinidad and Tobago. Probably only Canada includes copyright information, as well as CIP, availability and price.

Mexico's printed bibliography does not have an introduction.

The manual of *Books U.S.* offers good information on the bibliography. Canada's homepages earlier had excellent information, but after the change of layout and links in Spring 2001 this information has been difficult to find. It is to be hoped that the former links are to be re-established, as they might serve as examples for others who want to use the web for information on their national bibliography.

Out of the points concerning the introduction which are mentioned in the IFLA recommendation, coverage, arrangement, and cataloguing tool were mentioned in all bibliographies. Some of the other points were missing in one or more bibliographies.

Arrangement of the printed bibliographies is satisfactory and there are relevant indexes.

International standards and principles are usually used in the bibliographies.

Metadata and examples of permanent naming of digital objects were not found.

List of strong and weak points

Countries without a legal deposit law:

DOMINICA
JAMAICA
NICARAGUA
PUERTO RICO (but has copyright law and regulations for the National Archives)
UNITED STATES (copyright law)

Countries without a current national bibliography or a substitute today:

BELIZE
DOMINICA (no legal deposit law)
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
EL SALVADOR
GUATEMALA
HAITI (ineffective legal deposit law)
HONDURAS (ineffective legal deposit law)
PANAMA
PUERTO RICO

Findings which may inspire others:

BARBADOS: Very good introduction; Timeliness has become much better during the '90s
BERMUDA: Timeliness has become better in the late '90s
CANADA: The web pages until Spring 2001 offered good information on the national bibliography, easily found. (Hoping that the links will turn up again, I include them, as the presentation was exceptionally good):
<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/canadiana/ecndian1.htm>
There was a demo of the CD-ROM at this address:
<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/canadiana/edemo.htm>

Some points for improvement:

BARBADOS: Revision of legal deposit law
BERMUDA: Revision of legal deposit law
COSTA RICA: Revision of legal deposit law; timeliness
CUBA: Revision of legal deposit law; timeliness
JAMAICA: No legal deposit law; timeliness
MEXICO: Revision of legal deposit law; no introduction
NICARAGUA: No legal deposit law; timeliness
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Revision of legal deposit law; timeliness

South American Nations

13 nations are included in this survey: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela.

1) Legal deposit

Of the 13 nations in South America five do not have national bibliographies: Argentina, Ecuador, French Guiana, Paraguay, and Suriname. Of these Argentina, Ecuador, and Paraguay have legal deposit laws; Paraguay's is the newest (1951 + 1988). Argentina published a national bibliography 1937-1956, and Ecuador 1982-1987. In Paraguay several private persons have compiled retrospective bibliographies. For Suriname two retrospective bibliographies have been published in the Netherlands, and they are also included in the *Caribbean collection quarterly accession list* (published in Curacao, 1973/74-1984? Ceased?).

The eight countries publishing a national bibliography are: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guyana (perhaps in hiatus; 1991 the last volume?), Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Bolivia is included, even though this bibliography is not an official national bibliography based on legal deposit. These countries have legal deposit laws, rather old, some with amendments from the 1970s - 80s. Colombia got a new decree in 1995.

4-5) Coverage and scripts

All countries but Colombia register documents published in the country; some also include documents published abroad by the country's citizens and/or dealing with the country, written by foreigners. Colombia includes publications in Spanish and some published abroad.

Only Latin script is found in the bibliographies. When translations of works originally written in another script were found, the author's names (and sometimes original titles) are given in transcription/transliteration.

Information on original language is found in these bibliographies: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Venezuela. It is not given by Bolivia and Uruguay. It is not known for Guyana, as no examples were found.

6-10) The presentation and timeliness of the national bibliography

6) Formats

Printed: Of South America's eight national bibliographies, six are printed: Bolivia, Colombia, Guyana (duplicated), Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Two countries had a printed edition earlier, but are published in another format today: Brazil until 1966 (now microform, online, CD-ROM) and Chile until 1982 (now microform, online, web access).

Microform is found in Brazil, Chile, and Colombia (for some years).

Online: The bibliography is online in Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Venezuela, and probably also in Bolivia (Bell's *Guide*: planned for 1997). Not online: Colombia and Guyana (plans exist in both countries).

CD-ROM is found only in Brazil. Chile: not known. The other six bibliographies do not have a CD-ROM edition.

Web access: Only Chile's national bibliography (of 1999) has web access. In addition Brazil, Chile, and Venezuela's catalogues are on the web.

All bibliographies have formats according to internationally approved standards. Colombia uses ALA and LC rules with modifications, not ISBD.

Formats for archiving/preservation: Of the eight bibliographies of South America six are printed - not Brazil and Chile's. These both have microform editions and Brazil also has CD-ROM.

Conclusion: For the time being, paper editions still have a strong position. Microform editions exist in two countries. Web access (to the library catalogue or the national bibliography) is developing rapidly and is found in four countries.

7) Timeliness

Timeliness and distribution: Timeliness is good in Bolivia and Brazil and has become much better in Peru (1999 was published in April 2000; in February 2000 *Addenda 1990-98* was published). Uruguay also is publishing in a more timely manner than earlier. Timeliness is not so good in Chile, Colombia, Guyana, and Venezuela. Distribution could be better, probably in all countries (though not known for Chile and Peru).

Cumulations: There are annual editions in Bolivia (printed), Chile (microform) and Uruguay (printed). Brazil's microform and Guyana's duplicated edition are published quarterly with annual cumulated index, Venezuela's printed edition is semiannual with annual cumulation. Colombia published 1991/92 in one volume. Peru's printed bibliography is irregular.

8) Information included on the national bibliography itself for identification purposes

As stated at this paragraph in the survey of Europe, some of the information at this point is not given in Bell's *Annotated Guide*, some is given, but it is not stated where the information was found in the bibliography, e.g., introduction, title page, colophon, etc. Concerning availability and price, the information below may be wrong, even when the bibliographies have been examined, as this information may have been given on covers which are not included in bound volumes.

The following information is found in all South American national bibliographies:
Title, period covered by the issue, place and name of publisher, date of publication.

ISBN is found in Brazil, Colombia, Guyana, Uruguay, and Venezuela. It is lacking in Bolivia, Chile, and Peru (Peru will include ISSN from 2000).

Copyright information, CIP entry, availability and price: as mentioned above, for several reasons these points cannot be described in detail, but are only summarized briefly. All bibliographies have information on the publisher, but not all include the copyright symbol ©. CIP was found in the bibliographies of Brazil, Guyana, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela – not in Colombia's. Not known: Chile. The publisher is always given, but the exact address is sometimes missing. Price is sometimes given; Peru will include it from 2000.

9) Introduction or user guide to the national bibliography

(For introductory passages to this paragraph, please see the survey on Europe).

The Colombian introduction is short and should be encouraged to include more information. It is therefore not included in the listings below.

Then to the details of paragraph 9:

Basis for the records: The bibliographies are based on legal deposit. Bolivia should include this information.

Coverage, including exceptions: Coverage is mentioned in all bibliographies. Exceptions are mentioned by Guyana, Peru, and Uruguay (not by Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Venezuela).

Frequency is normally mentioned, though not by Peru or Colombia (but in the Colombia bibliography frequency was given at the end of the publication). Not known: Uruguay.

Arrangement: Information on arrangement is found in all bibliographies, but not always in the introduction. In many cases it is understood by the table of contents.

Classification tool, including national extensions: Classification is mentioned where it is relevant, i.e. in all bibliographies except Colombia's, where entries are not classified.

Cataloguing tool, including national extensions: Cataloguing tool is mentioned by all.

List of special terms, definitions and abbreviations: Such a list is found in most bibliographies, but not in Brazil's or Venezuela's.

Outline of classification (if used): is given by Brazil, Guyana, and Uruguay. It is not found in Bolivia, Chile (?), and Venezuela. It is not relevant for Colombia, where entries are not classed.

Outline of script conversions schemes: No such outline was found.

Description of filing system: This information is probably not given in any bibliography. Chile, Uruguay, and Venezuela definitely do not have it.

Systems requirements: This is relevant for floppy disks and CD-ROMS. As I have seen few of these, I cannot give full information on this point. Brazil's CD was not seen.

10) Bibliographic records based on internationally recognized standards; arrangement and access points

MARC based: The online bibliographies (Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Venezuela) have MARC formats. It is not known if Bolivia's is online. In general, international standards are used by all countries – by Colombia to a certain degree, as ALA and LC rules are followed.

Records arranged in an appropriate manner: This has relevance for the printed editions and is satisfactory in all but the Venezuelan bibliography, where the main part is arranged according to national bibliography number (given chronologically according to cataloguing date).

Additional necessary access points: In the printed editions additional access points are given in relevant indexes.

11) Responsibility for preparing (or coordination of preparing) the national bibliography; Adoption of international standards

Responsibility: The national library is responsible in all countries but Bolivia, where it is compiled retrospectively by private persons. In Colombia it is not compiled by Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia; the later volumes are compiled by Romero Rojas, Head of Department of Bibliography, Instituto Caro y Cuervo, which has published the bibliography since 1956. The latest legal deposit regulation (1995), however, excludes this institution for legal deposit.

International standards and principles:

Cataloguing: All bibliographies use AACR2 except Colombia's, which uses ALA and LC rules.

ISBN, ISSN: It is assumed that ISSN is included if ISBN is, but this may not always be the case. The international standard numbers are used by most bibliographies (Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Venezuela); but not by Guyana, Peru, and Uruguay.

Script conversion: It has been difficult to find examples. Some are found in Brazil and Colombia, which seem to use English script conversion.

Authority control: All bibliographies examined seem to have authority control today. Brazil and Chile have very good web solutions.

Classification: When entries are classified, DDC is used. Venezuela also has LC classification and a local scheme.

Metadata are not found.

Permanent naming of digital objects: No examples were found.

Summary of South America

Legal deposit exists in 11 of South America's 13 countries (not in French Guyana and Suriname).

Eight countries have a national bibliography or a substitute; five do not (Argentina, Ecuador, French Guyana, Paraguay, and Suriname).

The national library is responsible in all countries but Bolivia, where it is compiled retrospectively by private persons. In Colombia, the more recent volumes were compiled by a private institute, but this may no longer be the case.

Coverage is generally satisfactory, but Colombia includes only publications in Spanish (and some published abroad). In the few cases translations of works originally written in another script were found, the author's names (and sometimes original titles) were given in transcription. Information on original language was not given by Bolivia and Uruguay.

Paper editions have a strong position: six of the eight bibliographies are printed today (not Brazil and Chile). Microform editions are found in Brazil and Chile. Online versions exist for all except Colombia and Guyana. CD-ROM is found in Brazil. Web access is developing rapidly: only Chile's national bibliography (of 1999) has web access, but in addition Brazil, Chile, and Venezuela's catalogues are on the web.

All bibliographies have formats according to internationally-approved standards. Colombia uses ALA and LC rules with modifications, not ISBD.

Timeliness is good in Bolivia and Brazil, has become better than earlier in Peru and Uruguay and is not so good in Chile, Colombia, Guyana, and Venezuela. Distribution could be better, probably in all countries (though not known for Chile and Peru).

Brazil's microform and Guyana's duplicated edition are published quarterly with annual cumulated index.

Information included in the bibliographies for identification purposes: Title, period covered by the issue, place and name of publisher, date of publication are included in all bibliographies. ISBN is lacking in Bolivia, Chile, and Peru (Peru will include ISSN from 2000). As for copyright information, CIP entry, availability and price: CIP was found in the bibliographies of Brazil, Guyana, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela – not in Colombia's. Not

known: Chile. The publisher is always given, but the exact address is sometimes missing. Price is sometimes given; Peru will include it from 2000.

The Colombian introduction is short and should include more information.

Bolivia should include information on legal deposit in the introduction.

Coverage is mentioned in all bibliographies, but exceptions only by Guyana, Peru, and Uruguay. Other points which ought to be mentioned in the introductions: not all bibliographies include all points. Outlines of script conversions were not included, and description of filing system not given.

In general, international standards are used by all countries – by Colombia to a certain degree, as ALA and LC rules are followed.

Arrangement is satisfactory in all but the Venezuelan bibliography, where the main part is arranged according to national bibliography number (given chronologically according to cataloguing date). All bibliographies have relevant indexes.

Metadata and examples of permanent naming of digital objects were not found.

List of strong and weak points

Countries without a legal deposit law:

FRENCH GUYANA
SURINAME

Countries without a national bibliography today:

ARGENTINA
ECUADOR
FRENCH GUIANA (no legal deposit law)
PARAGUAY
SURINAME (no legal deposit law)

Findings which may inspire others:

BRAZIL: Very good web authority index (of the catalogue) at this address:

<http://www.bn.br/index2.html>

CHILE: Good web authority index (of the bibliography) at this address:

<http://200.28.149.230:4505/ALEPH/SESSION-93062/start/libros>

PERU: Timeliness is now good and a volume of *Addenda* 1990-98 was published in 2000

URUGUAY: Timeliness has improved

Some points for improvement:

ARGENTINA: Revision of legal deposit law

BOLIVIA: Bibliography not published by the National Library

CHILE: Timeliness

COLOMBIA: Includes publications in Spanish only; Timeliness; Introduction is very short;
Bibliography published by another institution

ECUADOR: Revision of legal deposit law

GUYANA: Timeliness

VENEZUELA: Timeliness; Arrangement according to national library accession number
(given chronologically according to cataloguing date)

Nations of Oceania, including Australia and New Zealand

Five countries are included in this survey: Australia, Fiji, Micronesia, New Zealand, and Tokelau. Of these, Fiji had a national bibliography until 1987, but it is now included in the regional *South Pacific bibliography* (Suva : University of the South Pacific Library, Pacific Information Centre ; 1982-). Micronesia has no national bibliography, but is also included in *South Pacific bibliography*.

1) Legal deposit

Australia, Fiji, and New Zealand have legal deposit laws. Australia's is dated 1968 and includes printed publications only, but a reform is in progress. New Zealand's is from 1994. Tokelau has no law, but the New Zealand deposit act gives this country the responsibility to collect Tokelau material.

4-5) Coverage and scripts

Publications in any language published in the country are registered. New Zealand and Tokelau also include foreign works on the country and citizens' works published abroad.

Other scripts than Latin are in transcription/transliteration. Information on original title is given by Australia (in main catalogue seen through the web) and New Zealand. Tokelau: not known, as no examples were found in copy.

6-10) The presentation and timeliness of the national bibliography

6) Formats

Printed: The Tokelau bibliography is printed. The first volume was published in 1992; the next edition is planned for 2001/2002. Australia's covers up to 1997, and New Zealand's to 1982.

Microform is found in New Zealand.

Online: All three bibliographies are online.

CD-ROM: The New Zealand national bibliographic database Te Puna (which also includes Tokelau material) is published twice a year.

Web access: Australia's catalogue is on the web (the bibliography is available as ASCII files). New Zealand's catalogue is also on the web, but the national bibliography is available only to subscribers in the Te Puna national bibliographic database; a monthly list of new books is available without fee. Tokelau's bibliography is included in Te Puna. All bibliographies have formats according to internationally approved standards.

Formats for archiving/preservation: Australia's policy for archiving is not known. New Zealand has a microform edition and Tokelau has a printed edition.

Conclusion: Paper editions are not usual in Oceania, as only one out of three exists (or existed). Web access to the catalogue is available in all three countries.

7) Timeliness

Timeliness and distribution: Timeliness is probably good in the online versions. The New Zealand web bibliography of July 2000 mainly includes titles published in 2000, and a few from 1999. New Zealand also has monthly lists of new books on the web.

Cumulations: exist in the databases and the New Zealand Cd-rom Te Puna, which is published twice a year.

8) Information included on the national bibliography itself for identification purposes

Concerning the bibliographies of Australia, New Zealand, and Tokelau, the necessary information should now be given on the web. New Zealand has good information which is easily found on its own and on the Tokelau bibliography. Such information was not found on the Australian web pages – if it is there, it should be made easier to find. There is good information on the catalogue.

The following information is partly found in Bell's *Annotated Guide*, relating to the printed editions, and partly on the web.

Title, period covered by the issue, place of publisher, name of publisher, date of publication, and international identification number are found in all.

Copyright information and CIP entry were not found.

Availability: Information on availability was not found on the Australian homepage, but was found (also concerning Tokelau) on the New Zealand homepage.

Price: The New Zealand web pages give information on price.

9) Introduction or user guide to the national bibliography

In connection with electronic media it is practical when the introduction is found on the web (and in the CD-ROM – this is not seen in this case).

New Zealand gives good information, easily found. This is not the case with Australia, where some information is found here and there on the different pages – mostly under “*Kinetica*” – but then one has to know this is a heading for the national database of material held in Australian libraries.

Basis for the records: Australia: the records are derived from *Kinetica*, the national union bibliographic database. New Zealand (and Tokelau): records are based on legal deposit.

Coverage, including exceptions: Information found under “*Kinetica*.” *Kinetica* web; Choice of databases; National bibliographic database, where coverage is listed (exceptions not mentioned). New Zealand (and Tokelau): a long and detailed list is found on the web.

Frequency: mentioned concerning Australia and New Zealand, not Tokelau.

Arrangement: Mentioned by all (printed editions). Arrangement is easily seen in the New Zealand monthly web lists of new books.

Classification tool, including national extensions: Mentioned by Australia and New Zealand, but not concerning Tokelau entries.

Cataloguing tool, including national extensions: Not mentioned by any of the three.

List of special terms, definitions and abbreviations: No lists were found.

Outline of classification (if used): Not found in Australia, found in New Zealand's "Sample file".

Outline of script conversions schemes: No such outline was found.

Description of filing system: Not found concerning Australia; found (but not in detail) concerning New Zealand.

Systems requirements: New Zealand's web pages give such information concerning the files on the web, not on the CD-ROM.

10) Bibliographic records based on internationally recognized standards; arrangement and access points

MARC based: Yes, Australia and New Zealand.

Records arranged in an appropriate manner; Additional necessary access points: There are the necessary search possibilities.

11) Responsibility for preparing (or coordination of preparing) the national bibliography; Adoption of international standards

Responsibility: The National Library of Australia is responsible, but is planning decentralized cataloguing. The National Library of New Zealand is mainly responsible, but the bibliography includes some entries (mainly technical publications) done by others. These have a note "contributed cataloguing". The bibliography of Tokelau (1st edition 1992) was compiled by persons from Ofiha o no Matkupa Tokelau and New Zealand National Bibliography. Under New Zealand legal deposit legislation, the National Library of New Zealand has responsibility for collecting Tokelau material.

International standards and principles:

Cataloguing: All bibliographies use AACR2 / ISBD.

ISBN, ISSN: Are included.

Script conversion: It has been difficult to find examples. Australia seems to use the English standard.

Authority control: is used.

Classification: DDC is used.

Metadata are not found.

Permanent naming of digital objects: No examples were found.

Summary of Oceania with Australia and New Zealand

Legal deposit exists in three of the five included countries: Australia, Fiji, and New Zealand. Under New Zealand legal deposit legislation, the National Library of New Zealand has responsibility for collecting Tokelau material.

A national bibliography exists in Australia, New Zealand, and Tokelau.

The national library is responsible in Australia and New Zealand. The material for the bibliography of Tokelau is collected by the National Library of New Zealand.

Coverage is satisfactory. Other scripts than Latin are in transcription/transliteration. Information on original title is given by Australia (in main catalogue seen through the web) and New Zealand. Tokelau: not known, as no examples were found in copy.

A paper edition exists in Tokelau. Microform is found in New Zealand. Online versions exist for all three bibliographies. A Cd-rom edition of the New Zealand national bibliographic database Te Puna (which also includes Tokelau material) exists. Web access: Australia's catalogue is on the web (the bibliography is available as ASCII files). New Zealand's catalogue is also on the web, whereas the national bibliography is available only to subscribers to the Te Puna national bibliographic database. Tokelau's bibliography is included in Te Puna.

All bibliographies have formats according to internationally approved standards.

Timeliness is good in the online versions.

Cumulations: The Te Puna CD-ROM is published twice a year.

Information on the bibliographies for identification purposes ought to be given on the web. Such information concerning the New Zealand and Tokelau bibliographies was easily found, but not information on the Australian bibliography.

International standards and authority control are used by all three bibliographies.

Metadata and examples of permanent naming of digital objects were not found.

List of strong and weak points

Countries without a legal deposit law:

MICRONESIA

TOKELAU (but New Zealand has responsibility for collecting Tokelau material)

Countries without a national bibliography today:

FIJI (included in regional bibliography)

MICRONESIA (no legal deposit law) (included in regional bibliography)

Findings which may inspire others:

AUSTRALIA: Revision of old legal deposit law is in progress; Decentralized cataloguing being planned

NEW ZEALAND: Good web information on its own and Tokelau's national bibliography at this site:

<http://www.natlib.govt.nz/en/services/libraries/bibliography.html>

A monthly web accession list to the national bibliography with free access is found here:

<http://tepuna.natlib.govt.nz/abouttp/abnznb/about.html>

Point for improvement:

AUSTRALIA: Web information on the bibliography is difficult to find

REOCCURRING POINTS IN THE SUMMARIES

- 1) Legal deposit laws need to be up-dated and revised to be effective for today and the future. Most legal deposit laws were written many decades ago and do not include electronic publishing formats. Many countries (especially in Africa and Asia) also indicate problems in getting printed materials from the publishers. Communication between the National Library and the publishers may need improvement.
- 2) Countries with a national library and legal deposit law but with no national bibliography should be considered prime candidates for establishing national bibliographies.
- 3) In considering timeliness of imprints, timeliness of publication, and effective distribution, the timeliness of publication and effective distribution are the two areas that need attention. The timeliness of imprints for a particular time period has improved in the last two decades.
- 4) The format most used is print. As technology is making inroads, CD-ROM and the web are becoming more popular. The most popular format for preservation is print.
- 5) Several bibliographies lack prefatory information or have insufficient introductions. This is an area that should be improved in all formats. A CD-ROM itself should include “title page” and sufficient introductory information, not only an accompanying manual. At the national library homepage it should be easy to find a link to information on the national bibliography and the search pages, if the bibliography is on the web.
- 6) There is obviously a will to follow international standards and practices in the entries of the bibliography.
- 7) There is interest in offering the national bibliography on the National Bibliographic Agency's web site, but information about this is not easily located.

Suggested actions to be taken

National libraries should be encouraged to initiate updating legal deposit legislation where it is out-dated. Existing new laws that include electronic documents, may serve as examples. One example is the new Danish law, *Act on Copyright Deposit of Published Works*, found (in English translation) at this web site: <http://www.kb.dk/kb/dept/nbo/da/pligtafl/pligt-en.htm>.

For the actions following, funding is necessary. Grants may be obtained from IFLA, from publishers' associations, from library associations, from international foundations, government sources, and other countries in the region. A list of possible funding sources might be provided.

For countries that are struggling to organize a bibliography, it may be helpful to talk with librarians in neighboring countries to discuss common goals and problems. An UBCIM regional seminar could be organized to bring together countries from the same region with similar concerns. The seminar might give guidance in international principles that should be introduced in the bibliography, such as cataloguing, classification, standard numbers, MARC format. An aspect of working with publishers may be included. Such seminars were successful in Balticum and Transcaucasia.

It is useful to visit a foreign national bibliographic agency to study their routines, especially if they have overcome a point that was earlier a weak one; e.g., timeliness.

A list of available articles on different aspects of national bibliographies might be compiled. Talks from the 2001 workshop and earlier presentations (e.g. on the Czech bibliography) should be freely available, in print and on the web. The title page and introductory section of an “ideal” bibliography a good example should be included, as well as examples of good web presentations.

Countries need to be encouraged to take into account preservation issues for their national bibliography. This should include the acid-free paper, annual offprints where there are only electronic media, appropriate and lasting binding, etc. Many countries need to improve the quality of their preservation copies. If the preservation copy is other than print, access to the information needs to be maintained.

Developing countries may not be using the latest edition of bibliographic tools, e.g. using DDC 18th. An effort should be made to create an exchange program or some other means to get updated bibliographic tools to the National Libraries lacking them. The Library of Congress would probably be willing to send LCSH in exchange for publications from a country. The latest DDC edition has major changes for southern Africa and would be useful for countries in that region.

Plan IFLA workshops with other sections to investigate some issues such as legal deposit, timeliness, capturing larger percentage of publication output in a country, publisher-national library cooperation, etc.

Guidelines for listing national bibliography information or the national bibliography itself could be mounted on the NBA web site. This should occupy a prominent spot, be easily accessible, and highly visible.

We suggest that the Section of Bibliography cooperates with the following IFLA programmes and sections:

Section on National Libraries.

Section on Cataloguing

Section on Classification and Indexing

Section on Information Technology

IFLA Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC Core Programme (UBCIM)

Other agencies:

Standard numbering agencies.