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International library statistics

Statistiques internationales de bibliothèques

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FOREWORD

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO Member Bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO Technical Committees. Every Member Body interested in a subject for which a Technical Committee has been set up has the right to be represented on that Committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work.

Draft International Standards adopted by the Technical Committees are circulated to the Member Bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 2789 was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Documentation*, and circulated to the Member Bodies in March 1972.

It has been approved by the Member Bodies of the following countries:

Austria	France	South Africa, Rep. of
Belgium	Germany	Sweden
Brazil	India	Switzerland
Chile	Israel	Thailand
Czechoslovakia	Italy	Turkey
Denmark	Netherlands	U.S.A.
Egypt, Arab Rep. of	New Zealand	
Finland	Romania	

The Member Bodies of the following countries expressed disapproval of the document on technical grounds:

Canada
United Kingdom

There has been excellent co-operation between ISO and the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) in the efforts to produce an International Standard for the presentation of library statistics. A joint working group held conferences in The Hague in 1966 and Paris in 1967, financed by the Council on Library Resources and supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). A progress report on the international standardization of library statistics was published in 1968.

In May 1970, UNESCO convened a conference of governmental experts to develop a draft ISO International Standard concerning the international standardization of library statistics. This draft, "Recommendation concerning the international standardization of library statistics", finalized within the IFLA-ISO Working Group, was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO during its sixteenth session, in Paris, in November 1970 as a Recommendation to all member states.

The text of the present International Standard is identical in all respects with that of the above-mentioned Recommendation.

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International library statistics

I. SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

Scope

1. The statistics referred to in the present International Standard should cover libraries, as defined in paragraph 2 (a) below, located in a particular country.

Definitions*

2. In compiling the statistics referred to in the present International Standard, the following definitions should be used :

(a) **Library** : irrespective of its title, any organized collection of printed books and periodicals or of any other graphic or audio-visual materials, and the services of a staff to provide and facilitate the use of such materials as are required to meet the informational, research, educational or recreational needs of its users.

(b) (i) **Administrative unit** : any independent library, or a group of libraries, under a single director or a single administration.

(ii) **Service point** : any library at which is provided in separate quarters a service for users, whether it is an independent library or is part of a larger administrative unit. Independent libraries, central libraries and branch libraries, (both static and — mobile — library vans, ship libraries, train libraries) are considered as service points provided that they serve their users directly. The points at which library vans stop are not counted as service points.

(c) **Collection** : all library materials provided by the library for its users.

(d) **Annual additions** : all materials added to collections during the year whether by purchase, donation, exchange or any other method.

(e) The term **printed** covers all methods of reproduction whatever their nature, with the exception of microprinting.

(f) **Periodicals** : publications constituting one issue in a continuous series under the same title published at regular or irregular intervals, over an indefinite period, individual issues in the series being numbered consecutively or each issue being dated. Newspapers as well as publications appearing annually or less frequently are included in the definition.

(g) **Title** : a term used to describe a printed item which forms a separate whole, whether issued in one or several volumes.

(h) **Volume** : a physical unit of any printed or manuscript work contained in one binding or portfolio.

(i) **Library user** : a person utilizing the services of the library.

(j) **Registered borrower** : a person registered with a library in order to borrow the materials of the collection for use outside the library.

(k) **Ordinary expenditure** : expenditure incurred in the running of the library. Within this total the following only are shown separately :

(i) **Employees** : the total amount of money spent on salaries and wages, allowances and other related costs;

(ii) **Acquisitions** : the cost of all items (printed, manuscript and audio-visual materials) added to the library.

(l) **Capital expenditure** : expenditure which results in the acquisition of or addition to fixed assets, e.g. building sites, new buildings and additions, equipment (including initial book stocks and furnishings for new and extended buildings). Within this total the following are shown separately :

(i) **Sites and buildings** : expenditure for the acquisition of or addition to building sites, new buildings, and extensions;

(ii) **Other capital expenditure.**

* The definitions used in this section are designed for statistical purposes. They are not necessarily the definitions which would be applicable for other purposes in Documentation or Librarianship.

(m) **Trained librarians** : all persons employed in libraries who have received a general training in librarianship or information science. The training may be by formal methods or by means of an extended period of work in a library under supervision.

II. CLASSIFICATION OF LIBRARIES

3. Each of the libraries covered by the definition set out in paragraph 2 (a) above should be classified in the following categories and sub-categories :

(a) **National libraries** : libraries which, irrespective of their title, are responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant publications published in the country and functioning as a "deposit" library, either by law or under other arrangements. They will also normally perform some of the following functions : produce a national bibliography; hold and keep up to date a large and representative collection of foreign literature including books about the country; act as a national bibliographical information centre; compile union catalogues; publish the retrospective national bibliography. Libraries which may be called "national" but whose functions do not correspond to the above definition should not be placed in the "national libraries" category.

(b) **Libraries of institutions of higher education** : those primarily serving students and teachers in universities and other institutions of education at the third level. They may be open to the general public as well. A distinction should be made between :

(i) The main or central university library, or a group of libraries which may be located separately but having one and the same director.

(ii) Libraries attached to university institutes or departments but which are not under the direction of or administered by the main or central university library.

(iii) Libraries attached to institutions of higher education which are not part of a university.

(c) **Other major non-specialized libraries** : non-specialized libraries of a learned character which are neither libraries of institutions of higher education nor national libraries, though they may fulfil the functions of a national library for a specified geographical area.

(d) **School libraries** : those attached to all types of schools below the level of education at the third level and serving primarily the pupils and teachers of such schools, even though they may also be open to the general public. Separate collections for the use of several classes in the same school would be regarded as a single library, which should be counted as an administrative unit and as a service point.

(e) **Special libraries** : those maintained by an association, government service, parliament, research institution (excluding university institutes), learned society, professional association, museum, business firm, industrial enterprise, chamber of commerce, etc. or other organized group, the greater part of their collections being in a specific field or subject, e.g. natural sciences, social sciences, agriculture, chemistry, medicine, economics, engineering, law, history. A distinction should be made between :

(i) Libraries which provide materials and services to all members of the public who need them; and

(ii) Those libraries whose collections and services are for the most part designed to provide for the information needs of their primary users, even if in some cases they serve the information needs of specialists outside the group responsible for their maintenance.

(f) **Public (or popular) libraries** : those which serve the population of a community or region free of charge or for a nominal fee; they may serve the general public or special categories of users such as children, members of the armed forces, hospital patients, prisoners, workers, and employees. A distinction should be made between :

(i) Public libraries proper, i.e. those libraries receiving financial support, in whole or in large part, from the public authorities (municipal or regional libraries); and

(ii) Libraries financed from private sources.

4. Each library should appear in one only of the categories mentioned in paragraph 3, according to its primary function.

5. School and public libraries considered to be "administrative units" should, in addition, be classified in one of the following groups, according to the size of their collections. The size of collections should cover only printed materials and manuscripts :

(a) **Public libraries** :

Up to 2,000 volumes;

From 2,001 to 5,000 volumes;

From 5,001 to 10,000 volumes;

More than 10,000 volumes.

(b) **School libraries** :

Up to 2,000 volumes;

From 2,001 to 5,000 volumes;

More than 5,000 volumes.