

UDT CORE PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT 1997

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INTRODUCTION

The UDT 1997 work plan centred around four major themes:

- to extend, promote, and integrate the use of IFLANET into the regular activities of IFLA HQ, Divisions, Sections, Roundtables, and Core Programmes.
- to continue to expand the content of IFLANET, ensuring that it remains the premier site for library information on the World Wide Web
- to continue the UDT program of creating, collecting, and making available valuable content on all aspects of information and telecommunications technologies and their impact upon libraries.
- to address the needs of less developed countries by providing Internet training and methods by which libraries without a direct Internet connection to take advantage of IFLANET content and services (e.g., CDROM).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 1997

A number of activities, derived from the above themes, took place in the 1997 term. These activities are described below.

1. IFLANET system and service maintenance

The 1997 term has been a busy period for IFLANET with reorganization and enhancement of the service taking place on many fronts. Working in close collaboration with the IFLA Secretariat, these activities included:

- **Registration of IFLA as a domain name.** As of November of 1997, www.ifla.org has been registered as a domain name on the Internet. This domain name is now to be considered the only address for IFLANET. The site's earlier address, www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/, is still in

operation, but will be phased out over the next three months. At that time, all calls to this address will be redirected to www.ifla.org.

As part of the domain name registration, IFLANET has also been moved to its own logical server. That is, up until this time, IFLANET has been a subdirectory of the National Library of Canada's Web server (hence the address www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/). All requests to IFLANET are now served by its own dedicated Web server software. However, it still physically resides on the same machine. This move simplifies, among other things, the compilation of usage statistics.

- **New IFLA email address aliases.** With the registration of ifla.org, email addresses of IFLA personnel can now reflect the organization to which they belong. This has been done for IFLA HQ staff whose email addresses now follow the pattern, *firstname.lastname@ifla.org*. It has also been done for the UDT office, following the pattern, *firstname.lastname@udt.ifla.org*.

In operation, a set of aliases has been set up to redirect mail addressed to either @ifla.org or @udt.ifla.org to already established email addresses. Essentially, the mail is first sent to the National Library of Canada's mail server, then forwarded to their actual address.

Current aliases addresses using ifla.org

General

IFLA@ifla.org	-	General IFLA questions
IFLANET@ifla.org	-	Messages regarding IFLANET
publications@ifla.org	-	Publications questions
conference@ifla.org	-	Conference questions
membership@ifla.org	-	Membership questions

IFLA HQ

anne.telkers@ifla.org
carol.henry@ifla.org
dini.verschuur@ifla.org
jos.deblock@ifla.org
leo.voogt@ifla.org
natalie.visser@ifla.org
sjoerd.koopman@ifla.org
sophie.felfoldi@ifla.org
theresa.stanton@ifla.org

UDT Core Programme

UDT@udt.ifla.org	-	General UDT questions
leigh.swain@udt.ifla.org		
gary.cleveland@udt.ifla.org		
louise.lantaigne@udt.ifla.org		
terry.kuny@udt.ifla.org		

Please note: Email addresses are not case sensitive. Uppercase letters appear in addresses containing acronyms for purposes of clarity only.

- **Site reorganization and enhancement.** The very rapid expansion of IFLANET since 1995 has resulted in a number of inconsistencies, historical artifacts, and varying page layouts scattered across the site. With time, these problems have made IFLANET increasingly difficult to manage. Thus, site reorganization and enhancement has been taking place throughout 1998.

The reorganization has two phases. The first phase is a reorganization, standardization, and clean-up of “development” and public copies of site. Modifications include, for example, exclusive use of www.ifla.org when referring to IFLANET; replacement of email address with aliases using ifla.org, where appropriate; and the addition of standard administrative metadata (i.e., coder, document owner, creation date, last revised date) to the HTML headers of all pages. These activities will improve consistency and make the site both easier and more efficient to manage. It will also shorten the production time of the annual IFLANET Unplugged CDROM.

The second phase is a redesign of certain page layout features and site navigation features. Once the reorganization and standardization is complete, a new look-and-feel will be applied to existing pages that will facilitate end-user navigation of the site. Changes will include, for example, a toolbar at the top of each page.

- **Automation of IFLA Membership Directory updates.** To improve the currency of the IFLA Membership Directory, the process of updating the Directory has been automated. To initiate an update, an IFLA HQ staff member has only to drop the most current dBase file of the Directory into the IFLANET guest directory. An automated process will then take the file, modify it appropriately, and upload it onto the Web site. This service, which is undergoing testing, will be available during the third quarter 1998.
- **Installation of Web management software.** IFLANET Administration has purchased Coast Webmaster Web site management software. This software will both aid in current reorganization efforts, as well as in ongoing site maintenance.
- **Operating system upgrade.** The operating system of the Digital computer on which IFLANET resides has been upgraded from Digital Unix 3.2g to Digital Unix 4.0b.

2. Integration of IFLANET into regular IFLA activities

One of UDT's stated goals is to integrate the use of IFLANET into regular IFLA activities, and to promote its use in all areas of IFLA. To this end, UDT has:

- Published IFLANET policies and procedures in the *IFLA Officers Handbook*.
- Initiated an annual IFLANET Information Coordinators' meeting to held at the annual Conference to provide a forum for feedback and discussion between IFLANET Administration and the Information Coordinators regarding IFLANET issues.
- established a distribution list for Information Coordinators to help foster communications between IFLANET Administration and the Coordinators.
- added closed email lists for the EB and PB, as well as an open list for librarians and information scientists in India (India-LIS).

3. Expand the content of IFLANET

The content of IFLANET has grown steadily over the last year. Specifically:

- all Core Programme, Division, and Section pages have been updated with new Medium-term programmes, objectives, and goals.
- approximately 400 documents (HTML, PDF, and text) have been added to the site, representing an increase of almost 20%.
- approximately 900 links to external resources have been added to the document collection. This represents an increase of almost 30%
- IFLA membership directory is regularly updated
- IFLA Directory of Union Catalogues, maintained by PAC, has been added (see <http://www.ifla.org/VI/2/duc/>)

4. UDT Publications and information activities

UDT continues to analyze and make available information on all aspects of information and telecommunications technologies and their impact upon libraries

through publications, seminars, and workshops. In this area, UDT has done the following during the last year.

4.1. Occasional Papers

UDT published four papers in the *UDT Occasional Papers* series that address current technological developments, available at <http://www.ifla.org/VI/5/op/index.htm>. The papers include:

1. *Digital library technologies and issues*. (In press.)
2. *Practical usage of SGML*. (In press.)
3. *Web site management tools*. (In press.)
4. *Quality of Internet information*. (In press.)

4.2. UDT-sponsored workshops

- *ILL Protocol Standard: Interlibrary Loan in an Open Networked Environment*. Information Technology joint with Document Delivery and Interlending and the UDT Core Programme. The objective of this session was to provide delegates with an introduction to the capabilities of this important standard and how it can be used to support automated
- *Z39.50: Information Retrieval in an Open Network Environment*. Information Technology joint with UDT Core Programme. The objective of this session was to provide an introduction to the Z39.50 Information Retrieval Standard: what it is, how it works, who has implemented it. The session includes an overview of the Z39.50 standard, a more technical discussion of Z39.50 developments and a review of projects supported by the European Commission.
- *Z39.50: Vendor Products, Issues and Trends*. UDT Core Programme joint with Information Technology. The objective of this workshop was to illustrate the capabilities of the Z39.50 standard through the demonstration of a variety of Z39.50 products. The session also included a panel discussion on Z39.50 issues, trends and end-user concerns.
- *Introduction to Internet Metadata*. UDT Core Programme: Workshop. The objective of this workshop was to explain the general concept of Internet metadata, and specific activities in this area including Dublin Core, the Warwick Framework, URNs and URCs.

4.3. Other UDT workshop participation

In addition to UDT-sponsored workshops, UDT participated in or presented papers at the following workshops:

Cleveland, Gary. (1997). *IFLANET*. IFLA Pre-session workshop for developing countries Aalborg, Denmark August 26, 1997.

Cleveland, Gary. (1997). *Internet basics*. IFLA Pre-session workshop for developing countries Aalborg, Denmark August 26, 1997.

Cleveland, Gary. (1998). *Introduction to IFLANET*. UBCIM Workshop. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Kuny, Terry. (1997). Workshop delegate. Dublin Core (DC-5) Metadata Workshop. Helsinki. October 6-8, 1997.

Kuny, Terry. (1997). Workshop delegate. UK DESIRE Meeting on Information Quality. Bristol. September 8-9, 1997.

Kuny, Terry. (1998). Workshop delegate. Managing Metadata: Crosswalks or Chaos? Washington. May 4-5, 1998.

4.4. UDT presentations

UDT presented papers at the following conferences and meetings:

Cleveland, Gary. (1998). *Introduction to UDT and IFLANET*. Portuguese Library Association Annual Conference, Aveiro, Portugal, May 6-8, 1998.

Cleveland, Gary. (1998). *Selecting electronic document formats*. Portuguese Library Association Annual Conference, Aveiro, Portugal, May 6-8, 1998.

Kuny, Terry. (1997). *A Digital Dark Ages: Challenges in the Preservation of Electronic Information*. 63rd Annual IFLA General Conference. September 4, 1997. Copenhagen, Denmark.

Kuny, Terry. (1997). *Debate on Copyright and Access in a Digital Era*. 63rd Annual IFLA General Conference. September 2, 1997. Copenhagen, Denmark.

- Kuny, Terry. (1998). *Building a Sustainable Information Ecology: Views on the Secret Life of Documents, Information Overload, and the Medieval State of Resource Discovery in the Electronic Environment*. International Special Librarian's Day. International Development Research Center. April 23, 1998. Ottawa, Canada.
- Kuny, Terry. (1998). *Strategic Planning for Digital Libraries*. Russian-American Digital Libraries Workshop. April 16-17, 1998. Moscow, Russia.
- Kuny, Terry. (1997). *The Internet Fleamarket: Information Quality, Metadata and the Challenges of Networked Resource Discovery*. Telus Distinguished Visitor Lecture. May 27, 1997. Calgary.
- Swain, Leigh. (1998). *The Canadian approach to developing a digital library*. 1998 Kanazawa Institute of Technology Roundtable for Library and Information Science. Ohgigaoka, Nonoichi, Ishikawa, Japan. July 16-17, 1998.

5. Addressing the needs of libraries in less developed countries

To address the needs of the libraries in less developed countries, UDT has:

- **Mirror sites.** UDT has created a technical package and questionnaire to be used to solicit interest from libraries in the IFLA Regions in becoming regional mirror sites. Mirror sites will speed up access to IFLANET in countries not proximate to the central site in Canada and the mirror in France.
- **IFLANET Unplugged.** UDT produced the third edition of the *IFLANET Unplugged* CDROM (1998) with the assistance of Silverplatter, Information, Inc. This disc will be given away free to all IFLA Conference in Amsterdam, as well as upon request to any library anywhere.

The second edition of *IFLANET Unplugged* (1997) was given away at all workshops in which UDT participated during the 1998 term. The 1998 edition will likewise be given away at all workshops in which UDT participates.

Conclusion

The UDT Core Programme had a very successful and productive year. It continues to explore increasingly important telecommunications and information technologies and their impact upon libraries in both the industrialized and developing worlds. It has produced many discussion papers, conference presentations, on-site visits in support of this mandate. It has enhanced IFLANET, both with regard to the information it contains and the technical infrastructure that supports it.