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Abstract: For the occasion of the 60th IFLA General Conference, to be held in Havana, Cuba from 21 to 27 August 1994, the author presents a survey of the historical background to the development of libraries in Cuba, and Cuba's strategic plan for libraries until the year 2000. Covered are public libraries, school libraries, university libraries, special libraries, and libraries serving workers at the workplace, professional associations, and education and training for library and information workers. The different functions undertaken by the Biblioteca Nacional through various stages in its history are also covered.

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Abstract: The article reports on a life cycle costing study undertaken by the British Library as a means of both forecasting retention costs and of clarifying the relationship between acquisition and retention policies. The need for such a tool is not peculiar to the British Library. Libraries are increasingly interested in reducing costs and allocating resources effectively in the face of competing demands. Moreover, they are required to demonstrate that they provide value for money. In recent years the cost of library materials and the effects of the increasing prices, particularly of serial titles, on the library budget has received much scrutiny. However, there are many other underlying costs, including costs of selection, accessioning, cataloguing, preservation and storage. Life Cycle Costing is an accounting concept which takes account of all the significant net expenditures arising during the ownership of an asset. This technique can be effectively applied in library operations, where its use will provide an increased degree of cost consciousness and understanding, and to highlight to a library's parent body and users, and to its management and staff, areas in which
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