REPORT OF INFORMATION/PUBLICATION DEVELOPMENTS

Union of International Associations

Based on a report to the General Assembly, 27th November 1986
Amended for the meeting of the Executive Council, 3rd April 1987
(amendments marked with ***)

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1. PUBLICATIONS

1.1 YEARBOOK SERIES

1.1.2 Volume 1: Organization descriptions and index

This volume was successfully completed on schedule for publication in July 1986. This was the first time that the publication was produced through the new computer system. No use was made of the external service bureau on which the UIA has been dependent for the past 14 years.

A number of innovations or improvements were made, partly to facilitate the integration at the computer level which the computer system makes possible:

(a) The number of organizations (and treaties) has been increased from 24,180 for 1985 to 25,124, although less effort was put into searching out new categories of organizations than in previous years because of the emphasis on ensuring a smooth transition to the new computer system. The number of organizations from Sections A through D in fact decreased slightly from 5,054 to 5,018 because of some reallocations to Sections E through H which had been postponed from the previous year. There would appear to be a tendency for the number of "classical" organizations to stabilize (taking into account creations and cessations of activity), with the major increases observable in the Sections E, F and G.

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In current preparations for the 1987/88 edition, a new approach is being taken to organizations on which no new information has been recently obtained. Such bodies, because their addresses are "inactive" or out-of-date, bring the whole Yearbook into disrepute. Even if no confirmation of the inactivity of these bodies has been obtained it is intended that they should now be transferred into the inactive section (Section H). The effect of this will be to reduce significantly the number of bodies in Section D. This will create space for the inclusion of sections which are usually excluded from the volume (e.g. Section R).

(b) Entry quality: The quality of the entries on the existing organizations continues to be improved to the point where a significant number of organizations now take the trouble to congratulate the editors.

(c) Entry number presentation: This has now been modified under a long-debated compromise formula which maintains continuity whilst ensuring the appropriate degree of integration between the organization and calendar files at the computer level (previously a source of continuing frustration). Entry numbers now have the section letter (which may change if the organization is reallocated to a new section) in front of the old number (now permanent for bodies in Sections A through F), giving numbers of the form BC1828.

(d) Keywords in text: Work continues on identifying keywords in the text of entries which are extracted into the index and
which are also used to identify organizations grouped by subject in Volume 3.

(e) Events paragraph: As part of the process of increasing the integration with the Calendar, an Events paragraph has been introduced.

(f) Section modifications: The continuing problem of the limitation on the number of pages to 1600, supposedly because of difficulty in binding connected with the printing method used, has meant that the following sections are not printed in Volume 1, although they are indexed:

G: Internationally-oriented national organizations
H: Inactive organizations
J: Unconfirmed new organizations
S: Conference series
R: Religious orders
T: Multilateral treaties
U: Unconfirmed organizations from the past

The name and address of bodies in Sections G and R are however available from Volume 2, and from Volume 3.

In the continuing difficulty over the number of pages the publisher has experimented for this edition with a much thinner paper. This makes the volume appear thinner.

(g) Index: Minor changes have been made to the index to make it easier to use.

(h) Introduction and appendices: For the first time it has been possible to produce these in-house, partly by sending disks to a Brussels printer for final film production, partly using the UIA laser printer (especially for statistical tables). This has proved much more convenient for all concerned, permitting much greater control over the final output. The opportunity was taken to transfer much of the material previously appearing in the Introduction to Appendices to simplify access to the volume (see Annex 1).

(i) Quality of proofs: For the first time organizations received the proof of their entry generated from the UIA laser printer using a proportionally spaced typographical font. This is much superior to the readability of the proof generated by the service bureau.

(j) Editorial warning: Following requests made at previous meetings of the UIA Executive Council, a prominently displayed explicit warning to users has been included indicating the degree of responsibility taken by the UIA for the quality of the information included (see Annex 2).

(k) Cross-reference numbers: In the forthcoming 1987/88 edition a major innovation has been made in connection with the citation of relationships between organizations (eg NGO Relations, IGO Relations, Membership). The reference number of the cross-referenced organization now appears after its name or abbreviation. This means that the cross-referenced entry can be consulted immediately, without the
time-consuming delay of first finding the reference number in the index. Of equal importance, this innovation also means that the name cited reflects the most recent modifications, free from inaccuracies, because the cross-referenced name is only inserted in the text at the moment of going to press. This new approach also facilitates verification of the reciprocity of relationships between organizations, replacing the need for the citation index which was previously published in Volume 3.

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(1) Page-numbering: Saur has indicated that future editions of all volumes will have page numbers added.

1.1.2 Volume 2: International organization participation

This publication was completed on schedule for publication in August 1986. It was produced for the first time on the in-house computer using a specially commissioned set of programmes.

The main modification made was the change in the entry numbering system necessary to cross-reference Volume 1. As with Volume 1 the Introduction and Appendices were reworked and repositioned. The considerably delays previously experienced in preparing and composing the statistical tables were avoided by generating them in-house and setting them on the laser printer.

1.1.3 Volume 3: Global action networks

Editorial work was completed in October, slightly behind the schedule necessary to ensure publication before the end of 1986. It is hoped that this will still be possible.

Reasons for the delay were in large part due to the fact that a completely new approach was taken to the editorial work on this publication which takes maximum advantage of the in-house system. An extensive suite of programs had to be debugged under production conditions in addition to discovering the best way to make use of these tools under editorial conditions.

The main visible differences to this publication are as follows:

(a) Contents (see Annex 3): The volume has been increased in size from 1,056 to 1,464 pages. This is due to the inclusion of organizations which have, in the past, either been excluded entirely or only included in the principal section. In addition entries from the Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential have been included (see below).

(b) Classification of material from the Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential: Due to space and time limitations it proved impossible to cross-reference the international organizations from within the Encyclopedia. It was therefore decided to classify the world problems and strategies by subject in Volume 3 with the international organizations (and treaties) from Volume 1. A first step in this direction had in fact been taken for the previous edition of Volume 3 using the pre-publication list of world problems, largely based on the 1976 edition. Inclusion of
this material did not apply any significant changes to the standard subject categories already in use.

Following the established experimental approach to the category scheme of Volume 3, coding experiments have however been deliberately undertaken with the gerund term (e.g. enhancing, promoting) establishing the dynamic dimension of the strategy (in contrast to the static subject dimensions also present in the name and handled in the normal way). A similar editorial experiment has been undertaken with the values identified in the values section of the Encyclopedia.

(c) Organization types: Following requests made at previous meetings of the Executive Council, a first experiment has been undertaken in grouping organizations by type in a new Section Z. Unfortunately, because of shortage of time and the complications of the transition to the new system this is a very rudimentary effort limited to some exceptional categories:

United Nations bodies; Multinational company councils; Charismatic bodies; Clubs; Exile bodies; Alumni and veterans; Conference series; Dormant bodies; Corporations, companies; International federations; Professional bodies; Religious orders; Individual membership bodies; Foundations; Institutes; Colleges; Programmes; Projects; Trade unions; Treaties, agreements; Funds; Academies; Networks; Agencies; Courts, tribunals; Systems; Banks; Parliaments; Political parties; Staff associations

Several additional categories involving larger numbers of organizations were originally included, but these had to be excluded at the last minute to bring the size of the volume within the required page limits. Hopefully a more systematic approach can be taken for the next edition.

1.2 ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WORLD PROBLEMS AND HUMAN POTENTIAL

1.2.1 The first copies of this publication were delivered in June 1986, following a number of delays in completing the editorial work. The delays were partly due to the innovative nature of the publication and partly due to the problems in testing out the new computer system. In effect this publication was used to debug the editorial, software and hardware problems of the in-house network prior to its use for Volume 1 of the Yearbook.

1.2.2 Although this publication follows the experimental Yearbook of World Problems and Human Potential, it is perhaps appropriate to review its function in relation to the Yearbook of International Organizations. The Encyclopedia is essentially based on the perceptions of international bodies and constituencies as reflected in their documents.

(a) Especially in the case of the world problems section, entries are built up from paragraphs selected from such documents in order to portray the preoccupations of organizations in as clear and concise a manner as possible, whether or not those perceptions are accepted by other international constituencies. Juxtaposing contradictory
perceptions is seen as a means of reflecting the global problematique such that different constituencies can identify with different parts of it, recognize the parts they do not accept, and develop an understanding of how these differences of perception affect coherent response to the global problematique as a whole. This section is therefore an extension of the editorial approach already developed by the UIA, and in fact would be extremely difficult without that foundation. As with the Yearbook organizations, the UIA does not take a position on the "seriousness" of the problems documented, but endeavours to reflect the importance attached to that problem by the constituency sensitive to it.

(b) To counterbalance the focus on the "negative" characteristics of the world system, six other sections focus on different ways of engendering a more effective "positive" response. Each of these would tend to be favoured by a different international constituency, which might well reject the other sections as inappropriate or irrelevant. The justification for a number of these section has been reinforced by the UIA's participation (from 1978 to 1982) in the UN University project on Goals, Processes and Indicators of Development launched by Johan Galtung. In the absence of appropriately structured information, some of the sections are based on editorial experiments in presenting information on the topic concerned (e.g. values). Some may be considered simple exercises in assembling information (e.g. forms of presentation, symbols), which has not previously been made relevant to the development problematique. Some are based on contributions by the UIA to the UNU GPID sub-project (e.g. patterns, embodying discontinuity). Some are developments of traditional interests of the UIA (e.g. transformative conferencing). The strategy section, inspired by a UNU GPID project, evolved as a result of encountering an extensive set of data produced by the Institute of Cultural Affairs. But the human development section was deliberately taken beyond the boundaries of the GPID sub-project on that theme to include modes of awareness, which constitute a major focus for many alternative groups alienated by establishment and academic approaches to the problematique.

As explicitly stated in an introductory warning to users (Annex 4), the publication remains experimental and deliberately takes risks consistent with a sense of urgency in the face of the global problematique. Clearly such risks go beyond what is considered "acceptable" by any one international constituency, whether academic or otherwise. But in doing so, the publication as a whole does reflect to a greater degree than can be found in many other reference books, the diversity of views which contribute to the dynamic of the international community.

1.2.3 Weaknesses: The biases and weaknesses of the Encyclopedia are explicitly noted therein (see Annex 4 and 5). Many entries could have been considerably improved had the resources been available. But experience with the Yearbook demonstrates that such improvement can be achieved over a number of editions and that it is more useful to provide inadequate information immediately rather than wait until an entry is adequate according to some strict standard.
1.2.4 Reviews and reactions: Review copies have been made available by Saur and by UIA to nearly 100 contacts. Only a few reviews have been received so far, presumably because of the usual delays in the periodical publishing cycle. Reactions have been very favourable. Some have been embarrassingly enthusiastic.

1.2.5 Future edition: At a meeting on 18th February 1987 Mr Saur indicated that in December 1986 he was at -140,000 DM for the Encyclopedia, although he agreed that many reviews had not yet appeared, and their brochure was only available in that month. This figure does not include overheads (distribution costs, promotion, postage). He claims he needs 20% to make a profit and 40% to make a realistic profit. The original contract provided for editorial costs of 150,000DM and royalties of 50,000DM. He suggests that a contract for a future edition provide for editorial costs of 50,000DM and royalties of 50,000DM. On the timing, he said that it would not be useful to publish a new edition before June 1989, even if the current edition were out of stock in June 1988. If we needed funds earlier to start preparing the new edition (eg from January 1988), an advance could be arranged and added to the monthly schedule of payments.

1.3 GUIDES SERIES AND MINI-DIRECTORIES

1.3.1 Guides: Saur has indicated that, because of difficulties in selling the four volumes so far produced in this series, no further plans can be made at this time. The problem is largely a result of Saur's own policies requiring publications of a certain size (400-600 pages) to be sold at an unreasonably high price, with minimum marketing effort.

In February 1987 Mr Saur indicated that he was still below his technical break-even point (ie not including any overheads or profit as follows:

- African : 23,000 DM (August 1985)
- Arab-Islamic : 12,000 DM (August 1985)
- Abbreviations : 6,520 DM (December 1986)
- IGO : 27,700 DM (December 1986)

He used this situation to argue that in terms of any new contract for Guides-type publications (and that includes any subject defined mini-directories) the current arrangement of 28.50 DM/page was absolutely impossible. He proposed a figure of 10 DM/page. UIA must evaluate whether this is of interest. Mr Saur also said that he was still interested in the possibility of an Asian directory at that rate. He suggested that for a 500 page publication the royalties remain at 5% up to 500 but 15% above 500.

1.3.2 Mini-directories: Although no mini-directories have as yet been produced independently of Saur, the first of these is currently being planned with UNESCO. This will be a "Directory of NGOs in Consultative Status with UNESCO" (see Annex 6), which is being produced in prototype form for review by a committee of the Executive Board prior to any decision on a larger print run. From the UIA point of view, production of this prototype will
establish the viability and costs of such an exercise prior to proposing similar directories to other organizations under some suitable collaborative arrangement. Where possible such directories will be sub-sets of the Yearbook Volume 1. Modifications may however be made, as well as inclusions of information characteristic of the presentation in Volumes 2 and 3, as well as the Encyclopedia.

*** 1.3.3 At the February meeting Mr Saur examined a summary of 17 mini-directory possibilities provided by UIA. He would like to produce four this year if this can be done at the 10 DM/page rate (see paragraph 1.3.1 above). He will inform UIA which ones are required, with the object of producing them after Volume 2. The checklist of possible subject directories submitted to him is given in Annex 7.

1.4 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION STATUTES SERIES

1.4.1 Delays: Because of the editorial work load in connection with the production of the 3-volume Yearbook and the Encyclopedia it has proved impossible to complete the editorial proof-correction of the statutes awaiting publication. These have however been transferred onto the new computer system and it is hoped to complete this work over the next six months. The main reasons for the delay are the peculiar nature of the proof reading required (legal documents) and continuing confusion over the currency of the statutes, which are often undated.

*** 1.4.2 Proposal: On the basis of the original agreement with Mr Saur, that his costs would be limited to the keyboarding costs, he agreed to an amount to the order of 550,000 BF (namely, the bill from ICA). The royalties would be paid at the rate of 5\% up to 500 copies (non-deductible from amounts already paid?) and 15\% over 500 copies. He was prepared to pay an advance of 150,000BF (in addition to and outside of the monthly payments) to cover any final proof reading, however superficial we decided was appropriate.

1.5 IERD SERIES

This 3-volume series is edited by the Institute of Cultural Affairs International and arises from a 1984/86 programme built around the International Exposition on Rural Development (New Delhi, 1984) and its follow-up. The UIA has provided advice on these publications, published by Saur, who tends to market them in association with UIA publications and especially the Encyclopedia. Although UIA derives no direct financial benefit from this series, it does provide a link to those primarily interested in development issues, especially through the ICA interest in drawing the attention of their contacts to the presence of ICA research results in the Encyclopedia. This material was included as a result of a number of editorial contracts concluded with ICA (Brussels) during production of the Encyclopedia.
1.6 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS CALENDAR

The report on the editorial and publishing aspects of this publication will be made separately.

Production of the Calendar, prior to final typesetting, has now been completely transferred onto the new in-house computer system. This work is now much more thoroughly integrated at the computer level with that on the organizations organizing meetings.

A final phase, not yet completed, is the transfer of the computer files (previously maintained by the service bureau) for the period 1981 to 1984 onto the new system.

1.7 RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

The main research effort since 1984 has been directed towards the preparation of the Encyclopedia. Subsequent studies include the following:

(a) Review of frameworks for the representation of alternative conceptual orderings as determined by cultural and linguistic contexts. Paper prepared for the sub-project on Coding and the socio-cultural context of information of the project on Information Overload and Information Underuse of the Global Learning Division of the UN University.

(b) Comprehension of appropriateness. Paper for the project on Economic Aspects of Human Development of the Regional and Global Studies Division of the UN University.

(c) Navigating complexity through policy alternation. Final form of a paper for a book on Alternative Paradigms. Results from UIA participation in the Goals, Processes and Indicators of Development project of the UN University (1978-82).

2. PUBLISHING AND MARKETING

2.1 Pattern of sales

(a) Saur and UIA are in general pleased with the sale of the Yearbook series which is now established on a 3-volume annual basis. Saur claims that sales of Volumes 2 and 3 have stabilized at an acceptable level to justify continuation. He was obliged to print an extra 400 copies to fulfil demand for the last edition of Volume 1 which exceeded their estimates. From the UIA point of view sales are definitely not as great could be desired, but Saur points out that these are extremely difficult times for libraries which in most cases have found their budgets severely cut.

(b) Neither Saur nor UIA are pleased with the sales of the 4-volume Guides series. The reasons for the poor sales were noted earlier. This has little negative impact on the UIA, but certainly has not had a positive impact as was hoped.

(c) The sales pattern of the Encyclopedia is not yet clear and will presumably be dependent on the reviews which will be
appearing in the coming months, as well as on further marketing efforts by UIA.

2.2 Contractual relationship with publisher (K G Saur)

The contractual relationship has taken the following form:

- contract for the Yearbook series
- contract for the Encyclopedia
- contract for the Calendar
- letters of agreement covering the Guides series

These contracts stipulated monthly payments by Saur to cover editorial costs, minimum royalties (whatever the sales; payable on publication) and royalties arising from sales above the minimum (payable at the end of a budgetary cycle). This arrangement proved so complicated that it was agree to pay a fixed monthly amount covering all publications and then to balance the accounts at the end of each budgetary period.

The problem with this approach is that in Saur's view the fixed monthly amount gradually ceased to be perceived as a "prepayment" to cover editorial costs. The act of balancing the accounts at the end of a budgetary cycle resulted in UIA "owing" amounts to Saur. Negotiations focussed on the size of the monthly amount, irrespective of the production cycle. Because of the claims by Saur that the library market was in a difficult state, it became possible for him to argue successfully for a reduction in the monthly amount.

The complexities of this situation have been clarified under a new contract which covers all publications.

The contractual situation is not particularly satisfactory but it is unclear that any more satisfactory formula could be found, whether with Saur, with another publisher or if the UIA were to return to publishing its own books. Such possibilities should of course be explored to anticipate any future change in Saur's fortunes.

2.3 Marketing (via Saur)

As noted above, sales are reasonably satisfactory. It is however clear that Saur is unable to do more to market the UIA publications. The UIA titles are handled within the Saur marketing procedures and it is understandably difficult for Saur to make exceptions on a systematic basis. His company is not geared up to do what a smaller company might attempt (but with more limited resources). It would seem that UIA must continue to suffer the advantages and disadvantages of the Saur machinery.

In the case of the Encyclopedia, special attempts have however been made to launch the book through Saur's three main offices (Munich, London, New York). The success of these efforts is at the moment under review, especially in relation to UIA attempts to support their activities.
2.4 Marketing (via UIA)

2.4.1 One of the contractual loopholes opened as the result of Saur's requirement that monthly payments be reduced has been to give UIA the freedom to undertake its own marketing and sales. Instead of new orders now being transferred to Munich, they are invoiced by UIA. The full implications in terms of sales discounts is in the process of being clarified.

In the case of the Encyclopedia, UIA has distributed sales brochures with questionnaires to Yearbook organizations, offering up to 50% discount to non-institutional purchasers for pre-paid orders. This may be considered a promotional sale, at cost to the UIA, which ensures that the book does get into the hands of those who are most enthusiastic about making its existence known.

It is important that the UIA actively explore the opportunity of marketing mini-directories now that the new computer system facilitates their production. A first exercise in this direction is being undertaken with the "Directory of NGOs in Consultative Status with UNESCO" (as noted above).

*** 2.4.2 It was agreed in February that UIA should be free to market and sell in whatever way it desired, especially in order to compensate for the loss of monthly revenue. Belgian customers would be advised that they could order through UIA (if they "have encountered any difficulties"). Two approaches are possible, and both may be used according to UIA preference:

(a) UIA receives the order and transfers it to Saur (Munich, London or New York). In this case, UIA receives 25% discount if the order is from an end-user of 15% if the order is from a bookshop. Saur is responsible for invoicing and delivery.

(b) UIA receives the order, ships and invoices it. In this case, UIA receives 40% discount and allocates whatever percentage it wishes to a bookshop. (Presumably UIA is also free to charge a higher price, if desired?)

*** 2.4.3 It was also agreed that for UIA to place small orders to reduce the amount owed to Saur is not efficient. Mr Saur proposed two alternatives.

(a) On consignment.

(b) Credit: Under this system, which Mr Saur preferred, UIA could place bulk orders but would only be invoiced 6 months later. Although the invoice could come from either Stuttgart or Munich, UIA finds it simpler to deal with Saur Munich rather than with the Stuttgart distributor. Mr Saur said we should decide whether the payment was to be in cash by UIA to Munich, or by a reduction in the monthly cheque at that time.

*** 2.4.4 In the case of bulk sales coordinated by UIA (eg to the UN or to "developing countries"), Mr Saur was open to any deals with reductions ranging from 10% to 90%. But if the sales involved from 45% to 75% reduction, UIA should only expect a 10% royalty from the net amount invoiced. If the reduction is greater than
75% then the royalty to the UIA would be zero. The shipment costs were negotiable, as to whether they were incorporated into the amount, additional to it, paid by Saur or by UIA.

2.5 Marketing (via ICA, New York)

As noted earlier, the Encyclopedia contains a certain amount of material adapted from documents of the Institute of Cultural Affairs. This body is actively interested in deriving some benefit from this in the process of marketing its own IERD Series (discussed above). A proposal has been received from their New York office suggesting that the UIA in effect open or support a part-time office in New York to handle this.

*** This proposal has been replaced, at the suggestion of UIA, by an arrangement between ICA and Saur New York whereby ICA receives 20% discount on any sales they generate. Mr Saur has subsequently indicated that, although he was interested in the possibilities of this experiment, no significant sales had as yet been generated.

2.6 Marketing (via UNESCO)

On the occasion of the recent UIA visit to the Director-General of UNESCO, he proposed that the Encyclopedia (and possibly even the Yearbook) should be "co-published" with UNESCO. This raises many questions and possibilities which are at present under discussion.

It is clear however that it would be most desirable to reach some agreement on a form of "co-distribution", although UNESCO has severe rules governing such arrangements.

The current production of the "Directory of NGOs in Consultative Status with UNESCO" (mentioned earlier) should also be seen in this context.

3. IN-HOUSE COMPUTER SYSTEM

3.1 Current hardware situation

The system currently consists of the following elements:

- Micro-computers: 10 PC clones, of 512K RAM each. Of these one is an XT version, one functions as a dedicated file server for the network, one is principally used for printing and tape-backups, and one is shared with FAIB/IAPCO/MAI. An additional PC is in process of being purchased. A further machine, incompatible with the network, is being used as a stand-alone device for word-processing purposes. Most of the screens are equipped with polarizing filers, especially when they are in continuous use for editorial purposes. The machines linked to the network are all equipped with Omninet interface cards.

- Main memory: 2 hard disk drives, totalling 146 MB (146 million characters).
- Tape unit: 1 Thorn EMI streamer tape unit for backups and transfer of tapes to Computaprint (London) for photocomposition.
- Laser printer: 1 Hewlett Packard Laserjet
- Local printers: 4 printers (1 Ericsson, 1 HP Thinkjet, 1 Brother and 1 Olympia that is incompatible with the network).
- Modem: 1 Daisy 21, 300 baud modem, permitting access to electronic mail systems (especially in the USA)

The initial difficulties with the hardware have been overcome. Continuing difficulties, when they emerge, tend to be maintenance problems. There continues to be some doubt concerning the vulnerability of the equipment to surges in the power supply. The merit of obtaining a surge suppressor is under investigation. Although two of the micro-computers are equipped with co-processor chips to increase the speed of operation, some editorial operations (e.g. on Volume 3) have been hindered by an inadequate rate of access. It is hoped to increase the speed of machines from 4.4 to 8 MHz when this becomes feasible.

3.2 Current software situation

The following software is currently in use:

- Network operating system: Novell Netware
- Text data base: Revelation, 10 user network version, Release G2B.
- UIA specified Revelation programs: The total number of Revelation programs is now 250, of which 50 are major programs.
- Word-processing: RWORD (compatible with Revelation) and Wordstar (convertible to and from Revelation format) are in continuous use.

Occasional use is made of other packages such as dBase II and a wide range of utilities.

3.3 Data held on the network

The current disk capacity of 146 million characters is used for the following purpose:

- Organization entry files, and initials index
- Calendar file, and index
- Contacts file, and index
- Correspondence file
- Procedural and control files
- Production files, including intermediary files
- Work areas for sorting

Whilst it is possible to hold the organization, calendar and problems files on the system simultaneously, this can only be done when there is no need for disk work areas for intermediary production files. However the technique of transferring
3.4 Usage of the system

A frequent concern with computer systems is whether they are appropriately used. Here the situation may be summarized as follows:

- **Disk capacity**: This is fully used. Whilst it would be possible to hold more files on backup tapes and thus require less capacity, the time wasted in juggling files for any particular requirements has demonstrated that the UIA requires the capacity currently installed, especially when several production jobs are being undertaken simultaneously.

- **Work stations**: These are fully used by editors during working hours. Machines are seldom "free". Outside working hours, there are times when up to 5 machines are running over-night on production jobs.

- **Laser printer**: This is fully used. In fact, its use must often be scheduled.

- **Local printers**: These are extremely convenient, but only two of them are frequently used, partly because of the noise factor.

- **Tape unit**: This is in regular use for backups.

In general the system is fully exploited. Although there are times when work stations are not in use (as with a typewriter), there are periods when the network is in continuous operation, day and night, for several weeks running.

During the period in which the network was installed, there were 3 days on which it was not possible to work with the machines: one day due to installation procedures, and 2 days due to necessary adjustments to the new installation.

3.5 Adaptation of working methods

All staff working on publication production in one capacity or another have now adapted their working methods to take advantage of the computer system. All editorial work is now done directly onto the network without any intermediate "secretarial" phase. Although programs continue to be developed to facilitate particular tasks, no irritating difficulties remain unresolved.

Knowledge of how to control particular applications is now shared more widely, although each individual has developed personalized methods of work which are not. There is now much less hesitation about how best to derive benefit from the system although new ways of organizing work continue to be discovered as each person's knowledge increases.

Because of the complexities of the many operations involved, it has been considered undesirable to devote valuable time to
rationalizing the system beyond a certain degree. Now that the complete cycle of UIA publications has been transferred to the system, procedures will be progressively tidied up in the light of experience with the production runs. Documentation has already been built up on the more complex procedures. Further progress on this front is desirable, when time and production priorities permit.

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4. FUTURE PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

4.1 Dependence and diversification

4.1.1 Publisher-dependence

In the light of the semi-stable nature of the contractual relationship with the publisher, K G Saur Verlag, there is clear merit in envisaging ways of diversifying UIA operations to reduce dependence on a single external body over which the UIA has little real control.

Such diversification might well take the form of producing some publications through other publishers or in collaboration with other bodies. The possible need to switch the main publications, or some of them, to a new publisher should be explored.

4.1.2 Production-mode dependence

Given the current advances in information handling, attention should continue to be given to such opportunities as on-line access, laser disk distribution, laser cards, etc., especially in terms of the UIA commitment to making information more readily available at a more accessible cost.

The developing field of "desk-top publishing", for which the UIA is fully equipped, should be explored. There is no reason why the UIA should not produce newsletters, reports, or directories for other organizations on demand. This does however call for an increased degree of personalized contact with bodies potentially interested in this form of collaboration. The UIA could produce its own periodical in this way, since the procedures have now been fully tested. Or the UIA could envisage the production of new specialized newsletters.

The whole question of UIA production of mini-directories, extracted from its own database, should continue to be actively explored (as discussed earlier).

4.1.3 Product dependence

There is a continuing need for vigilance to avoid falling into the trap of producing certain kinds of information only. Although a prime function of the UIA is the production of information, the question must be continually asked as to whether the kind or range of information is appropriate. There is a definite danger of a backlash against the kinds of information on which the UIA
has concentrated its efforts, especially since other bodies are developing capacities in this area. The UIA needs to explore new ways of packaging information.

4.2 Comprehension of information

4.2.1 Problems

The developing information society is characterized by vast amounts of information of which it is difficult for an individual to make effective use. This is the preoccupation of a current project of the UN University on "information overload and information underuse", to which the UIA has contributed. The difficulty for an individual or an institution to comprehend patterns of significance has however been neglected in the rush to exploit the market for information.

The UIA is as much a part of the problem as it is part of the solution. The coverage of the Yearbooks facilitates access to specific items of information. They do not facilitate comprehension of patterns of relationship, except to a modest degree in Volume 3. In a number of respects the Yearbook is unuseable in terms of the needs and budgetary restrictions of the bodies which the UIA aims to serve.

4.2.2 Possibilities

This question has been explored in a number of UIA studies. Advantage should therefore be taken of the explicit encouragement received from the UN University (Division of Global Learning) and from UNESCO (Studies and Programming Office) to continue to explore the possibilities of producing network maps to present the pattern of relationships between organizations, between problems, and between organizations and problems. The UIA London sub-contractor is very interested in converting UIA data into map form in order to be able to produce "atlases" of network maps. These would attract the attention of bodies otherwise uninterested in UIA information on the international community and its preoccupations.

4.3 Current explorations in presenting information

4.3.1 Organization charts

Steps have been taken to obtain organization charts from major intergovernmental bodies with complex secretariats or systems of committees. If possible these will be reproduced in the 1987/88 edition of Volume 1. This will offer an alternative way of approaching the information on each body.

Software exists (at relatively low cost) to enable organization charts to be (re)drawn if the information is provided in an unsuitable format. This offers the possibility of presenting organizations with a "proof" of their organization chart for correction.
4.3.2 Network mapping

Some interesting experiments have been undertaken by UIA using the programming language LOGO to get the computer to draw maps of complex networks of relationships between organizations (or problems).

It is appropriate to note that a company in the USA is now selling network mapping for complex organizations as a service.

4.3.3 Simulations

Part of the difficulty in conveying any overview of the international system of organization and issues is the lack of a sufficiently dynamic medium in which to reflect the emergence and decay of different configurations. This reinforces the traditional tendency to focus on isolated organizations or groups of organizations.

One alternative that has been tentatively explored by the UIA is the use of computer simulations. These may be used to highlight the rise and fall of institutional complexes.

4.3.4 Complementary information

One of the original stimuli for producing the Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential was to complement the focus on organizations with a focus on related information of relevance to the international community (e.g., world problems, strategies, values, human development concepts, etc.). This initiative has been reinforced by the participation of the UIA in programmes of the UN University.

Immediate advantage can however be taken of the material in various sections of the Encyclopedia, which can be produced or developed as separate publications. One of the advantages of this is that a number of the sections are of interest to quite distinct international constituencies with whom UIA could usefully develop contacts.

4.3.5 Metaphors

Given the complexity of the international system of organizations and issues, drastic over-simplifications are made in attempting to convey any understanding of it. There is clearly merit in developing more graphic ways of responding to such complexity as has been argued in the Communication Section in the Encyclopedia. Of special interest is the possibility of designing metaphors relevant to the development process (see Section CM). This is currently being explored by the UIA within the framework of the Economic Aspects of Human Development project of the UN University. It has been suggested that the UIA should host a small exploratory meeting on the question.

It is also clear from the reaction to the section on metaphors, that this could be developed into an independent publication representing an alternative approach to the problem of comprehension of global society in an information rich environment.
4.4 New edition of Encyclopedia (and its by-products)

The original contractual obligation with Saur was for two editions of the Encyclopedia. Clearly there is little point in pushing for a second edition before the sales of the first warrant it. Nevertheless it must be borne in mind that such a publication takes time to prepare.

4.5 Cultivation of contacts

4.5.1 Personalized correspondance

The above points all suggest the need for the UIA to cultivate its contacts more effectively. Hitherto this has been very difficult because of the priorities accorded to publication production and the cost of individualized correspondence. With the new computer system a more fruitful approach can be taken. Many organizations take the trouble to write sympathetic and encouraging letters to the UIA expressing interest in UIA activities. It has seldom been possible to respond to these in the manner they deserve. Such neglect in the long run can only be a disservice to the UIA and to the interests it seeks to serve.

4.5.2 Computer conferencing facility

In this context, the possibility of the UIA actually hosting an electronic mail system for international organizations should not be ignored. The costs of doing so are relatively low and the long term benefits to participants, including the UIA, make it easily justifiable. Such systems are in effect the contemporary concretization of the international networking activity which the UIA seeks to facilitate and for which it is now well-equipped.
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WARNING

The Yearbook attempts to cover all "international organizations", according to a broad range of criteria. It therefore includes many bodies which may be perceived, according to narrower definitions, as not being fully international or as not being of sufficient significance to merit inclusion. Such bodies are nevertheless included, so as to enable users to make their own evaluation in the light of their own criteria. For some users, these bodies may even be of greater interest.

The descriptions of organizations in this Yearbook are based on information received from a number of sources. Priority is normally given to information received from the organizations themselves, although every effort is made by the editors to check this information against other sources (periodicals, official documents, media, etc). Whilst the editors attempt to detect and overcome possible exaggerated claims by organizations (eg membership, budget, relations with other organizations, activities), the final evaluation of the information presented here must be left to the users of this volume.

Users may be assisted in this assessment by the section of the volume to which the organization has been allocated, by the amount of information it has been considered useful to include in the description, and by the last date on which information has been received. It should be recognized that some organizations only emerge into full activity on a periodic or irregular basis, such as quinquennial congress or as a response to a crisis.

Because an organization's own view of itself has been given priority, and because secondary sources confirming this view are not always available or reliable, the editors cannot take responsibility for any resulting inaccuracies in the information presented. The editors apologize for any inconvenience this might cause the user.

AVERTISSEMENT

L'objectif du Yearbook of International Organizations est de couvrir tous les types d'organisation internationale sans but lucratif, à partir d'un large éventail de critères. On peut donc y trouver des organismes qui, selon certaines définitions plus étroites, n'y auraient pas place - pas assez "internationaux" par exemple, ou d'importance trop réduite - mais présentent pour d'autres utilisateurs un intérêt certain.

La description des organisations telle qu'elle est présentée dans ce Yearbook est basée sur un ensemble de différentes sources. Priorité est normalement donnée à l'information reçue des organisations elles-mêmes, mais en même temps tous les efforts sont faits par la rédaction pour contrôler cette information à l'aide des autres sources (périodiques, documents officiels, communications de presse, etc) et pour détecter et réduire d'éventuelles exagérations (membres, budget, relations avec les autres organisations, activités).

Les utilisateurs seront aidés dans cette évaluation par la section du volume où l'organisation a été répertoriée, par la quantité d'information jugée nécessaire pour la description et par la date de réception de cette information. Il faut toutefois garder à l'esprit que certaines organisations ne s'activent que périodiquement ou très irrégulièrement, ainsi lors d'un congrès quinquennal ou lors d'une crise.

Quoi qu'il soit, l'évaluation finale de l'information présentée incombe à l'utilisateur qui l'étudiera à la lumière de ses critères personnels. La rédaction décline toute responsabilité pour des inexactitudes qui se glisseraient dans l'information présentée et s'excuse des inconvénients qu'il pourrait en découvrir pour l'utilisateur.
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HOW TO USE

Sections: The volume is divided into sections and sub-sections. Each section is denoted by one code letter (e.g. P= World problems; V= Human values). Each sub-section is denoted by two code letters (e.g. HI= Human development concepts; SP= Strategic polarities). Sections and sub-sections all appear in alphabetic order by code letter. The code letters also have some mnemonic significance. All sections and sub-sections are listed on the contents page.

Entries: Each sub-section is composed of a series of entries. Each entry is numbered using the code letters of the sub-section (e.g. PP0146= Lack of family planning; SS0161= Family planning). The entries appear in numeric order within the sub-section.

General index: The easiest way to find an entry on a specific topic is by consulting the General index in Section Z, where names of all entries are listed together in alphabetic order by keyword. The index gives the sub-section and number where the entry is to be found.

Section indexes: An alternative way to find an entry is by using the mini-indexes located at the end of individual sections. These provide an overview of entries within a sub-section.

Explanations: A brief introduction and commentary is provided at the beginning of each section and of each sub-section. More detailed comments are provided in Section X.

Cross-references: Cross-references between entries are explained in the sub-section introductions where appropriate.

Classified index: A classified index by subject (3000 categories) is provided to the world problems section (Section P) in a companion series: Yearbook of International Organizations (vol. 3). This also includes international organizations and treaties dealing with the same subject.

WARNING

1. Inconsistencies: The information collected here, and especially in the world problems section, is derived from a very wide range of sources reflecting many levels of insight and expertise, as well as many cultures, ideologies, beliefs, priorities and biases. No attempt has been made to eliminate any inconsistencies, although incompatible items have been treated as separate entries where appropriate. For example, both “capitalism” and “communism” are treated as world problems.

2. Juxtaposition: This book is deliberately organized in such a way as to juxtapose bodies of information which are normally kept apart. The hard reality of the “world problems” section is counter-balanced by various sections highlighting human values and development. Within the world problems section itself, for example, “counterarguments” are given questioning or denying the facts presented in the problem description, where such information is available.

3. Perceptions: Wherever possible the information is compiled using extracts from documents of international bodies, whether governmental or non-governmental, formal or informal, and as such may be viewed as factual. Given the different interpretations of these facts however, the information presented, especially in the case of world problems, can best be viewed as a collection of perceptions with which significant international constituencies identify strongly in advocating (or resisting) any social change. It is an overview of the world’s hopes and worries, whether real or imaginary.

4. Editorial intervention: In honouring the biases active in the international community in this way, the editors have limited themselves to ensuring that the texts in the mainsections, especially on world problems, make their point strongly and in as clear and concise a manner as the available material permits. In this period of imminent crisis, the editors have however accepted the need for a higher level of risk in exploring innovative possibilities. Some of the smaller sections are therefore the result of deliberate editorial experiments in gleaning and presenting information to highlight such possibilities, despite the risks of inadequacy and error.

5. Editorial bias: The basic bias of the editors is against limitation of information to reflect only a single viewpoint or paradigm, whether ideological, cultural, scientific or religious. Within any such paradigm, the information here also reflects different levels of ignorance, rather than attempting only to reflect a consensus prevailing amongst an elite group of authoritative experts whose views may be poorly received outside their own circle. The bias is therefore to include information from some constituencies which may well be judged qualitatively inferior, misleading, irresponsible, or irrelevant by some other constituency. (This policy also governs the production of the companion series, the Yearbook of International Organizations).

6. Significance: The amount of information given on any problem, for example, does not reflect an editorial evaluation of its importance. Problems commonly accepted as important may be documented only briefly, whether because of resource limitations, because of the profusion of relatively diffuse material available on them or because they can be more effectively documented through their sub-problems. Little-known problems may be given relatively extensive coverage precisely because their existence is not well-recognized. Inclusion of information in this publication implies only that the editors considered the source from which it derived sensitive to and capable of reflecting the views of an international constituency, and therefore as being of significance to a wider audience.

7. Naivety: Information on phenomena such as world problems, strategies, values or modes of human development is wisely assumed to be relevant to the design of any new broad-based initiatives in response to the global problematics. The editors have accepted the need for a certain naivety to break through the conceptual frameworks determining the general indifference of academic and governmental authorities to any questions concerning the actual number and variety of such phenomena. In identifying such phenomena within an open framework, some entries (on which whole libraries of books have been written) must necessarily appear naive. But despite the availability of such a wealth of detailed information, to the point of overload, there is a poverty of information on how to connect together this fragmented pattern. It is to this condition that this project responds by indicating possibilities, even if at times the result appears superficial or naive.

8. Pragmatism: The production of this book, within the constraints of modest resources, has been feasible only because of an extremely pragmatic approach to the collection and processing of information. Within these constraints the editors have deliberately set out to “open up” or highlight neglected categories of information, fleshing out the content to the extent possible. Where there has been conflict between ability to locate and process adequate information within a reasonable time period and the elaboration of the pattern of categories, the latter has been given priority in order that as broad a coverage could be provided as was feasible. Hopefully, even where the information supplied is inadequate, readers will be oriented to new features of the global system which others view as meriting their attention.

9. Non-completion: This book is the product of an ongoing project to explore ways of identifying and presenting categories of information relevant to the development process as perceived by international organizations. Major refinements will therefore continue to be made to many of the sections, and to the pattern of cross-references especially, in response to feedback on inadequa-
cies. In this sense the book cannot be regarded as a finished product.

10. Solutions: This book in no way attempts to present an editorial view of "the answer" to the world's problems. Some sections do indicate the various kinds of answer, or bases for an answer, which are favoured within the international community. The editors have however endeavoured to respond to the challenge of how to interrelate inherently incompatible answers and have, in one section, reviewed the possibilities of formulating an appropriate meta-answer of practical significance in such paradoxical circumstances.

ERRATA

A publication of this scope, based on a multiplicity of sources of information, necessarily contains errors of the following kinds:
- Errors of content, due to the sources of information used;
- Errors of interpretation, due to the manner of selection and representation of the information used by the editors;
- Errors arising from the process of selecting and registering cross-references.

Considerable editorial effort has been made to reduce the number of trivial formal errors, but it has not been considered feasible to eliminate all of them within the resources and time available.

With regard to substantive errors, many of the entries on world problems, for example, contain information from one international group which some other international group would consider erroneous. In this sense this book documents the fallacies which are active in the international community by juxtaposing incompatible perceptions.

The editors have attempted to respond to error in the spirit advocated by Donald Michael:

"Changing towards long-range social planning requires that, instead of avoiding exposure to and acknowledgement of error, it is necessary to expect it, to seek out its manifestations, and to use information derived from the failure as the basis for learning through future societal experiment. More bluntly, future-responsive societal learning makes it necessary for individuals and organizations to embrace error. It is the only way to ensure a shared self-consciousness about limited theory as to the nature of social dynamics, about limited data for testing theory, and hence about our limited ability to control our situation well enough to expect to be successful more often than not."

BIASES

In the light of the scope and methods noted above, a further influence on the design of the publication was a number of specific biases, some of which strongly influenced the length of any description.

1. As mentioned above, the whole editorial process was biased against any particular set of values, especially any particular concept of truth or falsehood, or of right or wrong, or of good or evil, or of strategic relevance or irrelevance, whether or not this resulted in texts which were acceptable or ridiculous in terms of the scientific, legal, religious, cultural, political or strategic priorities of others. The task was conceived as one of "telling things as they are" in the eyes of those who identify with a particular perspective, not of highlighting only what is important according to one such perspective.

2. There is a definite bias towards giving more space to less well-publicized perspectives and consequently less space to the standard well-documented perspectives, for example the world problems of war, famine, pollution, etc.

3. The above bias is partly corrected by a bias in favour of presenting any problem complex as an interconnected set of many sub-problems rather than as one amalgamated description. The sub-problem descriptions may in fact be longer than that of the parent problem.

4. When information was inadequate or too much editorial work was required to process the available material into an appropriate form, there was a bias in favour of including the entry, even without a description, rather than excluding it to ensure an impression of entries of higher quality. There was therefore a bias in favour of opening up categories to which indexes and cross-references could refer in anticipation of work in future editions. This may be viewed as a bias in favour of lists.

5. In contrast to other efforts to document world problems, there was a definite bias against dependence on "high grade" information in which each "fact" has been substantiated by an approved authority. As pointed out earlier, such "facts" are quickly disputed, denied or ignored in counter-reports by those holding alternative views, whether "authoritative" or not. Where high grade information is available from international bodies it has been used. Where the information is too controversial to be approved by an international body or where no concerned body exists, "low grade" information circulating in the media has been used.

6. This publication raises many questions about the use of language by the international community and the media. Whether a world problem denoted by a particular set of words "exists" in a manner distinct from that denoted by a related set of words (which appear to be partly synonymous) is a matter for continuing review. In this project there is a specific bias against premature resolution of such editorial/research difficulties. Obvious duplication has been avoided, but other cases have been allowed to co-exist especially in the human development section.

7. As noted earlier, the limited resources imposed an unwelcome bias against material requiring translation into English, in contrast to the editorial practice for the Yearbook of International Organizations. The assumption was made that this was largely corrected by the extensive use of materials formulated in the multi-lingual environments of international organizations. Some exceptions were also made in the case of unique materials obtained in French.

8. A final specific bias, associated with the previous point, is one against premature classification in this volume. The task here is seen to be one of registering, describing and interrelating perspectives (in a non-linear manner, where necessary), not of classifying them in some framework which would eliminate significant inconsistencies. Hence the bias in favour of unstructured lists, complemented by indexing and cross-references. Classification, with all that it implies in terms of imposition of a particular conceptual (and often defensive) framework on data, is a separate matter. The same approach is adopted with regard to the international organizations and multilateral treaties in the Yearbook of International Organizations (vol 1). These are classified experimentally (in vol 3) in an evolving integrated framework of some 3,000 categories, together with the world problems and strategies from this volumes (see Appendix YB).

BACKGROUND

The previous edition of this publication was published in 1976 under the title Yearbook of World Problems and Human Potential. It was produced as an experiment arising from a joint project started in 1972 between the Union of International Associations and Mankind 2000. For the UIA it was a logical extension of its function as a "depository" of information on the networks of international agencies and associations, as documented in its 3-volume Yearbook of International Organizations. For Mankind 2000, as catalyst of the international futures research movement, it was a means of bringing into focus its prime concern with the place and development of the human being in the emerging world society. The project was jointly funded by the two transnational non-profit bodies, with Mankind 2000 supporting the editorial costs and the UIA the publishing and administrative costs.

In its present form, under the new title, the publication is jointly funded by the UIA and K G Saur Verlag, current publisher of the UIA's 3-volume Yearbook. Agreement to produce this edition was reached in 1983, when work commenced. It was originally conceived as constituting a fourth volume within the Yearbook series because of the degree of cross-referencing between the four volumes. But because its periodicity will depend on how it is received, it was subsequently decided to treat it as a separate publication under the ad hoc label of the established Yearbook. The present content of the book has also been strongly influenced by the participation of the UIA in the United Nations University project on Goals, Processes and Indicators of Development during the period 1978-82.

Originally founded in Brussels in 1907, partly on the initiative of two Nobel Peace Laureates (Henri La Fontaine, 1913; Auguste Beernaert, 1939), the UIA as a international nongovernmental organization had activities prior to 1939 which illustrate its long-term interest in relation to the current project. These include publication of the Annuaire de la Vie Internationale, vol I (1908-1909, 1370 pages), Vol II (1910-1911, 2652 pages) which included information on problems with which international organizations were concerned at that time. Also published was a Code des Vaux Internationaux; codification générale des vux et résolutions des organismes internationaux (1923, 940 pages, under the auspices of the League of Nations), which listed those portions of the texts of international organization resolutions which covered substantive matters, including what are now regarded as world problems. It covered 1216 resolutions adopted at 151 international meetings. The subject index lists some 1200 items. Paul Otlet, co-founder of the UIA, produced in 1916 a book entitled Les Problèmes Internationaux et la Guerre which identified many problems giving rise to and caused by war, and proposing the creation of a League of Nations. In 1935 he attempted a synthesis, Monde, which touched upon many problems and their solution within a society in transformation. The preface bore the title "The Problem of Problems", a topic he had first explored in 1918.

INTENDED USE

A project of this kind evokes amongst some the response "Why bother, when we already know what ought to be done?" Who, after all, needs another book parading the range of problems with which the global community is confronted? Key people no longer have time to read more than one page summaries and each international body is acting as best it can to contain the problems to which it is specifically exposed.

In 1984 the Director of Political Affairs of one major intergovernmental body considered this project both presumptuous and ridiculous. He then went on to argue that problems did not "exist" in a way which allowed them to be identified and described in a book. For his institution they were agenda items which came and went, whatever, when we already know what ought to be done?" Who, after all, needs another book parading the range of problems with which the global community is confronted? Key people no longer have time to read more than one page summaries and each international body is acting as best it can to contain the problems to which it is specifically exposed.

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Others would argue that it is a grave mistake to focus on problems in any way because this "gives them energy", hindering the necessary "positive thinking" from which appropriate social transformation can emerge. There is widespread belief that the
action required can be simply defined. Food aid is a topical example, although even major intergovernmental bodies are now acknowledging the counter-productive aspects of such generosity. A medium of humility would require recognition that most seemingly positive initiatives have at least minor counter-productive effects – omelettes cannot be made without breaking eggs.

There are however many who point out that international institutions are not containing the problems faced by the global community; rather they are being overwhelmed by them. To function at all, such bodies have to concentrate on very small portions of the pattern of problems, denying the relevance of other portions or even their very existence. This is especially the case when they are constrained to prove the value of their own initiatives even though they may aggravate such other problems. Many claim to know what needs to be focussed on, or done, or avoided to resolve the crisis – if only everybody else would subscribe to their particular paradigm. In response to this, many organizations (international relations, environment, law, social science) concerned with interdisciplinary issues and ways of presenting to students the variety of the global problematics and potential responses to it; national government departments designing programmes which need to be sensitive to problems and possibilities in other sectors; future research institutes; universities departments responsible for designing general studies programmes for students; ministries of foreign affairs concerned with training or briefing diplomats and members of delegations; students in many fields needing an overview of the range of information on particular items. Whilst many of the entries are adequate, or more than adequate, there are exceptions where more appropriate information could usefully have been included. This defect is also partly a consequence of the bias in favour of “opening up” neglected topics as opposed to extending information on well-documented topics.

It is expected that the majority of readers will use this book to locate specific items or groups of information. Some users will respond to the challenge of ordering, comprehending and presenting such a range of information in new ways, because of the extent to which it reflects the variety of issues with which people and groups identify and by which they are motivated. It is hoped that some will also be further stimulated to explore the possibility of patterned dynamic relationships between incompatible conceptual languages, encompassing the discontinuity between them, in order to develop a dynamic conceptual foundation appropriate to the global order of the future.

ASSESSMENT

The principal strength of this publication lies in the range of information presented, often derived from inaccessible documents, reflecting a broad spectrum of cultures, ideologies, disciplines and belief systems. Many of the topics are little-known, however vitally relevant they may appear to those especially sensitive to them. A significant proportion of the information is of a kind which is normally avoided or ignored by institutions and academic disciplines, because there are no adequate procedures or frameworks for handling it. Many of the topics are therefore of a kind not to be found in available reference books whether because they fall between conventionally recognized categories, or because they threaten them in some way (as with some types of problem).

A second strength lies in the juxtaposition of seemingly unrelated kinds of information (e.g. problems, values, human development) which emerge as complementary and call for the recognition of a pattern of relationships between them. The organization of the volume is designed to permit very extensive cross-referencing of various types. It allows relationships, whether logical or functional, to be indicated in a much more precise manner than in other contexts.

A third strength is the deliberate presentation of information so as to confront opposing viewpoints, whether through the arguments supporting or denying the existence of a particular problem, by matching constructive and destructive values, or by opposing strategies and counter-strategies. Wherever possible entries indicate the limitations of the perspective presented. The structure of the volume therefore guards against dependence on any one particular perspective. Each may indeed be appropriate in particular circumstances, but it is more probable that it is only on the whole in the non-political philosophy that human values may depend in a turbulent social environment during a period of vulnerability to nuclear, ecological and food crises of an unpredictable nature.

A fourth strength is the exploration, both through the variety of information and through a number of editorial experiments, of the limitations of language in distinguishing both problems and responses to them (values, modes of awareness, strategies). The approach used has made it possible to present sets of fuzzy categories, such as values, in a way which allows them to be usefully related to harder categories of information. Many neglected categories have been “opened up” in a manner which allows the significance of such distinctions to be explored. The approach usefully questions assumptions about the adequacy of language in responding to the global problematics and designing integrative strategies.

The principal weakness of the publication lies in the inadequacy of information on particular items. Whilst many of the entries are adequate, or more than adequate, there are exceptions where more appropriate information could usefully have been included. This is a direct consequence of the method which was oriented to information structure with which classification experiments can be undertaken, some of which are presented in this volume.

A second weakness for many is the absence of any scheme through which the large amount of information is ordered. To this extent it may appear as a “grab-bag” collection of disordered information of varying quality and significance. As is pointed out however, the absence of a classification scheme is deliberate because one of the fundamental challenges is the design of an adequate scheme which would be non-trivial and minimize distortion. The method used minimizes distortion and provides an information structure with which classification experiments can be undertaken, some of which are presented in this volume.

A third weakness is the absence of any adequate bibliography or indication of sources, particularly since in recognizing the existence of a perspective in the international community it would be desirable to indicate what group or constituency holds that view. In the 1976 edition considerable effort was in fact expended in preparing extensive bibliographies on human development and interdisciplinarity. These have not been included here. The difficulty in including bibliographical references comes again from the method used. In the case of United Nations material, for example,
literally tons of documents were scanned for the rare paragraphs defining a problem. In preparing the final entry, the file used might contain photocopies of many such paragraphs. It was not considered feasible to allocate scarce resources to time-consuming bibliographic work when the objective was to cross-reference the entry to the international body directly concerned with a topic, whether or not that body provided information on it. Indeed one of the basic difficulties in obtaining information on world problems, for example, lay in the fact that the bodies most concerned with an issue were frequently unable to supply a succinct description of it. More useful texts often came from other sources commenting in summary form on the issue.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

In the introduction to each sub-section, indications are given as to possible future improvements for subsequent editions. These mainly focus on refinement of the entries and extending the range of cross-references between them.

Now that all the sub-sections exist in text database files on an in-house local area computer network, many possibilities emerge for enriching the information, its organization and its presentation. Of special concern is the possibility of linking entries to specific international bodies and, in the case of the United Nations, to resolutions of those bodies.

The in-house computer facility should finally enable the networks of cross-references to be presented in map form as was originally envisaged in 1976. Although this step was planned for this edition, priority could not be accorded to it. It is believed however that experimenting with such visual presentation will lead to significant breakthroughs in ordering information on the global problematique and on ways of responding to it (see Appendix YF).
DIRECTORY OF NGOs IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH UNESCO

Proposal date: 12th November 1986

Structure

1. Bound in a clear plastic cover

2. Title page (see enclosed draft)

3. Contents page

4. Introduction/preface/explanation of structure of entries (1-2 page text to be agreed or supplied)

5. Entries extracted from Yearbook of International Organizations (Vol 1)
   (a) Order
      - Category A entries
      - Category B entries
      - Category C entries
      Within each category, entries will be in alphabetical order by English name on the basis of Yearbook entry. One entry per page (some entries may however be longer than one page). Blank line between descriptive paragraphs. Text in Times 10pt, as indicated in enclosed sample.
   (b) Special modifications to Yearbook text:
      - "Taiwan" and "Chinese Taipei" to be listed as "Taiwan of China" in addresses and membership lists
      - In Membership paragraph, "countries" to be listed as "countries, territories or zones"
      - Suppression of Yearbook reference number

6. Index entries
   (a) Order (see also comment in letter concerning page numbering):
      - Category A index
      - Category B index
      - Category C index
   (b) Content:
      - English name
      - Other language names (French, Spanish, etc)
      - Initials (all languages)

Special conditions

1. UNESCO agrees that the copyright information should appear on the title page, with appropriate mention of the fact that the information was extracted from the Yearbook of International Organizations (see draft title page enclosed).

2. UNESCO agrees that the volume to be produced is for restricted distribution solely for the purposes of discussion at the intergovernmental meeting scheduled in January 1987, and that this should be so stated on the title page (see draft title page enclosed). This in no way determines the nature of the agreement to be reached for the form of any publication which may subsequently be agreed upon for wider distribution.
## Annex 7

### Checklist of Possible Subject Directories

#### Sociology

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#### Defence, Government, Laws, International Relations

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### Education and Culture

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### Policy Making, Development and Innovative Change

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## HISTORY, LANGUAGES, PHILOSOPHY AND CULTURE

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### LEISURE, RECREATION AND SPORT

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