REPORT OF INFORMATION / RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS

Prepared on the occasion of the UIA General Assembly, May 1996

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I. CURRENT PUBLICATION PRODUCTION

For purposes of comparison and summary, the publication A4 page production of the UIA (excluding research notes and papers) is indicated in the following table.

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A. Yearbook of International Organizations

Editorial work on the 32nd and 33rd editions of this annual series has followed the regular pattern. At the time of writing (April 17th), editing of Volumes 1 and 2 of the 33rd (1996-7) edition has been completed and the formatted data had been sent for print. See Annex 1 for statistics on international organizations by type.

As indicated in previous reports, it continues to be necessary to exclude more categories of entry (and/or paragraphs from entries). The response of the publisher, discussed in previous years, is that "overflow" of any kind will have to be carried in future in the CD-ROM, as produced since December 1995 (see below).

Work on Volume 3 and the new Volume 4 (see below) is on schedule for completion in May and July. Mailings for the 34th edition are already commencing.

There have been two main changes to the pattern of production:

- Photocomposition of the 33rd (and future) editions has been switched, at the request of SAUR Verlag, to a German company (and away from a London-based company that is part of the same Reed-Elsevier groups as SAUR). This has been done to benefit from the newer Postscript format not supplied through London. Already this switch has resulted in a significant economy of pages. It has also required that the UIA produce introductory pages to the books on a Postscript printer (upgrade funded by SAUR).

- Volume 4 (international organization publications) has been agreed as an additional volume for the 1996 edition. Its contents are described below. Of special significance is the transfer of the Publications Index (previously in Volume 1) into Volume 4 in order to increase the available space in Volume 1.

B. Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential

Work on the 4th edition of this 3-volume publication commenced at the beginning of 1993. The first two volumes were successfully completed in April 1994. See Annex 2 for statistics.

Work on the new third volume, agreed in March 1994, continued from June 1994 and was completed in June 1995 (partially assisted by funds from a UIA Member). It covers "Actions - Strategies - Solutions" employed or envisaged by international organizations and constituencies. At present the database covers some 18,000 "strategies", although only 4,000 have any descriptive text. As with the other volumes, much effort was devoted to relationships between strategies, and in this case also to the "problems" in Volume 1 of the Encyclopedia and to the organizations in the Yearbook. The new publication totals 976
The strategies project was designed to build on existing advantages:

- work done on strategies for the 1986 edition of the Encyclopedia
- information in UIA files, or available, on strategy material from international organizations
- skills developed by the editor of the world problems section of the Encyclopedia

C. Who's Who in International Organizations

SAUR remains very interested in this series. Work started from mid-April 1994 on a 2nd edition of this publication. This was completed in June 1995.

The UIA was fortunate to come to an agreement with a former member of the UIA editorial staff familiar with the UIA style and computer software. Editing has been largely done at her home as the first UIA experiment in a mode of work much discussed as the future of many forms of work.

D. International Congress Calendar

This is the subject of a separate report.

E. Transnational Associations

This is the subject of a separate report.

F. World Guide to Religious and Spiritual Organizations

This publication, requested by SAUR, is an extract from the Yearbook supplemented by additional information and indexes. Work was initiated in August 1955 and was completed in December 1955 and will be published in May 1996. It totals 476 pages.

The work was done by the former UIA staff member responsible for the Who's Who in International Organizations. The value of such publications for the UIA is that they fund extra editorial effort on particular classes of organizations in the Yearbook.
II. CD-ROM PRODUCTION

(a) Background: Production of CD-ROM versions of UIA data has been investigated for nearly 5 years with SAUR. Following the unsatisfactory delays in negotiating with SAUR's partners in the USA in 1993, it was decided that the UIA would itself experiment with producing a test CD-ROM using its own software. A test disk was successfully produced in October 1993 and shown to SAUR. A subsequent demonstration was made in Munich at SAUR's HQ. Seemingly this was important to the internal politics of the SAUR group -- a European client producing a CD-ROM, hitherto a speciality of the USA.

Work on the CD-ROM and associated software upgrades was started in mid-1994 by UIA. Hardware upgrades associated with this process were undertaken in April 1994. A distribution licence was negotiated with Revelation in January 1995 for a CD-ROM version. Although considerable advances were made in producing a software interface to take advantage of the UIA investment in Advanced Revelation software over the years, deficiencies in the available software hindered further development. This approach was therefore abandoned in January 1995.

(b) Current approach: It was only in late 1994 that low cost software became widely available to permit publishers like the UIA to avoid the previous high costs of production. In February 1995 reports on electronic publishing software strongly recommended the Folio Infobase software as a "robust" solution to many of the problems which it may prove difficult to integrate into the Revelation version, notably the security features. The package is produced by another daughter corporation of the Reed-Elsevier group.

Investigation of the Folio software resulted in the conclusion of a contract in March 1995 with a Quebec-based company (introduced by Christian de Laet, UIA Member) to convert UIA data into the Folio format. Work commenced 18th April on a schedule which aimed to produce a CD-ROM by June-July 1995. This software also permits:

- inclusion of images such as photographs (relating to the Who's Who database), logos, or organization charts
- operation in a Windows environment (increasingly the standard platform) for CD-ROM operation

Two copies of Folio production software were purchased to enable work to be done both in Montreal and Brussels. For marketing reasons, in addition to the Windows version, it was considered necessary to purchase DOS and Mac versions, according to SAUR. The French initiative also required a French interface. The UIA purchased a machine to record CD-ROMs, which is used to test and produce master copies for reproduction elsewhere.

Many teething difficulties were experienced with the Folio product and its user-friendly installation (as opposed to the straightforward UIA-to-Folio data conversion) during 1995. These delayed production significantly. However it was possible to do much more than was originally envisaged.

The questionable titles of the SAUR versions of the CD-ROMs were effectively imposed "for marketing reasons" by Reed Reference in the USA.

(c) Production in December 1955

Three CDs were produced in December 1955. It was agreed with SAUR that they would reproduce disks from master copies provided by UIA for this first edition. Ironically, this approach was taken, because the UIA did not have access to equipment to force labels onto the disks, or to prepare packaging. The disks may be entirely produced by the UIA in
Yearbook Plus: International Organizations and Biographies

Work on this product, scheduled to appear annually in December, was initiated in March 1995 and completed in December 1995 with production of the first commercial disks by SAUR.

This CD-ROM includes:
- Organization profiles from the Yearbook (Volume 1), as well as many profiles which it is no longer possible to print in the book for lack of space
- Biographical profiles from the Who’s *Who in International Organizations*
- Demonstration of the Encyclopedia databases with organizations and biographical databases

Of special merit is the fact that advantage is taken of the many links between organizations, documented in the Yearbook, to provide hyperlinks both between organizations and with other databases.

Encyclopedia Plus: Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential

Work on this product was initiated in March 1995 and completed in December 1995 with production of the first commercial disks by SAUR. Any further edition will depend on market response and/or other sources of funding.

This CD-ROM includes:
- world problems (12,000 entries with 120,000 hyperlinks)
- human development (4,500 entries with 15,000 hyperlinks)
- human values (3,254 entries with 23,000 hyperlinks)
- strategies (29,500 entries with 91,000 hyperlinks)
- bibliography (12,000 entries)
- commentaries

The CD therefore has some 260,000 hyperlinks. It also provides access to vicious problem cycles.

UIA Encyclopedia

This version was entirely produced by the UIA as a marketing experiment, rather than by SAUR, and is designed for sale to individuals at a discounted price.

The product is virtually identical to the non-individual version, with the exception of the labelling, packaging and the guide.
III. NEW DEVELOPMENTS

A. Restructuring the Yearbook: Bibliography of international organizations

As indicated above, the Yearbook has been restructured by the addition of a new Volume 4. This will be divided into three principal sections:

- **Bibliography of studies of international organizations**: This research bibliography, recently requested by the UIA Council, was last published in the Yearbook in 1974. Updating work was initiated in September 1995 with a view to a separate UIA publication. In February 1996 this was integrated into a 3-part larger publication in agreement with SAUR.

- **Bibliography of publications of international organizations**: This was previously published as a regular 100 page appendix to Volume 1 of the Yearbook.

- **Bibliography of publications on issues and strategies of concern to international organizations**: This is derived from the Encyclopedia bibliographies.

At this point, no further restructuring of the Yearbook is planned until the impact of the CD-ROM initiative is clear. The CD-ROM version may however acquire a new form as a result of the French and Spanish language initiatives (see below).

B. French-language "Yearbook": towards a multilingual edition

(a) **Background**: The last French edition was produced in 1980 with the aid of the French Government. Discussions on the possibility of a CD-ROM based French version of the Yearbook, initiated by the French Government in 1991, have continued through to the present. Contacts have been developed with other possible partners, notably the ACCT, the Communauté française de Belgique, the Délégation de Québec and the Swiss government.

The global budget is approximately 1 million FF. From 1991 to 1995 a total of 350,000 FF was transferred to UIA by the French Government. This represents approximately one third of the estimated amount required for the task -- if the translation is to be complete in every detail.

The problem has been what to do if the remaining two thirds could not be obtained from some other source. Because of the French insistence on a "complete" translation, considered unrealistic by the UIA, the funds were not used up until 1995.

The UIA was requested to make a further presentation on the project to the Comité pour le Français dans les Organisations Internationales in Paris in February 1995.

(b) **Current framework**: In March 1995, a representative of the ACCT proposed that, in the absence of the funding required, the focus be placed on including French language texts prepared by French-speaking organizations, rather than attempting the costly "translation" of the work as a whole. This possibility was referred to higher authority, with an intermediate meeting on 4th May 1995, to which a revised proposal was submitted at the request of the French in anticipation of a proactive response. The possibility of Canadian (or Quebec) intervention (assisted by Christian de Laet, UIA Member) remained an active possibility.

As a result of these contacts, a letter of intent from the ACCT was received by the UIA on the basis of which the UIA agreed to initiate work with the funds already received -- in anticipation of a contract from the ACCT to encompass the funds already allocated and new funds through the ACCT. It was agreed to focus effort towards a demonstration version of the CD-ROM to be presented at the Cotonou French-language summit in December 1995. However, because no facilities were available for such a presentation, the possibility was abandoned in November 1995.
At the end of December 1995 a loosely worded contract was finally received from the ACCT, but covering expenses incurred in 1995 (sic). This was for new funds and included no mention of those already received directly from the French government (without any contract). This document was only finally signed by the UIA by accompanying it with an interpretative letter from the UIA to clarify possibly erroneous assumptions. This contract allowed the UIA to conclude contracts with translators.

This new contract brought the total received to: 575,000 FF. A further 200,000 FF has been announced in various ways, representing funds from the Communauté française de la Belgique and from the Province of Québec. It is unclear whether these funds will in fact materialize and when.

(c) Future issues: In April 1995, exchanges with the French government indicated that a number of points remained unclear, specifically with regard to:

- the meaning of "complete" or "partial" with regard to any translation
- the budgetary complement announced, and the deficit with respect to the total translation cost
- the precise form of the final product
- the data of production of the final product
- the commercialization of the product (including questions of free copies and intellectual copyright)

All these factors affect the planning of translation work, particularly in relation to contracts with personnel.

In order to reduce translation costs the UIA has divided the work both by priority (French-speaking organizations, etc) and translation effort:

- susceptible to automatic machine translation (ca 7 million characters)
- susceptible to semi-automatic machine translation (ca 11 million characters)
- requiring manual translation (ca 12 million characters)

It is appropriate to note that the problems for any subsequent edition of the French version are themselves complex:

- it is improbable that equivalent sums of money will be made available by the French Government for a second edition.
- there are major technical problems in identifying which updates to any English edition need to be translated as modifications to the French edition in order to respect the parallelism between the two language versions.

The most sensitive issue remains the manner in which the French information would be handled in relation to the English information on the CD-ROM, especially with the likelihood that the English information would be more frequently updated than the French.

(d) Recommendations: The UIA has recommended to the French government and to the ACCT that the aim be to include any French texts translated (up to the limits of time and funds) be combined with the English text on the CD-ROM to appear in December 1996.

 Preferably this would be defined as a "multilingual" edition rather than a "bilingual" edition, or a separate "purely French" edition. Indeed the UIA already possesses
descriptions of some 200 organizations in Spanish which could be scanned for inclusion with relatively little effort. The emphasis would then be placed on providing information on whatever languages seemed appropriate (or where funds were available), rather than seeking completion in any one language.

C. Future CD-ROM production

It has always been the intention to produce several different CD-ROMs, with more or less of the UIA information. Exactly what is produced will be determined in consultation with SAUR, although the UIA may produce versions for independent distribution (not through SAUR). Possibilities include CD-ROMs with:

- Yearbook database only (with French versions?)
- Yearbook plus Calendar database
- Encyclopedia only
- "all" databases
- subsets by subject or geographical region
- photographs, logos, organization charts

Note that using a scanner also implies the possibility of placing texts from back copies of *Transnational Associations*, early UIA reference books, and other reports onto CD-ROM.

Future work will be affected by significant upgrades to Folio software scheduled for October 1996, although these may well be too close to the UIA production deadlines.

Major considerations will be whether the UIA continues to produce versions for both Windows and Macintosh (the DOS version will be abandoned), and with what language modules.

(a) Yearbook: The UIA has a contractual commitment to publish some version of "Yearbook Plus" in December 1996. Negotiations with the French Government and SAUR may lead to a redefinition of this as a "multilingual edition". Alternatively, a separate French edition may be produced. Consideration is being given to the possibility of providing hyperlinks to the addresses of national member organizations on the CD, now that a database on this information has been built up as the result of contracts with UNESCO (see below).

SAUR has specifically precluded the possibility of integrating the new logo information (see below) into any such CD-ROM for two years.

(b) Who's Who: As in December 1955, this information will be integrated into the Yearbook Plus CD. However SAUR is not prepared to invest in any editorial update of the biographical information for the 1996 edition. This would be for 1997 or later.

(c) Encyclopedia: No further work is planned at the moment although periodical cutting of materials continues in anticipation of that work. However the work on part of the bibliography will be done for Yearbook Volume 4. If work is undertaken on the *World Encyclopedia of Values, Prizes and Awards* (see below) this would effectively build up the values database in the Encyclopedia.

(d) Calendar: Placement of meeting information on CD-ROM is under active consideration, but is partly dependent on initiatives taken with respect to the World Wide Web (see below).

(e) Historical publications: Consideration is being given to the possibility of scanning early UIA publications for a special CD.

D. Internet (World Wide Web) publication
**Background:** Since late in 1993, electronic publishing has been confronted by a new phenomenon as a result of work done at CERN on hypertext linked documents. This has resulted in the emergence of what is known as the World Wide Web, accessible on all computers by modem from around the world. Throughout 1994 and 1995 the technical and popular press has covered the major implications of this phenomenon.

Such is the simplicity and elegance of the concept, that it constitutes an immediate challenge to any existing publisher, but especially to any organizations (or individuals) with publishing ambitions or information to disseminate -- notably of the kind produced by the UIA.

Many of these points, and their implications for the UIA, have been covered in a separate report (see report on *Information Strategy*).

In October 1994 the UIA subscribed on an experimental basis to a service providing access to Internet and the Web. The purpose was to test and offer e-mail access to the UIA, notably for organizations wishing to reply in this mode.

**UIA Website:** In December 1995 the UIA set up its own website (http://www.uia.org) under a subsidized arrangement with Interpac Belgium as part of the marketing programme for the Encyclopedia. Although only experimental, the facility of this medium quickly led to the placement of some 1,500 "pages" of information onto the Web covering every aspect of UIA activity. This amounts to a full size publication in its own right. The scope can be seen by the introductory "home page" (see Annex 3) through which users are transferred to particular categories of information.

This approach offers considerable advantages in the presentation of up to date information on the UIA and its publications to a potentially very wide audience at relatively little cost -- compared to those of conventional brochure publication (quickly outdated) and mailing. The quality of presentation is also very satisfactory when printed from the Web by any user (including the UIA).
In addition to detailed information on the UIA itself, the website includes:

- content and marketing information on UIA publications
- information on UIA research (including complete downloadable texts of selected documents)
- an extensive demonstration of main UIA databases available on CD-ROM
- checklists of organizations, world problems, strategies, values and human development approaches
- a master list of all other international organizations with websites (which can thus be accessed directly from the UIA website)

(c) **Future initiatives**: It quickly became evident that:

- the Web offered a unique place for organizations of every size and activity to display their wares. Many international organizations are now setting up "home pages" on the Web for this purpose.
- much software was available on a non-commercial basis to permit further experimentation by the UIA on a range of possibilities

Placing data onto Internet adds to the existing challenge for the UIA and SAUR of the balance to be found between book (Yearbook, Encyclopedia) and CD-ROM. A balance must be found between all three for marketing purposes and in the relationship with SAUR.

A particular and relatively immediate challenge for the UIA is to determine in what ways, and at what costs (if any) to users, in which meeting and other data should be placed on the Web. This is especially urgent given the initiatives taken by other bodies in this respect.

E. "Guide series"

Publications last appeared in this series in 1985. It was discontinued because of marketing problems.

The new *World Guide to Religious and Spiritual Organizations* is however now seen by SAUR as part of this series.

F. **International Association Statutes**

This publication was last produced in 1988 and SAUR has no desire to produce another paper version. It remains an interesting product to include on any CD-ROM to enhance the UIA description of international organizations. Politically it is also important in relation to the possible initiatives to "register" international organizations within Europe.

Technically the problem is one of finding a minimal cost procedure to get the text onto computer -- scanning being the logical approach.

Selected statutes in French have been scanned as part of the project to produce the French-language version of the Yearbook.
G. International Directory of Logos and Abbreviations

This project, agreed with SAUR in April 1996, aims to present the logos of some 6,000 selected international organizations in a suitably indexed directory (see Annex 4).

It will make use of scanning facilities and will be terminated in early 1997.

H. World Encyclopedia of Values, Prizes and Awards

This project, suggested by Robert Muller (UIA Member) and welcomed by SAUR, is currently being investigated for feasibility (see Annex 5).

It is of interest to the UIA because of the links to both international organizations awarding prizes and to the Encyclopedia section on values which such prizes honour, and which are often a focus of international organization programmes.

I. Statistical development

This initiative is described in connection with the report on the *International Congress Calendar*.

J. Other possibilities

These are discussed separately (see separate *Information Strategy* report).
IV. PUBLISHING AND MARKETING

A. Contractual relationships with SAUR

Work continues under long-standing contracts revised in February 1996 to provide UIA with additional revenue by increasing payments for Yearbook editorial costs by 3% in 1996 and by 3% in 1998. Both parties continue to express satisfaction with the arrangements, despite the many threats to the publishing industry and booksales (see separate report on Information Strategy) in a time of recession and general uncertainty.

New contracts currently under discussion are:

- for the logos and abbreviations project
- for the prizes and values project

B. Sales and marketing

(a) Via SAUR: Sales continue at a satisfactory level despite the general recession. SAUR remains very satisfied with UIA products.

Receipts under SAUR contracts increased by 5 percent in 1993 as a result of the adjustment of the contract as previously reported to the General Assembly. Receipts from SAUR have increased (1994: 13.8 million BF; 1995: 14.8 million BF).

(b) Via UIA: Receipts from sale of publications by UIA itself (through Brussels) remain satisfactory (1994: 7.6 million BF; 1995: 5.9 million BF), although lower than those sales via SAUR. The 1995 UIA sales total is 90 percent greater than the 1993 sales through UIA.

The issue of UIA marketing from Brussels remains unresolved (if it is a real issue). It continues at a very modest level for UIA publications as a whole. As an experiment, an exception, in the case of the Encyclopedia as an unusual product, has been made to the normal approach to UIA marketing:

- a "UIA version" of the CD has been separately test marketed from Brussels, despite considerable doubts on the part of SAUR (naturally concerned for regular sales). This experiment, finally launched late in December 1995, was severely affected by production delays and a final evaluation is not yet possible, although preliminary results indicate that it is not useful to extent this approach.

- in order to bypass perceived constraints on marketing of UIA products in North America through SAUR and Reed, the UIA concluded an exploratory contract with a California-based publishing consultant (President of the Souther California Publishing Media Association) for a "media audit" of receptivity to the Encyclopedia. At the time of writing, the results of this audit are not yet available.

(c) Marketing via the Web: As noted above, the marketing challenge has been considerably modified by Internet access. The UIA has placed a large amount of marketing information onto the Web (including hyperlinks to SAUR and Reed websites).
Related initiatives call for a careful balancing act, in consultation with SAUR, concerning:

- addition of a more or less extensive sample of data on Internet (implemented March 1996)
- placing a complete functional database on Internet, excluding text or other significant portions, at no charge to users (implemented February 1996)
- providing some information free and charging for access to other information (under investigation)

It is important to recognize that much information on organizations and meetings is already available on Internet free of charge. Increasing amounts will be made available in this way, notably by the United Nations. The UIA may be forced to recognize that its main asset lies not in the information itself but in the capacity to manage and update it.

(d) **Unsold copies**: A regrettable issue raised each year by SAUR is the lack of appropriate financial arrangements through which to dispose of unsold copies of UIA publications. The problem is that the cost of shipping them from Germany is quite significant and the lack of guarantee that they can be sold at any price makes it awkward for the UIA to take any position on the matter. Such publications are therefore regularly pulped. Occasionally arrangements have been made with UNESCO, the difficulty being that such arrangements are easily abused resulting in loss of income. A more creative approach to this might have resulted from the contacts with the head of UNESCO's General Programme of Information (no follow up from their side) and the ACCT.

**V. IN-HOUSE COMPUTER SYSTEM**

Discussed in a separate report (*Reflections on a Possible UIA Information Strategy, Annex 2)*

**VI. STRATEGIC ISSUES**

The long-term strategic issues are discussed in a separate report (*Reflections on a Possible UIA Information Strategy*).
VII. RESEARCH-RELATED ISSUES

Research-related issues are also developed in other reports. A checklist of papers is presented in Annex 6.

In addition to papers prepared in response to particular occasions and conferences, research-related work is also done in connection with the Encyclopedia. Where possible adaptations of research papers have been used in explanatory sections of the Encyclopedia.

Current research themes include:

A. Transformative conferencing and dialogue

Opportunities to develop innovative approaches to conferencing continue to be explored. A group partially funded by the UIA played a significant role in the coordination of the "open forum" session at the 13th Congress of the World Futures Studies Federation (Finland, August 1993) and of the facilitation of the Parliament of the World's Religions (Chicago, September 1993) in the light of the Alma Ata event.

The UIA was able to encourage the use of innovative processes, through two members of this group, at annual conferences organized by the UNESCO Division of Philosophy (Paris, 1995 and 1996). These used both the messaging and visual minuting techniques sponsored by the UIA. Similar contacts are being made with respect to the newly established Club of Budapest.

Dialogue has now become a very fashionable topic, notably in North America. The UIA continues to be associated with an experimental dialogue group (The School of Ignorance) whose members are themselves active in various dialogue experiments. The Where appropriate, the UIA continues to report on unusual meetings -- most recently the International Conference on Sustainable Communities and Eco-villages (Findhorn, 1995) sponsored by UNESCO, and a symposium of the World Academy of Arts and Sciences (Buffalo, 1995) on "Who is designing the 21st Century?".

B. New approaches to organization and policy-making

This theme and the general approach to world problems, notably in relation to the current debate on world governance, remains a continuing concern currently reflected in papers on metaphor and in the contents of the new edition of the Encyclopedia. UIA contribution to this debate was acknowledged in the recent report of the Commission on Global Governance.

Through its work on strategies (Volume 3 of the Encyclopedia), the UIA has made a significant contribution in this area. The volume includes extensive commentaries on the question.

C. International organizations

The main documentation activity of the UIA can be seen as research, leading to the annual production of statistics (see below). Articles relating to this theme appear regularly in the UIA journal Transnational Associations, whether produced by UIA Members, staff members, or external authors.

Commissioned work on UNESCO/NGO relations is described elsewhere (see Point H), as well as commissioned studies of civil society.

A report on the special study of consultative status relationships with the United Nations will also be made separately.
D. Metaphors and catalytic imagery

As indicated by the checklist of publications, this theme continues to be developed in response to various opportunities (notably in French versions), especially through the future studies community (both the World Future Society and the World Futures Studies Federation).

A study commissioned by the UN Department of Technical Cooperation for Development in 1991 on *Guiding Metaphors and Configuring Choices* for a book on *Policy Analysis: Critical Tools for Decision Makers* is still in process of publication.

It would seem that this theme could become very significant to the initiative of the new Club of Budapest, which is focusing on "bringing the power of art, literature and the spirit to bear on the problems faced by humanity" (following the unacceptably slow progress of approaches based on economic and political development). Several UIA Members are members of the Club and a presentation will be made at their May 1996 meeting.

E. Knowledge organization and interdisciplinarity

The UIA continues to participate in conferences on this theme (of interest to Paul Otlet). An abridged version of a paper to the earlier event (Paris, 1991) appeared in a book in French in 1994. The UIA was represented on the international organizing committee of the first World Congress on Transdisciplinarity (Lisbon, 1994), in relation to which several UIA papers were presented or prepared.

The UIA was invited to present the keynote address at the Conference on the Organization of Environmental Information (Bratislava, 1994) of the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO). This follows up much earlier work on this topic, notably coordinated through the UN Library in Geneva.

UIA studies on challenges of presenting information have appeared in the ISKO journal *Knowledge Organization* in 1995 and 1996. A further study, relating to the future of the Web, is scheduled to appear in the journal *Futures*.

F. Mapping and visualization

This issue remains a continuing concern. It appears that it will be relatively easy (in terms of cost) to include organization charts and any other network maps on the planned CD-ROM.

UIA data was fed into a highly sophisticated network mapping software package during a special one day demonstration in the UK. The resulting maps have been used as end papers in the forthcoming editions of the Yearbook and the Encyclopedia in agreement with SAUR. The package is very suggestive of the future development of interaction with UIA data. It was suggested that a demonstration version of the package should be incorporated into the planned CD-ROM.

UIA studies relating to this question overlap those under Point E (above). Unfortunately, during work on the Encyclopedia in 1995, it was not possible to participate in two significant conferences relating to this theme to which the UIA was invited.

G. Values

Much work has been done on values for the new edition of the Encyclopedia, notably by providing a unique pattern of links from values to world problems and to human development.

On the initiative of Professor Tibaldi (UIA Member), a book was prepared in Italian (*Valori*
Humani, 1994) which carried some aspects of this work.

As noted above, a project for a World Encyclopedia of Values, Prizes and Awards has emerged from a suggestion by Robert Muller (UIA Member) and been welcomed by SAUR (see Annex 5). It is of interest to the UIA because of the links to both international organizations awarding prizes and to the Encyclopedia section on values which such prizes honour, and which are often a focus of international organization programmes.

H. Consultancy

Under a consultancy contract with UNESCO in 1994-5, the UIA acted as "chief evaluator" for an exploration of UNESCO’s relations with NGOs receiving subventions, with a view to providing guidance for new policies. A report resulted from this process, although it is unclear what purpose it served in the decision-making process.

At the suggestion of Frits Hondius (UIA Member), the UIA was invited by the Council of Europe to present a paper to a seminar in Moscow in December 1994 on the civil society, notably with respect to the future of democracy in Russia.

In September 1995 a contract was concluded with UNESCO for a survey of national members of UNESCO consultative status organizations based in the Asia/Pacific/Arab regions, resulting in the supply of a database and directory to UNESCO in March 1996. This follows on an earlier contract of the same type covering Africa and Latin American national organizations.

I. Statistics on meetings and organizations

The UIA continues to present data on a regular basis on international organizations (as annexes to the Yearbook volumes) and on international meetings (in a special publication by the Congress Department).
This issue remains a continuing concern, especially in relation to the commitment to Associate Members.

Several times a year the UIA is contacted by university-based researchers requesting data sets to permit them to undertake further research.

K. Invitations/Attendance at meetings

This forms the subject of a separate note (see Annex 6)

VIII. ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL ISSUES

Work on publications is increasingly undertaken with much greater reliance on:

● **work away from the Brussels secretariat**: the Who’s Who was largely updated from Leuven (home of a former UIA staff member), as are other projects in process; major editing of the Yearbook is now down very successfully in London, following a move of a highly experienced co-editor of the Yearbook for family reasons; development and production of the CD-ROM has been done in Montreal

● **electronic mail and file transfer**: with editors working at a distance, the UIA has effectively been experimenting with a form of "tele-working" (which although simple in principle has proved costly to set up in practice); international organizations increasingly communicate with the UIA by e-mail, notably concerning the Yearbook

● **flexible working arrangements**: volunteers made significant contributions to the Encyclopedia and to the preparatory work for the French translation of the Yearbook; stagiaires have been used for translation work. In some cases this has been converted into paid work, even in the form of contracts.

These developments are partly in response to budgetary constraints, to the needs of individuals or to the desire to benefit, or continue to benefit, from known expertise. It is expected that the UIA involvement with the Web will further change the balance and nature of secretariat operations.

As with many employers, the UIA has difficulty locating suitable (and affordable) personnel who can be expected to stay long enough (several publication cycles) to acquire the levels of expertise necessary to undertake the more challenging editorial and research tasks -- which are increasingly computer-related.

Other comments on these points are made separately (see Reflections on a Possible UIA Information Strategy, notably Annex 3).