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Item No. 14 on the Agenda : Situation of the Library

(memorandum prepared by the Secretariat)

<i>Summary</i>	<i>The document illustrates developments made in the past year as to the management of the Library</i>
<i>Action to be taken</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Related documents</i>	

DISCUSSION LEADING PARAMETERS AS PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARIAT



I. Strategic Plan

Yes, because of (1) the unique position of the UNIDROIT Library in the development of the Organisation's research and information facilities (cf. Strategic Objective No. 2).

II. Work Programme 2006-2008

Yes.

Problems to be overcome	Planning long-term due to severely limited funding for acquisitions; Slight delays in making the electronic catalogue available on the web due to limited staff resources
Staffing implications	1 Librarian, 1.5 library assistants, 0.8 assistant (the remaining 20% of whose time is devoted to general services) and 0.2 secretary

In 2006, the entire library administration was fully integrated into the new EDP-system, the Aleph 500–System. The sections acquisition, exchanges, labeling, budget, etc., are now accessible electronically. The WebOPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue on the Web), which presents the library holdings on the Internet, is now available. The catalogue can be accessed on the UNIDROIT homepage, section “Outreach resources – UNIDROIT Library (<http://www.unidroit.org/english/library/main.htm>)”. The new Library homepage was completed and allows access to the library collection and various research sources. This new Library entrance gate is available in five languages.

The cataloguing proceeds more rapidly thanks to the new Aleph 500 software. In 2006, more than 20,000 entries were catalogued and a large part of the Library’s card catalogue was added to the electronic collection.

Thanks to the co-operation programme between UNIDROIT and the University Paul Valéry in Montpellier, section for documentation, the legal periodicals administration was successfully transferred into the Aleph-System. The preparation of an authority database for corporate bodies was started and will be completed in 2007.

In 2006, the training programme with ELSA (European Law Students Association) started in 2004, thanks to which European law students are able to collaborate in the every day life of the Library and to familiarise with the functions and activities of the Organisation, was successfully continued. In 2006, 10 students from all over Europe have been accepted for an internship in the UNIDROIT Library.

The Library’s acquisition policy has been very difficult due to the significant rise in prices of publications. The Library is grateful to have received some generous donations in 2006. Of particular importance among the donations were those received from the Library of the Department of Trade and Industry of Her Britannic Majesty’s Government, the Max-Planck-Institute for Foreign Private and Private International Law, and the Library of the Law Faculty in Lucerne, Switzerland.

The exchange program was entirely updated and reviewed. The Library succeeded in obtaining new materials by exchange programs with the Uniform Law Review. The UNIDROIT library continues to attract readers from all over the world. Among the 3012 visitors in 2006, the 54 foreign guests came from 25 different countries.