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Item No. 16 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>	<i>Implementation of the Strategic Plan (C.D. (87) 6, p. 9)</i>

DISCUSSION LEADING PARAMETERS AS PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARIAT

Priority			
	High	medium	low

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
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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
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In 2007, more than 30,000 entries were catalogued. The cataloguing proceeds more rapidly thanks to the new Aleph 500 software. Apart from some smaller sections of the library's card catalogue and the collection of United Nations documents, the Library's electronic collection was completed and is now available for readers worldwide.

The preparation of an authority database for corporate bodies was started and will be completed in 2008.

In 2007, 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.

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 2007. 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 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 3343 visitors in 2007, the 55 foreign guests came from 14 different countries.