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**Item No. 13 on the agenda: Library**

(Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat)

<i>Summary</i>	<i>The document illustrates developments at the Library and its activities in 2011, perspectives for 2012 as well as proposals for the coming years</i>
<i>Action to be taken</i>	<i>The Governing Council is invited to take note of the progress made and to consider additional measures</i>
<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Work Programme 2011 - 2013</i>
<i>Priority level</i>	<i>High</i>
<i>Status</i>	<i>Ongoing activity</i>
<i>Related documents</i>	<i>C.D.(90)12; Annual Report 2011 (C.D.(91) 2)</i>

**A. Library conference**

1. One of the main events of the Library in 2011 was a Library meeting held in co-operation with the David Lubin Memorial Library of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) which took place in April 2011. The topic of the meeting was "Book conservation – Old problems and new trends (First meeting of Roman Libraries). The idea for this first meeting of Roman libraries was to inaugurate a series of regular library meetings in order to strengthen co-operation and networking between the various libraries and to improve library services in times of general-saving policy in almost all institutions. The meeting brought together some important Roman international libraries (FAO, OEKM, Biblioteca Hertziana, Biblioteca Vaticana, Académie Française, Beniculturali, Università La Sapienza, ILO, ICCROM, ISS, Banca d'Italia, British School of Rome, Pontificia Università S. Tommaso d'Aquino). The proposal to establish such a Roman library network and to meet regularly, has met with great interest by the participants. Ms Jana Dambrogio, Rare Books and Manuscripts Conservator, spoke about the challenges of

conserving a large historic collection “The IIA and Rare Book Collection of the FAO”. Ms Valerie Scott, British School of Rome, talked about “The British School at Rome Library and Archive Digital Collections: a new conservation model”. The meeting was attended by more than 40 participants and was very successful.

### **B. *Scholarship for law librarians at the Max Planck Institute in Hamburg***

2. In 2011, the Librarian of the UNIDROIT Library was granted a one month scholarship at the Max Planck Institute of Foreign Private and Private International Law in Hamburg. During her sojourn at the Max Planck Institute, the UNIDROIT Librarian had the possibility to learn about the latest developments in the field of international law libraries, particularly with regard to the use of electronic publishing and ebooks in legal research. Furthermore, thanks to the enormous collection of the library of the MPI, it has been possible to collect the necessary materials on the UNIDROIT project on Netting.

### **C. *Expertise for the UNIDROIT Library***

3. Following to the request of the members of the Governing Council, the UNIDROIT Library will be reviewed by an expert. Prof. Holger Knudsen, Director of the Library of the Max Planck Institute of Foreign Private and Private International Law kindly consented to carry out the expertise of our Library in March 2012.

### **D. *Cataloguing***

4. The retrospective cataloguing of the card catalogue continues. Work still proceeds with regard to the cataloguing of the United Nations collections and documents of other international organisations.

5. As to the Authority Files for Corporate Authors names, the database was completed and needs just a final check of the Librarian.

### **E. *Classification***

6. The reclassification of library materials continues. Apart from necessary changes in the electronic data, library materials have also to be re-organised on the shelves which is difficult because of humidity on second ground floor. This latter floor should be avoided since it is not useful as a storage space.

### **F. *Inter-library agreements***

7. In 2011, various inter-library collaboration programmes have been established, with the “Centro per biblioteche e documentazione, Università di Siena”, and with the Library of the “Facoltà di Giurisprudenza dell'Università degli Studi di Foggia”. The collaboration programmes are aimed at the sharing of bibliographic resources and at ensuring access and consultation of printed and electronic resources.

**G. Catalogue enrichment**

8. With regard to the possible ways of enhancing the UNIDROIT Library's catalogue, one of the most useful possibilities would consist in including the table of contents of the relevant publication with each catalogue entry. The project must unfortunately be postponed due to lack of financial means.

**H. Acquisitions, donations, exchanges**

9. In 2011, the Library's holdings increased by 829 titles, 305 were purchased, 209 obtained on an exchange basis for a total value of euro 15.890, and 315 other titles were received as a gift for a total value of euro 21.085. The Library's acquisition policy has been very difficult to implement due to the important rise in the price of publications and additional significant budget restrictions.

10. In 2011, as in previous years, the Library received donations in kind from the Max-Planck-Institute of Foreign Private and Private International Law in Hamburg, from the Library of the Department of Trade and Industry of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, by the Library of the Law Faculty of Lucerne University, and from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

11. The exchange system in place with the Uniform Law Review plays an important role in compensating for the Library's lack of funds. The Library, in 2011, was able to activate new exchange agreements.

**I. Accounting**

12. The accounting of the Library, which was previously one of the tasks of Mr Muscatello, now Informatics Assistant, has been completely transferred to the remit of the Librarian.

**J. Visitors**

13. The Library continues to attract readers from all over the world. Among the 1115 visitors in 2011, the 49 foreign guests came from 22 different countries.