



**GOVERNING COUNCIL**  
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**Item No. 11 on the agenda: Library**

(Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat)

<i>Summary</i>	<i>Report on developments at the Library and its activities in 2012, perspectives for 2013 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>Annual Report 2012 (C.D.(92) 2); C.D.(90)10</i>

**A. Library co-operation and Networking**

1. In 2012, the UNIDROIT Library continued its co-operation strategy with other libraries based in Rome and elsewhere. The first library meeting took place at UNIDROIT in April 2011. A second meeting is scheduled for June 2013 and will be organised together with the David Lubin Memorial Library of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The topic will be "Networking and Resource Sharing" (Second meeting of Roman Libraries). The underlying objective is for the Rome-based libraries to meet regularly so as to strengthen co-operation and networking between them and to improve library services in times when almost all institutions are having to implement general saving policies. The following libraries will be present: 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, Biblioteca della Corte Costituzionale. The proposal to establish such a Roman library network and to meet regularly has met with great interest on the part of the participants.

2. In 2012, a very fruitful collaboration programme was established with the Library of the Constitutional Court in Rome. The idea is to share resources, in particular with regard to legal periodicals - which are very costly -, and so to “liberate” great parts of the budget for use, in particular, in the acquisition of monographs.

3. In 2012, a collaboration programme was also established with the Library of our sister Organisation, UNCITRAL. The UNCITRAL Librarian, Mr Cyril R. Emery, visited the UNIDROIT Library in November 2012. In future, thanks to the co-operation between UNIDROIT and UNCITRAL, we will have access to EBSCO Academic Search Premier, a large database, and also be granted online access to a variety of journals.

4. In order to improve the services offered by the Library - in particular the accessibility of books and periodicals - without actually purchasing the materials involved, UNIDROIT has concluded an amended agreement with GVB - *Gemeinsamer Bibliotheksverbund* - enabling it to request books on loan as well as articles from various German and Austrian library networks.

#### **B. Cataloguing and software upgrading of the Library management software**

5. The retrospective cataloguing of the card catalogue has been completed. Work to catalogue United Nations collections and the documents of other international organisations is still going on.

6. As to the Authority Files for Corporate Authors names (containing more than 200,000 entries), the database has been completed and now only requires a final check by the Librarian.

7. The Library’s software management system, Aleph500, was upgraded to the latest version, Aleph 20.1.2, without causing any interruption of services either for the Institute’s scientific staff or for researchers in the Library.

#### **C. Classification**

8. The reclassification of library materials continues. Large parts of the international law section, as well as the section for Eastern European countries have been reclassified. Apart from making the necessary changes in the electronic data, the library materials also have to be re-organised on the shelves.

#### **D. Inter-library agreements**

9. In 2012, various inter-library collaboration programmes were established with the “Centro per biblioteche e documentazione, Università di Siena” and the Library of the “Facoltà di Giurisprudenza dell’Università degli Studi di Foggia”. These collaboration programmes are aimed at sharing bibliographic resources and ensuring access and consultation of printed and electronic resources.

#### **E. Databases**

10. UNIDROIT currently subscribes to three electronic resources: HeinOnline, West Law International and Sistema Pluris On-Line, as well as to the Module “Banking and Financial law” of the Beck-Online-Database. Those databases cover civil law, common law and mixed jurisdictions.

11. Furthermore, the Library now subscribes to the LexisNexis JurisClasseur database, which contains over 4 million documents and covers mostly French and European law. Given the importance of those sections for UNIDROIT’s scientific work, the subscription to the LexisNexis

JurisClasseur database significantly improves the research facilities for the UNIDROIT Secretariat and researchers.

12. Thanks to a very generous made by the Council of Law Reporting, it was also possible to subscribe to the "Full ICLR Library Suite", the Academic Package which allows unlimited user access to everything published by the Council (Law Reports, First and Third Series, Weekly Law Reports, etc., since it commenced operations in 1865).

13. In 2012, access conditions to the existing databases, in particular Westlaw International and Hein Online, which used to be accessible only on the basis of a single-user license agreement, were changed. In future, the two databases will be accessible on the basis of a multi-user agreement and will thus be available to UNIDROIT scientific staff and researchers at any time.

#### **F. Acquisitions, donations, exchanges**

14. In 2012, the Library's holdings increased by 968 titles, 425 of which were purchased, 220 obtained on an exchange basis for a total value of € 16.125,00, and 323 received as a gift for a total value of € 22.170,00. Thanks to this extra budgetary contribution, the Library was able to acquire a wide range of essential monographs for its collection. The additional financial allocation enabled the acquisition of new publications in the area of UNIDROIT's completed projects (such as its studies on leasing, factoring, international sale of goods, agency, franchising, international protection of cultural property, etc.), as well as some important publications with relevance to the projects on the current UNIDROIT Work Programme.

15. In 2012, 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 Business Innovation and Skills, from the Library of the Law Faculty of Lucerne University, and from the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG).

#### **G. Changes of staff**

16. Mrs Gioia Giordano, a member of the Library's staff, retired at the end of September 2012, having served the Institute for over 30 years.

17. Mrs Patricia Lemaire took up her duties as Library assistant as of January 2013.

#### **H. Visitors**

18. The Library continues to attract readers from all over the world. Among the 1175 visitors in 2012, the 56 foreign guests came from 25 different countries. 2012 was a particular busy and fruitful year for scientific legal interchange in the UNIDROIT Library.

19. The Library also welcomed an Officer from the Korean National Commission for UNESCO for a period of three months. She visited the Institute on secondment and had the benefit of the Library's collections for her research on international instruments in the field of cultural property, in particular on the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention.