



Documentation and Information Service of the Education Sector (SDI)

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History

The Clearing House in the Department of Education, inaugurated in 1949, functioned for nearly twenty years before being dispersed into specialized units to meet specific programme needs and to support regional activities.

It was not long before the Organization also began to help Member States create their own educational documentation centres. From 1970 onwards, with the integration of IBE into UNESCO, and given the new possibilities opened up by computer technology, a network was formed of the documentation centres in the field, at Headquarters and those in Member States. In 1985, the various educational information and documentation centres at Headquarters were once again consolidated into a single functional unit - the Documentation and Information Service (SDI).

This service has, since then, permitted resources to be concentrated and coordinated, providing reference and information services, including online searches, primarily to the Education Sector, but also to the rest of UNESCO (HQ), to UNESCO Regional Offices, UNESCO Institutes, Member States, NGOs as well as to the general and specialized public with an interest in UNESCO's education programmes.

Collections for consultation

- UNESCO education documents (free distribution documents produced by the different sections of the Education Sector)
This collection is indexed in a catalogue for wide distribution.
It can also be consulted on-line through the Education website.
- Collection of education publications from UNESCO Institutes and Field Offices.
- Collection of documents/publications in education from various Member States on educational policies, plans, programmes and methods at all levels of education

Production

- UNESCO Catalogue of free distribution documents (every two years).
- Acquisition list (every two months)

Teaching materials

- French editing of documents and publications and of the information to be put on the web
- Translation into French of ED and EFA web news
- Design and drawing of logos, illustrations, preparation of picture collections, etc. for ED website
- Technical development and design of graphic components for CD-ROMs produced by the Education Sector

Internet

- Management of ED Website (30 projects); development and updating of the Education website, preparation of sub-websites to be put on-line in different language versions
- Provision of support and training for users of Simplify Database
- Technical coordination of ED portal projects with CI and BPI.

The Service, in close cooperation with the Media Unit in charge of press, radio and television contacts, supports the work of all field units through the supply of documents/information which may be required for special events or for general purposes.

EDUCATION Databases, management tool for storage and diffusion of information

History

The Documentation and Information Service of the Education Sector has developed since 1970 various databases with software ISIS (currently WINISIS) which enables efficient storage, treatment and dissemination of information specifically related to the various elements of UNESCO's education programmes.

- The first database, established in 1970, "**Educational Facilities**" (**EDFAC**), currently has 4548 references
Example:
EDFAC.: 4441
Title: **Mobile tent schools**
Ghaidan, Ussam
Amman, UNEDBAS, 1996. 27 p.
Descriptors: temporary buildings; multiple class teaching; technical drawing; flexible facilities; mobile educational facilities; nomads; furniture design; multipurpose furniture; movable partitions; classroom furniture; drawings; tent schools
Remarks: it is a "dummy proof" waiting for the final version
English
- The database on "**Preventive Education**" (**HPRC**) was established in 1989 and to date contains 2306 references
It is particularly addressed to specialized teachers, social workers and those in charge of educational activities concerned with content and teaching methods relating to *health protection, nutrition, prevention of AIDS, prevention of drug abuse*.
Example :
HPRC.: 1315
Title: **Colombia and Southern Africa: Helping children on the streets** (Article)
London, ARTHAG; 1994. pp. 4-5
Descriptors: school health services; health education; educational programmes; mass media education; street children; out of school education; drug education; sex education; Colombia; Botswana; Zambia; Zimbabwe.
English; Spanish
- The third database, established in 1993, "**Themes of education**" (**GRIDOC**), currently 1300 references. It contains in particular country reports; assessment of education programmes; educational strategies.
Example :
GRIDOC.: 878
Title: **Vingt années de réformes dans l'enseignement supérieur en Europe: de 1980 à nos jours**
Bruxelles, Eurydice, 2000. 194 p.
Descriptors: educational reform; higher education; educational finance; Europe.
French

Evolution

A search interface through Internet will enable users to have easy and direct access to bibliographical information on a multitude of topics in education.

This search interface is currently available on-line on Internet and is still in the testing phase. Questions raised during this period will enable evaluation of users' needs and development of the relevance of database contents.

The principal objective is to provide a user-friendly system of interrogation which will produce professional results.