



**International Institute for Educational Planning  
Institut International de Planification de l'Éducation**

**Presentation of the IIEP Documentation Resource Centre at the  
Paris Clearing House Workshop, UNESCO, 25-27 June 2003**

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The International Institute for Educational Planning was established in Paris in 1963 by UNESCO. Its mission is capacity building in educational policy-making, planning and management. Training is the Institute's primary activity. Research and studies focus on policy issues in educational development and on technical and methodological aspects of educational planning and management. IIEP also provides support to member countries in order to address their specific needs in educational planning and management.

IIEP created a regional office in Buenos Aires in 1997, in order to support the numerous educational changes occurring in the Mercosur countries.

The IIEP Documentation Resource Centre was created about 40 years ago. Its collection is comprised of approximately 28.000 titles of books, documents and reports, as well as a collection of more than 600 titles of journals. The Documentation Centre is known for its so-called "grey literature" – the documents, reports and studies are obtained thanks to the network of trainees, former trainees and specialists in educational planning with whom the Institute maintains regular contact. A "Newsletter" is addressed to them four times a year and this Newsletter is also available on IIEP's web site: <http://www.unesco.org/iiep>.

The Documentation Centre is made up of a team of four full-time and two part-time documentalists. It was computerized ten years ago, utilizing the WWWISIS software and the GENISIS interface has now been installed. The main Database is EPIDOC, with more than 17,000 references in the field of educational planning and management, within particular economic and social contexts. The vast majority of the holdings are on developing countries.

The Documentation Centre pages on the IIEP Website, will be opened during the summer. They will provide practical information on the use of the Documentation Centre, and access to its EPIDOC database and reference to its collection of periodicals.

We have developed an automated book loan system based on bar codes. Most of the collection is now equipped.

The Institute publishes on average, 25 titles per year, covering a wide variety of topics. Bibliographical references of all those titles published by IIEP since its creation (more than 1,000) are now available on its web site: <http://www.unesco.org/iiep>. New publications are also available in full-text and may be downloaded, free of charge.

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The role of the Documentation Centre has evolved and in addition to acting as a source of information, it is also responsible for the dissemination of IIEP publications.

In many developing countries, the availability of publications focused on education has declined during recent years. It is evident that this lack of documentation has a negative impact on the research and training capacity of these countries. Bearing this in mind, considerable effort has been made to set up a network of « Depository Libraries ». These 184 libraries and documentation centres – nearly all of them located in developing countries – receive free copies of IIEP publications to the benefit of their local professional communities. The network serves a wide variety of libraries - 53 are located within Ministries of Education, 50 serve national or regional institutions, institutions specialized in education, 51 are university libraries; finally, 30 libraries belong to the UNESCO community.

The geographic distribution is as follows:

- 86 in Africa
- 32 in Asia and the Pacific region
- 25 in Arab countries
- 32 in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 9 in Europe.

The IIEP trainees, who are well acquainted with the documentary resources in their respective countries, assist us in identifying new libraries to be included in the network.

In addition, IIEP researchers are closely associated with the network's operations; during their missions, they visit existing depository libraries and establish contacts with librarians, who convey to us their specific needs so as to allow us to improve the services offered. We have received a number of requests for training in documentary information management.

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