

# LibEcon

A research study into international library economics

06 MAY 2003

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## Content of the presentation

- Aims of library statistics
- Project LibEcon
- LibEcon and the "Scientific and Technical Information Service"
- Belgian responsables and Belgian statistics

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## Why have library statistics?

- Stakeholders want/need them
- Library managers
  - In most detail
  - For benchmarking: over time; against comparable organisations
- People paying the bills
- Researchers/the media
- Eurostat

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**Notes :**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

### Comparability

- Without external comparability, statistics are only good for internal use
- External comparability requires
  - Standardisation
  - Publication

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**Notes :**

[illegible]

### Standardisation can be at various levels

- National within a sector
- National across sectors
- International
- Some data sets are sector specific
- Standardisation includes grossing up [interpolation]

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### LibEcon project

- EU Contracts for almost 15 years
- FP5-IST till June 2004
- Successor to LibEcon2000
- Coordinator:  
Institute of Public Finance (UK)
- Website - [www.libecon.org](http://www.libecon.org)

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### Aims of the project

- Builds on the previous work of DGXIII, ISO 2789 [International standard on library statistics], ISO 11620 [Library Performance Indicators] and of IFLA and UNESCO.
- Improves the quality of implementation of standardised methods in the collection and publication of data relating to libraries in Europe

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### Aims of the project (2)

- Through adding value to the data [by making it "user-friendly"] and by dissemination provides a tool to facilitate a more European approach to library policy and international benchmarking.
- Provides an advocacy tool for people wishing to reform or gain increased resources for libraries.
- Supports development of ISO 2789

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### Aims of the project (3)

- Provides continuity of data in the field of library economics.
- Extends the coverage of the database to new countries of interest to European stakeholders.
- Will examine the feasibility of extending the LIBECON model to other cultural sectors [museums and archives]

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### Target Audiences

- Producers of statistical data.

This is a scattered group which can gain a lot from being exposed to European best practice and using the opportunity to benchmark on the best and improve standardisation and raise standards.

- Groups interested in advocating library development
- Professionals, managers, policy makers, funders, suppliers and researchers interested in the library area.

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### **What is available now in LibEcon?**

**Statistical and benchmarking data covering:**

- All kinds of libraries
- All Member States EU, Accession Countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland
- Even data from USA, Mexico, Turkey, Korea, Canada, Japan,.....
- Data up to 2000
- Checked and standardised

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**Notes :**

[illegible]

## What's New ...

- Results to be summarised and communicated to stakeholders.
- Feasibility study on archives and museums will be produced.
- Strategic Advisory Committee.  
[Eurostat, UNESCO, EBLIDA, ISO etc]



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**Notes :**

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## Website Development

- More countries.
- More facilities for user defined ratios and tables.
- Site server search facility

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**Notes :**

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## Website Development (2)

- **Six main areas:**
  - Survey;
  - Database;
  - Newsletters;
  - Sources;
  - Contacts;
  - Links

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**Notes :**

[illegible]

### **Online Database Access**

- **Select library sector -**

**Please select the required library factor :**

Please select the required library sector --> •

- **Select indicators -**

**[2] Please select indicators :**

Please select x indicator ==>

**y - indicator :**

Please select y indicator -->	*
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**Notes :**

[illegible]

### Online Database Access (2)

- **Select countries to display -**

**3 Please select countries to study:**

Selected Countries	
Australia	2
Belgium	
Denmark	11
France	11
Germany	1
Italy	
Japan	
Spain	
Sweden	
Switzerland	
United Kingdom	
United States	
West Germany	

- **Select years to display -**

**4** Please select year(s) to display:

2) I should format columns of the year to display any one year

1996 1998 1996 1997 1998

3) Map and filter formula will be used to display any one year

Please select the year to display =>

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**Notes :**

[illegible]



### Online Database Results

- Automatically generates "statistical maps".
- Regional groupings and individual country tabulated datasets.
- Scatter graphs and histograms to highlight trends.



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## The Scientific and Technical Information Service

- A separate government agency within the Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs (OSTC)
- The mission of the STIS is:
  - to provide scientific and technical information
  - to promote the use of online information sources by the representation of some international providers of scientific and technical info
  - to disseminate information concerning European Research and Innovation programmes
  - Portal "Research.be"

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**Notes :**

[illegible]

## LibEcon in Belgium

### STIS and LibEcon

- **March 1989:** ad hoc group created to exchange, disseminate and follow-up the activities of the first Library Action Plan of the EU
- **October 1990:** Belgian National Focal Point (NFP) officially installed; secretariat was done by OSTC/STIS
- **1990-1998:** NFP represented Belgium in 3th and 4th Framework programme of the EU

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## LibEcon in Belgium (2)

### STIS and LibEcon

- **January 1999:** NFP enlarged to representatives of the archives and the museums: NFP/ALM
- **February 2000:** OSTC/STIS partner in European IST-project CULTIVATE  
NFP/ALM is chaired by J. Moulin, Director of STIS and the NFP/ALM secretariat is also run by STIS → contacted by LibEcon to collect library statistics

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### LibEcon in Belgium (3)

### LibEcon Library sectors

1. National Library
2. Libraries of Institutions of Higher Education
3. Public Libraries
4. Special Libraries: government, health service/medical, industrial and commercial,...
5. School Libraries



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### LibEcon in Belgium (4)

### Situation in 1998

- all library sectors included in study were invited
- data collected for the periods 1990 - 1997
- results for Belgium:
  - Data from National Library
  - Data from most of the University Libraries, but only a few High Education School Libraries
  - Data from Public Libraries (both communities)
  - Almost no answers from Special Libraries
  - No data from School Libraries



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### LibEcon in Belgium (5)

### Situation in December 2000

- invited were: sectors 1-4
- data collected for the periods 1998-1999
- results for Belgium:
  - Data from National Library
  - Data from University Libraries (both communities; ULg)
  - Data from Public Libraries (only Flemish Community and not all the data)
  - Other categories: no reaction



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### LibEcon in Belgium (6)

### Situation in December 2002

- invited were: sectors 1-4
- data collected for the periods 2000-2001
- results for Belgium:
  - No data from National Library
  - Data from University Libraries (both Communities)
  - Data from Public Libraries (both Communities; but not all the data)
  - Other categories: some federal libraries

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**Notes :**

[illegible]

## **LibEcon in Belgium (7)**

### **Organisations/Contacts involved**

- National Library
- Libraries of Institutions of Higher Education
- Flemish Community: Flemish Research Libraries Council (VOWB)
- French Community: Conseil Interuniversitaire de la Communauté française de Belgique (CIUF) + Association des Bibliothécaires de l'Enseignement Francophone de Belgique

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## **LibEcon in Belgium (8)**

### **Vlaams Overlegorgaan inzake Wetenschappelijk Bibliotheekwerk (VOWB)**

- VOWB coordinates scientific library work in Flanders through studies and projects
- members: university libraries, higher education libraries, public libraries, other scientific libraries, representatives from administration, representative from professional association of library staff VVBAD

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**Conseil Interuniversitaire de la Communauté  
française de Belgique (CIUF)**

- coordinates studies and projects of university libraries; represents university libraries in different national and international organisations; relay for certain projects like IMPALA, ANTILOPE, CCB, ...
- Members: 9 universities of French Community

[illegible]

**Association des Bibliothécaires de  
l'Enseignement Francophone de Belgique:  
Produc.edu**

- School Libraries, especially Higher Education Libraries
- 90 members

[illegible]

## LibEcon in Belgium (11)

### Organisations/Contacts involved

- Public Libraries
- Flemish Community: Vlaams Centrum voor Openbare Bibliotheken (VCOB)
- French Community: Service de la Lecture Publique
- Special Libraries: government libraries (FSI -federal)
- School Libraries: no organisations/contacts

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## LibEcon in Belgium (12)

- Workshop 27.02.2002  
(Article in LibEcon newsletter, issue 4)
- Meetings with federal scientific institutes and ministries
- Data till 2001 and collecting data 2002 started

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**Thanks for your attention!!**

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