



European
Coordination
Committee on
Human
Rights
Documentation

Draft report of the 30th meeting of the European Coordination Committee on Human Rights Documentation (ECCHRD)

7-8 June 2007, Lund, Sweden

Minutes: Fiona Bolt, Iris Reiss-Golumbeck (Amnesty International)

The 30th meeting of the European Coordination Committee on Human Rights Documentation (ECCHRD) was organised by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in collaboration with the International Secretariat of Amnesty International in London, acting as Secretariat for the meeting. The meeting was held at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Lund, Sweden.

Thursday 7 June 2007

1. Opening of the meeting and Opening address

The opening address was given by Rolf Ring, Deputy Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. He welcomed the participants to the meeting. He spoke of the shift between traditional paper-based research and new electronic methods and the challenge this presents for Human Rights Documentalists. He then provided the meeting with a brief history of the Institute and its relationship with Lund University. As human rights become part of the "business" of countries, the need for more efficient retrieval of human rights information becomes more critical and hence the role of the RWI in providing resources and training for librarians in developing countries.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted. Tour of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute was postponed to Friday morning before the first talk.

3. Election of chairperson

Patrick Müller (Council of Europe) was elected chair. He welcomed the participants and expressed his appreciation for the good meeting place.

4. Presentation of participants and their organisations

All the participants gave a short presentation of themselves and their organisations, their interests and motivation for attending the meeting. It was particularly good that the meeting could welcome several participants for the first time which shows that the ECCHRD network is still expanding. Two initiatives of the Council of Europe were mentioned during the presentation which are of particular interest. One is the planned launch in October 2007 of a new e-education system called HELP. This system based on open source software is aimed at judges, prosecutors and trainers. The other CoE initiative is to develop a system to support mechanisms for monitoring cases in the framework of the Trafficking Convention. An information system will be set up before the mechanism will start.

The meeting agreed to put the participants list (names, organisations, websites) on the ECCHRD website in the future.

5. Minutes of the 29th meeting

The draft minutes of the 29th meeting were adopted with a few small amendments regarding the item on "Developments within HURIDOCs".

6. Keynote speech: A fact based world view / Hans Rosling

Hans Rosling, Professor of International Health, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, gave a thought-provoking presentation on the need to present a world view based on fact rather than ideology. He made the point that as human rights are an emotional issue it can present difficulties when we need to combine them with sound, basic information gathering. Using various examples, Hans Rosling demonstrated how the West uses "we and them" criteria for looking at the Developing world and how some of the arising misconceptions can present a major threat to stability. He illustrated this theme with a demonstration of the Gapminder tool, <http://www.gapminder.org/>, which he originally developed.

We need to address the questions of how we can use data in better ways. The creative use of technology is crucial – the games industry is currently ahead of the information profession in its use of technology! If we can link human rights data to other data sources we increase the value of the information by allowing it to be accessed in more ways. This is a public access issue rather than an issue of dissemination. Professor Rosling experienced many difficulties in obtaining access to databases when developing the Gapminder tool. He believes that statistics are "intellectual sidewalks" and as such, should be free. In addition they need to be provided using the same standards and should be traceable back to their original

database. This concept is known as the Data Audit Pathway. Many organizations are reluctant to add data from outside sources to their websites due to issues of ownership. In the speaker's opinion this should not be a problem as the public bodies collecting this data do so with taxpayers money so the data should not be treated like music or video. Hans suggested a "put it up and see!" approach – organizations that collect data using public funds should make it publicly available. There followed a brief outline of Web 2.0 developments, particularly a product called Swivel which can help create web pages which can interact with data from outside sources. One of the barriers to using data effectively is the "yearbook syndrome" – when organizations tie their resources into an annual launch of a dataset which is then not updated until the following year. The value of the data in the yearbook is often not felt until several years after the launch. One suggestion was to use short webcasts instead of annual publications, which in times of crisis can be used as evidence that we saw these trends developing. During the question and answer session that followed the presentation one participant spoke of the problem of many NGOs not having the data to make available. The reply was that we not have to have ALL the information and it is just as valid to be only part of the bigger understanding. There is also an additional challenge of knowing what data to collect. For many organizations the current crisis is always the focus but this data might not have as much value in the long-term. Rosling's suggestion was to measure the same thing each year, keep the information clean and not to model the data.

7. "It rocked my world when I discovered that my own name was on the list!": On the Importance of Archives for Human Rights /Anna Svenson

Anna Svenson, who works for the Archives of the Municipality of Malmö, began her presentation with a short story which illustrates the power of archives. A woman visiting the archives in Yad Vashem found her own name on a list of concentration camp inmates of Bergen-Belsen, even though she had no memory of the experience. This demonstrates how an archive is a written record which backs up memory and therefore access to archives is a human right.

Anna gave the meeting some background information on the International Council of Archives (ICA). She explained that there is a growing awareness of the role of archives in protecting human rights, for example when police archives are being delivered to State archives after a regime change. A UNESCO investigation of a French judge into impunity established a set of principles for the use of archives, including preservation, access and cooperation. There is an attempt to establish a fund to protect threatened and dispersed archives and the ICA is also producing an international guide to archival sources on human rights violations. This will be an online finding aid which will allow each organization to enter its own information. It will be available in English, French, Spanish and Dutch. At the moment the project is in the testing phase and they hope to disseminate it in summer 2008. Also, a handbook has been produced consisting of sixty questions and answers regarding the issue of NGO archives.

NGOs in many countries have an important part to play in capturing records as State archives cannot always be impartial. An example of an NGO whose archives play a crucial role in the recording of human rights is Memorial in Russia (archiving material on Chechnya).

Anna went on to speak about her experiences working with the Open Society Archives. This organization has become a crucial safe place to deposit material from various archives. A similarly important organization is Archivists Without Borders, an organization where archivists work collaboratively to offer their professional skills to people in regions where archives are in jeopardy.

There followed a brief discussion of various projects which aim to capture information about individuals caught up in situations which violate their human

rights. A database of names created for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia was mentioned, as was the work of the International Tracing Service. The problem of individuals being entered multiple times due to different name spellings has been helped by software that can guess names that are spelt in many different ways.

Anna's presentation ended with a brief discussion on digitisation. Anna's advice was that every organization which is carrying out this task should have a digital conservation plan in place.

Friday 8 June 2007

8. Tour of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute

Librarian Habteab Tesfay gave the participants a tour of the Library of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute.

9. Open Access to Scientific Information / Håkan Carlsson

Håkan Carlsson, Director of Scientific Communication at Lund Univ. Libraries gave a short introduction about Lund Univ. Library System at the beginning of his talk. Lund University Libraries consist of 32 libraries and is using ELIN Electronic Library Information Navigator since 2001.

Håkan gave an overview of the Open Access (OA) history (1994 self-archiving was proposed, 1999 OAI, 2003 Berlin Declaration on Open Access). The definition for Open Access is "direct, free, unlimited electronic access to scientific information". The challenge lies in the fact that the OA initiative does not limit access to subscribing libraries only. Compared to the consumer price index prices of journals have gone up immensely, the increase of the CPI between 1990 and 2005 was 6.8 %, the increase of journal costs in the same time was 413%. Even with this high cost some journals impose further printing and searching limitations. This explains partly why open access became more popular. Reasons why open access is important include open access gives more use, quicker access, fairer copyright use, cheaper publishing system (this is more dream and hope though). There are two ways how to go about open access, the "golden way", which means journals are published open access and the "green way", which means self-archiving. Looking at the golden way Lund Univ. has built the Directory of Open Access Journals DOAJ (www.doaj.org) which already includes 2720 titles. The University has also created the Journal Info website which is an online directory which gives the user information about the quality and cost of journals and states whether the journal allows OA. It also lists OA alternatives to titles which don't allow it. The site will be launched in June 2007 and already includes 7000 journals. The website is <http://jinfo.lub.lu.se>. This service is largely based on already available information on the web like Sherpa/RoMEO, www.sherpa.ac.uk or DOAJ.

Håkan made the point that OA is particularly valuable to non-academic institutions such as NGOs, which may not have the same resources as the universities. However, OA is still not widely known about by many librarians and authors. Librarians should be trained in OA competency and in such tools as OAISTER www.oaister.org, which allows searching of OA journals over many repositories.

There have been strong reactions from the publishing world to OA. Some publishers are now allowing hybrid and self-archiving if the author is willing to pay for it. A position paper from some publishing companies has been produced

saying that they will not allow self-archiving bigger than the author's own campus. However, OA is still expanding, with some journals choosing to go OA one year from date of publication and other organizations, such as the Wellcome Trust stipulating that all research must be published with OA.

Håkan answered a question about software used for this that Lund now uses its own developed software. Discussion about if open access leads to decrease in quality of articles was answered that Open Access does not necessarily mean that journals are not reviewed. Håkan's presentation can be found here: ...

10. Using Wikis for Human Rights: Amnesty's Individuals at Risk Wiki / Damon Rand

Damon Rand, Analyst/Programmer from Amnesty International (AI) gave a presentation of AI's use of wiki technology to record case information on individuals. Damon provided the meeting with some background to AI's work on individuals, which has recently been reviewed. There was a need for a "cheap and cheerful" system which could be implemented quickly and at a relatively low cost while a more permanent solution was found. A number of systems were considered, including a Customer Relationship Management system (CRM) and WinEvSys, the HURIDOCs package. It was decided to go with a Confluence/Wiki system which offered web-based access, easy data-entry and the appropriate ethical approach to technology. Damon talked about the implementation of the wiki and then gave the meeting a demonstration. He concluded that Wikis were a good knowledge management tool and could be hosted for as little as \$49 per month. Damon's presentation can be found here:

11. Update on the work of HURIDOCs / Bert Verstappen

Bert Verstappen gave an update of HURIDOCs activities. He encouraged the participating organisations to add a HuriSearch search box to their websites; instructions for this are available at <http://www.hurisearch.org/for-webmasters>.

- Spanish, Portuguese and Turkish translations of the tools for documenting violations have been added.
- More follow-up trainings and long-term training activities have taken place, including courses for Human rights organisations in Nepal, in Mozambique together with AI Netherlands, in Indonesia and Russia. Two courses were held in Geneva, in Spanish and in Russian, for indigenous peoples' organisations, in collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples Documentation Network and DoCIP. A training course on Human rights of refugees has taken place in Croatia and Bosnia at the request of the OSCE Office, there was a WinEvsys training course in Somalia together with Novib Oxfam and an introductory training for the International Lesbian and Gay Network/European Section. Leyla Schön did training on general library tools and techniques for Iraqi librarians in Arabic in Geneva.
- Plans with regard to training include an advanced workshop (8 days) in Geneva, a Training for Trainers in Mozambique and other activities.
- New training methods to monitor and document human rights violations have been explored and tutorial videos have recently been produced.
- Outreach: in the last quarter of 2006 the new website has been launched in PLONE (the Content Management System demonstrated at the 2006 ECCHRD meeting by Romilly Gregory of Oxfam).
- Strategic long-term partnerships have been developed and are maintained with among others FAST (for HuriSearch search engine), OSCE-ODIHR, AI Netherlands and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women.

- A major conference on the theme *International Criminal Court and Human Rights Council: The New Challenges for Human Rights Communications* and the HURIDOCS General Assembly will take place in Utrecht, Netherlands in 2008. The conference will take 3 days including an excursion to Den Haag to the International Criminal Court, followed by ½ day General Assembly.
- HURIDOCS plans to develop a new tool on “standard format for images”. Participants were asked for input especially about formats in use in organisations.
- Question about whether the Directory of HR organisations has been updated was answered with no.
- Comment was made that descriptions of organisations listed in HuriSearch would be useful. Comment was made that the quality of the websites in HuriSearch varies very much and if any help from HURIDOCS is planned. James Lawson answered that this very much needed enhancing was one of the aims of HuriSearch but that the necessary funding for training and development of resources are not yet available.
- The new Strategic Plan is due to be finalised by the end of 2007 and to be presented to the General Assembly in 2008.

12. Human Rights Indicators – a Conceptual Tool for Assessment / Carin Laurin

Carin Laurin, Publications Officer at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute presented a new project which identifies indicators to measure the state compliances to Human rights laws and norms. States have the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil HR laws. The project looks at indicators to measure these three-fold obligations. Regular indicators cannot easily be used, the three obligations (respect, protect and fulfil) may build the basis for the measurement. Indicators for framework (where and to what extent can we find protection for a specific right, ratification of international instruments, legal obligations), process (measurement of progressive realizing of a HR law from a timely point of view) and outcome (measures outcome of the work at the national level in relation to international obligations, identifies actual areas of concern where HR violations might occur) are needed. Carin introduced a model for a use of indicators:

| | Framework | Process | Outcome |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Available | | | |
| Accessible | | | |
| Acceptable | | | |

The project so far looks at Swedish reports to national authorities. This is hopefully helpful for other countries as well.

John from the Human Rights Impact Resource Centre mentioned their annual conference where such issues are discussed and said they would try to use the model for the Centre. In response Carin said that indicators and impact can benefit from each other.

Bert highlighted that HURIDOCS is using a similar approach providing training on monitoring human rights violations and mentioned the HURIDOCS tool called “What is monitoring”. HURIDOCS are planning to do more work in the field of indicators for ESCR.

There was a discussion about the measuring of human rights by international court rulings. Carin pointed out that it takes time to translate human rights into legal rights so that using legal terms to measure might lead to delays.

In response to a question about the definition of indicators Carin said that there is the need of identifying indicators which are effective. The project used right to housing, right to education and right to fair trial as indicators to start with. One participant argued that the effectiveness of an indicator is quite a subjective thing. A government and an NGO producing reports using the framework might come up with different results.

13. Human Rights Theme Map / Lena Olsson

Lena demonstrated the RWI Human Rights Theme Maps which is a teaching tool developed by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in the last six months. The website is <http://www.rwi.lu.se/tm/ThemeMaps.html>. The data included come from UDS and Bayefsky.com. It is possible to use the tool to look at cases from various treaty bodies. It was suggested by a participant that queries could be run against the data to show the relationship between cases and countries. The tool will be developed further, i.e. an automatic update is not yet working.

14. Report back from working groups

Four working groups had been formed on Thursday and met on Friday.

- Torture Thesaurus: Sven-Erik reported that the first version of the Torture Thesaurus is planned to be ready until October 2007 in time for the 25. anniversary of RCT, Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims. The draft will be send to interested parties. Patrick reported that he has written a paper explaining why he wants to change/add/delete specific keywords and has circulated the paper among CPT colleagues for comment until June 2007.

- European Union Fundamental Rights Agency: Cathrin from FRA explained that the Agency would like to look into how to promote good practice of collecting data and using collected data to better share information amongst different human rights organisations. She highlighted the inconsistency of collected data and the need of defining indicators according to a data model. The Agency will look into creating and implementing such a data model.

- Technical Advisory Group: John from HOM reported that a virtual advisory group has been set up.

- Indexing: Lena reported that a decision has been made to look closer at indices in use in different organisations. They will exchange keyword lists. So far it looks like participating organisations use extremely different classifications.

15. Report back from ECCHR Secretariat and election of new Secretariat

As acting Secretariat Fiona and Iris from Amnesty International highlighted that they had very much enjoyed the organisation of the ECCHR meetings for the last three years and thanked the local organisers for this year's meeting. After three years they thought it would be good to hand over the Secretariat to somebody else.

The Nordic Network consisting of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Sweden (Lena Olsson), the Institute for Human Rights in Finland (Eva Höglund) and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (Betty Haugen and Kristine Mesgrah) volunteered to take over the Secretariat. They will organise the annual ECCHR meetings on a rotating basis. Fiona and Iris offered to help wherever help might be needed in the future.

16. Date and place of the next meeting and closing

It was agreed that the next ECCHR meeting should take place in connection with the HURIDOCs conference and AGM in Utrecht possible in April 2008. This would enable participants to come to all events and not have to spend the money for two different journeys. It was suggested to have one additional day after the conference and AGM for the ECCHR meeting and that this day should be preferable on a weekend. The possibility of connecting the different events and the timing has to be discussed and confirmed with the local organisers at the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM).

Cathrin from the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna, Austria offered to host the next ECCHR meeting in 2009 depending on confirmation from her management. Sven-Erik from RCT in Copenhagen and Anne from the German Institute for Human Rights in Berlin also offered to host one of the next meetings. Betty said that she would like to see a future meeting taking place in Finland.

It was mentioned again that it would be highly desirable to have the meeting in Eastern European countries and participants were asked to think of possible local organisers. Anna Svenson offered to contact Open Society Institute in Hungary, Gabrijela will investigate possibilities in Croatia and Stefania will contact the Eastern partners of EIUC.

After thanking the Secretariat and emphasising the importance of meeting colleagues and keeping in contact, Patrick Müller closed the 30th ECCHR meeting.