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 - a. the **Arab Human Rights Information Network** (AHRINET) and the **Arab Institute for Human Rights** (Tunisia)
 - b. the **Asia-Pacific Committee for Training of Trainers** (ACTT) and the **Coalition against Trafficking in Women – Asia Pacific** (CATW-AP, Philippines)
 - c. the **European Human Rights Documentation Coordination Committee** and its Secretariat: the **Netherlands Institute of Human Rights** and **Amnesty International**
 - d. the **Red de Informatica y Documentación en Derechos Humanos para America Latina y el Caribe** (RIDHUALC) and the **Asociación pro Derechos Humanos** (APRODEH, Peru)
 - e. the **Human Rights Information Network for Anglophone Africa** (HURINAA) and the **Foundation for Human Rights Initiative** (Uganda)
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HURIDOCS Continuation Committee (Board)

Kofi Kumado (Ghana), CHAIR
 Judith Dueck (Canada), VICE-CHAIR
 Agnethe Olesen (Denmark), TREASURER
 Jonathan Kuttab (Palestine)
 Aurora Javate de Dios (Philippines)
 James Lawson (France)
 Aída María Noval (Mexico)

Information is a powerful tool in combating the proliferation of human rights violations

As we see everyday in the news and on the internet - information forms our perception of the world. Justice, peace and security are all too elusive in our world. Addressing human rights using solid information is certainly one avenue of building civil society, working on security issues, facing injustice and promoting peace.

The focus on the power of information in relation to human rights is what drives HURIDOCS. Developments in 2005 have placed **HURIDOCS in a position to launch a number of initiatives that will integrate the best of advanced technology with practical hands-on training and assistance in using a variety of tools effectively all over the world.**

It is often challenging to obtain accurate information on human rights situations. Institutions such as universities, colleges, libraries, media, community interest groups, researchers and others may not have the resources to get at the full picture. At the same time, small human rights organizations who actually document the violations may not have the resources to disseminate the information widely. HURIDOCS has developed an Internet search engine, **HuriSearch**, which provides communities with detailed human rights information and at the same time allows both small and larger human rights organizations to make their information easily accessible.

HURIDOCS believes that the constant evolution in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has profound effects in defending human rights. Using scientific methods to collect, record, exchange and manage information is more valuable in the long term than news or unverified stories no matter how compelling they may be. **This information increases the effectiveness of national or international legal systems, advocacy strategies or monitoring mechanisms.** While information does not guarantee redress for human rights abuses, good tools can assist in providing relevant and reliable information to those who are in a position to prevent violations, mitigate abuses, mediate conflicts, negotiate reparations, bring justice and promote reconciliation.

Human Rights organisations need tools to manage human rights information. HURIDOCS tools provide a mechanism for data recording and analysis of specific violations, individual victims, groups and perpetrators; as well as ongoing actions and interventions. This information is essential for justice and social development.

HURIDOCS is a network which produces and shares tools and expertise. New tools, adaptations, updates and translations are regularly required to address changing circumstances, current needs and new possibilities. Projects, tools and capacity building ventures are developed in collaboration with a variety of partners.

In 2005, HURIDOCS continued to use **innovative techniques** to develop new tools and training programs for meeting its objectives:

1. *To develop **tools and techniques** for monitoring, information management and communication; and to provide them to human rights organisations*
2. *To build the capacity of the human rights community to master and adapt these tools and techniques to their specific needs through **training** and other activities*
3. *To support human rights organisations to set up and **strengthen their information systems**;*
4. *To improve human rights advocacy and reporting techniques*
5. *To expand human rights outreach and **network capacity***
6. *To provide a centre of excellence on **methods and techniques for human rights information work***

OBJECTIVE 1: *To develop tools and techniques for monitoring, information management and communication; and to provide them to human rights organisations*

1. HuriSearch: Facilitating Access to Human Rights Information on the Web

HuriSearch is a Human rights Search engine initiated by HURIDOCS. It aims to:

- *improve the availability of human rights information to the NGO community, international and national bodies, the media and research community and the public at large.*
- *enhance the visibility of all human rights sites, big or small, well-known or not, in whatever language they may be and in whatever region they may be produced or hosted.*

HuriSearch <http://www.hurisearch.org> is being developed by HURIDOCS in close collaboration with Fast Search & Transfer, the world leader in enterprise search solutions. It was launched in 2003 and has been coordinated since then by HURIDOCS Board member James Lawson.

In 2005, this **pioneering tool** was continuously improved by expanding its coverage, enhancing its structure and refining its search capabilities. The number of NGO sites increased to 2265 sites. Coverage was widened to include Intergovernmental organisations, national human rights institutions and academic institutions. The new beta version can be seen at: <http://saw2.nidelven-it.no:8080/search/>.

The **structure and search capacities** of HuriSearch were improved by new developments in FAST's Data Search software. Financially, FAST continues to support HuriSearch as a "charitable initiative" covering many costs for hosting, licensing, development, some maintenance and seminars attended by HURIDOCS experts. Additional funding is required for specialized development, hardware, task forces, policy creation, on going maintenance, customization, training, demonstrations and other aspects of HuriSearch.

HURIDOCS experts provided demonstrations of the present and new HuriSearch in many contexts:

- at training sessions in Rwanda, Ghana, Poland and elsewhere,
- at regional network meetings,
- at the Norwegian Institute of Human Rights for about fifteen Norwegian human rights organisations
- at the Permanent Missions of Finland and Sweden (Geneva)
- for various organisations in North America and at many other meetings.

The effectiveness and success of this search engine is evident from the fact that a HuriSearch link is now found on websites all over the world, including:

- [United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [Aardvark: Asian Resources for Librarians](#)
- [American Society of International Law](#)
- the [Belgrade Centre for Human Rights](#)
- [Brazil Human Rights and Justice](#)
- [Fundación Redes-y-Desarrollo \(FUNREDES\)](#)
- [International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific](#)
- [searchengines.ru](#) and many others. Contact the Secretariat for a list of sites with HuriSearch links.

More information about HuriSearch can be found at:

- [HuriSearch leaflet http://fast.nidelven-it.no/huridocs/downloadarea/publications/leaflets/hurisearch.pdf](http://fast.nidelven-it.no/huridocs/downloadarea/publications/leaflets/hurisearch.pdf)
- an article on HuriSearch for a special issue on human rights education of the online *Journal of Social Science Education* to be published shortly on <http://www.jsse.org>
- an article on HuriSearch, written by former HURIDOCS post doctoral intern, Susan Maret, was published in the Charleston Advisor. It is available at <http://www.huridocs.org/maret.htm>

2. Semantic Web: Using the Web to Communicate Information about Human Rights

This **new and innovative** project will embrace the latest information and communication technologies and apply them to communicating information about human rights violations. Initially the Semantic Web project will promote the adoption of Dublin Core metadata standards so that web sites will be more easily retrieved by

search engines and other Web tools. The project will build on existing tools developed by HURIDOCS and other organisations. It will also bring the latest web tools and standards to the human rights community, particularly Extensible Mark-up Language XML which is now the standard data exchange format for the web.

In 2005, HURIDOCS organised and participated in four meetings with partners from the human rights, scientific and software development worlds. The participants reinforced the need for a tool of this nature, expressed their support for its development, and contributed to a project plan. Of special value were the contributions of Charles McCathieNevile, the participants of the 2005 meeting of the European Coordination Committee on Human Rights Documentation (Warsaw) and the participants of a “project development meeting” convened by Amnesty International (London).

3. Evsys: Documenting Human Rights Violations

Many human rights organisations need a **comprehensive, user-friendly and adaptable** database programme to record, manage and retrieve information about cases of violations. HURIDOCS led the way by developing an innovative database program (Evsys) for this purpose in the late 1980s.

WinEvsys (the Windows version), allows users to manage information about human rights events, the victims, perpetrators and other relevant information. The detailed definition of fields allows for the generation of data that can be organised and displayed in ways needed by human rights organisations. It is very flexible, works in several languages and can be substantially modified by users to suit their needs. WinEvsys has been planned by an international Design Team and programmed by Ricardo Cifuentes (Chile).

In response to requests, HURIDOCS developed WinEvConso in 2005, a utility that allows combining WinEvsys databases. This utility was programmed by Dominique Fischer (France) and is available at no charge from the HURIDOCS secretariat.

While WinEvsys is programmed in Microsoft Access, HURIDOCS recognises the need to produce an open source version. Contacts with a computer programmer and students of Information Technology in Strasbourg have started on a project to produce a database with the same purpose and structure as WinEvsys in MySQL/php, common open source software.

4. Software for human rights libraries

Ground work in methods for handling information about legal cases and audio-visual materials was carried out in 2005 with assistance from Verenaisi Bavadra (Fiji) which will be evaluated and tested by HURIDOCS experts.

New features were added to the INDEP/SERIAL database system based, in part, on new developments in UNESCO's CDS/ISIS. The system was translated into French in preparation for training courses in Rwanda.

5. General monitoring and documentation guidebooks

The HURIDOCS Secretariat continued research and writing of two new guidebooks in the popular Human Rights Monitoring and Documentation Series. *How to Index* was completed and published on the HURIDOCS website. The French translation of the *What is monitoring* guidebook was completed by volunteer translator Claire Dallier and edited by intern Nadja Ulrich.

6. Translations: Making HURIDOCS Tools Accessible in Various Languages

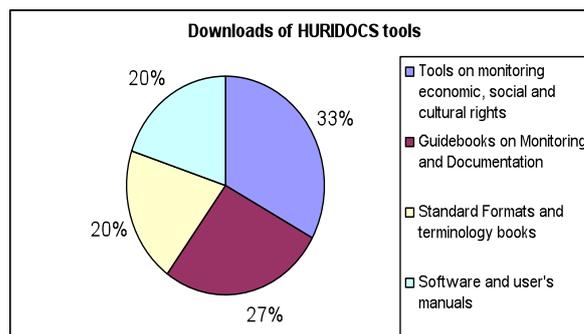
HURIDOCS recognises the need to make its tools available in **several languages**. While English, Spanish and French are the primary languages for HURIDOCS, some materials are also available in Russian, Arabic and other languages. The progress in this very important area has been limited by lack of financial resources. Progress in 2005 included:

- Translation of some chapters of the Events Standard Formats into Russian by Irina Yarovaya, an on-line volunteer
- Translation into French of the guidebook, *What is monitoring*
- Translation into French of the INDEP/SERIAL database system for human rights libraries
- Initiation of the translation into Arabic of the WinEvsys software in collaboration with the Danish Institute for Human Rights

7. Dissemination: Providing HURIDOCS Tools to the Human Rights Community

HURIDOCS tools were disseminated in print form, through the HURIDOCS website www.huridocs.org (at no charge) and through the HuriTools CD-ROM. HuriTools contains HURIDOCS tools and is organised in the same way as the HURIDOCS Web site. It is much in demand among organisations that have expensive and/or slow Internet connections.

In 2005, the downloads of documents and software increased by 23 % over 2004.



Continuation Committee (Board) member, James Lawson continues to oversee the development of Tools and Techniques.

B. TOOLS MASTERY, TRAINING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

OBJECTIVE 2: *To build the capacity of the human rights community to master and adapt these tools and techniques to their specific needs through training and other activities*

OBJECTIVE 3: *To support human rights organisations to set up and strengthen their information systems*

1. Needs Assessment / Training - Great Lakes Region (Rwanda, Burundi, DR Congo)

HURIDOCS is a partner in the programme Professionalisation of the Civil Society in Rwanda and the Great Lakes Region, implemented by the Ligue des droits de l'homme dans la région des Grands Lacs (LDGL) in cooperation with NGOs in the Great Lakes Region, the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM) and Amnesty International – Dutch section.

2005 included a planning meeting (University of Utrecht) and a needs assessment mission in Kigali, Rwanda conducted by a HURIDOCS expert and participants from ITEKA (Burundi), Héritiers de la Justice (DR Congo), and LIPRODHOR and LDGL (Rwanda).

The subsequent training course included the same organisations as well as two Kigali-based NGOs. The programme covered cataloguing and classification, the Bibliographic Standard Formats, UNESCO WinISIS software/HURIDOCS database program for bibliographic information, and access to human rights information on the Internet (including HuriSearch).

The next stage includes three training activities on documenting human rights violations to be held in Rwanda, Burundi and the eastern part of DR Congo. LDGL and HURIDOCS held initial discussions on these activities, which will begin with an internship of a LDGL trainer at the HURIDOCS Secretariat.

2. Training for Trainers: Warsaw, Poland

The *European Training for Trainers Course on HURIDOCS Tools for Documenting Human Rights Violations* was organised jointly by HURIDOCS and the Tolerance and Non-discrimination Programme, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), OSCE. It was attended by fourteen experienced and knowledgeable participants. The training included an in-depth presentation of the Events Standard Formats and WinEvsys software for documenting human rights violations, hands-on training, exchanges of experiences and exploration of good practices in training methodology. The goal was to increase the pool of HURIDOCS trainers and provide accessible trainers for central/eastern Europe and central Asia.

B. TOOLS MASTERY, TRAINING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING cont.

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3. Training on Monitoring Racism: Warsaw, Poland

Also organised by HURIDOCS with OSCE/ODIHR was a training course on *Monitoring, documenting and reporting violent incidents related to racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance*. The UK Monitoring Group played a significant role in this training. The sixteen participants were involved in monitoring incidents from countries in central /eastern Europe and central Asia. The purpose was to strengthen skills in monitoring and documentation of human violations. Seven different HURIDOCS trainers (present at the parallel Training for Trainers course) contributed to the course.

4. Training on Documenting Human Rights Violations: Dushanbe, Tajikistan

The OSCE Centre in Dushanbe, Tajikistan requested HURIDOCS for advice and training in the framework of its project *Strengthening individual human rights complaints mechanisms in Tajikistan*. An important component of the project was *Training on Handling Individual Human Rights Complaints* for local human rights NGOs. The sessions on documenting human rights and the WinEvsys software were provided by Pavel Chacuk (ODIHR office, Warsaw), who was trained at the HURIDOCS Training for Trainers course in Warsaw.

5. Regional Training Course in Ghana

HURIDOCS, together with the Africa Unit, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and hosted by the Legon Centre for International Affairs, Ghana, organised this bilingual English/French regional course. Twenty-six participants from ten countries, including representatives of UN field offices as well as staff of national human rights institutions and NGOs, were familiarised with HURIDOCS tools and techniques.

6. Training in Sudan

A national training course on documenting human rights violations for human rights monitors was prepared in collaboration with the Sudan Organisation against Torture (SOAT). However, the Sudanese authorities did not provide the resource persons with the necessary visa. Consequently, SOAT interns will be hosted at the HURIDOCS Secretariat to prepare them as trainers for Sudan.

7. Training for Indigenous Peoples: Geneva

In 2004, the Documentary Network of Indigenous Peoples (DNIP), the Documentation Centre for Indigenous Peoples (DoCIP) and HURIDOCS co-organised two training courses on documenting violations of human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples, in English and French. Subsequently HURIDOCS was requested to provide two similar trainings in Spanish and Russian. A needs assessment was conducted with DoCIP and DNIP revealing the strong need for this course. However, due to lack of financial support, the courses have been postponed until 2006.

8. Training for Trainers in South East Asia

In consultation with the Asian Committee for the Training of Trainers (ACTT) and the Commission for Disappearances and Victims of Violence (KontraS) in Indonesia, a project proposal was prepared for a six-day Training for Trainers course in South-East Asia for 15 representatives from NGOs in Burma, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. It will equip participants with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to be trainers and will occur as soon as funds are found.

9. Internships

During 2005, the HURIDOCS Secretariat hosted three interns from Nepal, Germany and Fiji. Tailor-made programmes were provided to cater for their specific needs.

- Rajan Dahal of the Group for International Solidarity (GRINSO) in Nepal focused on documenting human rights violations – Events Standard Formats and WinEvsys
- Nadja Ulrich, a German student of international relations identified sites for HuriSearch, entered sample cases in WinEvsys and worked on other activities during her internship
- Verenaisi Bavadra, Librarian/Information Research Officer of the Fiji Human Rights Commission examined the Bibliographic Standard Formats, the use of WinISIS software/INDEP/SERIAL database programme, Events Standard Formats and WinEvsys (including a comparison with the complaints handling system of the FHRC). Database adaptations in WinISIS were developed for handling legal cases and audio-visual materials

B. TOOLS MASTERY, TRAINING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING cont.

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10. Other Training Activities

The European office of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) requested a workshop on *Monitoring and Documenting Human Rights Violations* in Krakow. Board member Judith Dueck conducted this full day seminar.

HURIDOCS presented its work and tools to participants of the *Cours de formation de Genève en français* (Geneva training course in French), organised by the *International Service on Human Rights*. Geneviève Bador (Head of the Library of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees) made the HURIDOCS presentation.

HURIDOCS held a one-day presentation during a training course for human rights documentation workers from Africa and Asia, organised by the *Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights*.

A new international NGO, Global Human Rights Defence, requested a presentation on monitoring human rights, with a focus on social and economic rights, during the conference *Global Human Rights Defence reaches towards the future!*, held in The Hague. The meeting resulted in deepened contacts with human rights activists mainly from South Asia.

Contacts were maintained with human rights organisations with a view of holding future training activities in Georgia, India, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka and Turkey and other areas.

11. Updating and producing HURIDOCS curriculum and training materials

HURIDOCS trainers often use slide shows for presentations and training courses. During 2005, the following materials were developed:

- A new slideshow on monitoring economic, social and cultural rights
- French translations of slideshows on Information and Communication Technologies, databases and CDS/ISIS
- A slideshow presenting an overview of HURIDOCS tools and activities (developed pro bono by Sue Barkman, Special Projects Advisor to HURIDOCS, and Board member Judith Dueck)
- Other slide shows and materials were adapted and updated

12. Onsite and ongoing customised support, including adaptation of tools

HURIDOCS continued to provide continuing advice and support to human rights organisations world-wide, as requested. Increased requests along with needs for training, customized support and updating are challenging HURIDOCS organisational capacity and infrastructure. The need for a Training Officer was clear and arrangements were made to employ Daniel D'Esposito as of January 2006. Mr. Esposito brings a wealth of expertise to HURIDOCS including a background as a trainer for the International Committee of the Red Cross, an understanding of the protection of human rights, knowledge of data management and demonstrated analytical skills.

Continuation Committee (Board) Member Aida Maria Noval continues to oversee the area of Training and Information Systems Strengthening. For a current list of training requests for training, see <http://fast.nidelven-it.no/huridocs/downloadarea/publications/leaflets/Training.pdf>

C. OUTREACH AND NETWORK STRENGTHENING

OBJECTIVE 4: *To improve human rights advocacy and reporting techniques*

OBJECTIVE 5: *To expand human rights outreach and network capacity*

1. Research and consultation on procedures and systems followed by Intergovernmental organisations and national human rights institutions

HURIDOCS and the National Institutions Team of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights began to further conceptualize this project which will be split into two parts – one with a focus on Intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) and the other with a focus on national human rights institutions.

2. Regional and Thematic Network Development and Support

HURIDOCS contributed to the meeting of the *European Co-ordination Committee on Human Rights Documentation (ECCHRD)* in Warsaw. This meeting was organised by Amnesty International (Secretariat of the ECCHRD) and hosted by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE. A major part of the agenda included a presentation on using audio-visual material, an update on HURIDOCS activities, an exploration of the Semantic Web Project and a demonstration/evaluation of the new HuriSearch.

The Secretariat maintained ongoing contacts with other regional and thematic networks, including:

- Arab Human Rights Information Network (AHRINET)
- Asia-Pacific Committee for the Training of Trainers (ACTT)
- Red de Informatica y Documentación en Derechos Humanos de America Latina y el Caribe (RIDHUALC)
- Human Rights Information Network for Anglophone Africa (HURINAA)
- Coalition Against Trafficking in Women –Asia Pacific (CATW-AP, Philippines)
- International Refugee Documentation Network
- International Torture Documentation Network
- Documentary Network of Indigenous Peoples

3. International Governance

During 2005, the HURIDOCS Continuation Committee (Board) held two meetings at the HURIDOCS Secretariat. The 41st Board meeting included discussions on fundraising strategy and policies, future possibilities for HURIDOCS as well as ongoing programmes and activities. The 42nd meeting included discussions on HURIDOCS tools, training and networking activities as well the subsequently approved 2006 programme and budget. A one-day session on organisational capacity building and sustainability was facilitated by pro bono consultant Sue Barkman, Special Projects Advisor to HURIDOCS, who participated in the whole meeting and provided expertise in many areas.

The Board meetings also afforded opportunities for in depth financial planning, contact with potential financial partners, presentations on documenting Human rights violations for the staff of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, HuriSearch demonstrations and other meetings.

The **International Advisory Council** of HURIDOCS consists of 18 members. They were informed of HURIDOCS activities, invited to Continuation Committee meetings and asked for advice or assistance.

4. Intergovernmental Organisation Relations and Institutional Representation

HURIDOCS participated in two panel presentations at the Palais des Nations: the first at the Commission on Human Rights, and the second during the Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. As an outcome of these and presentations by other NGOs, a new, informal network of international human rights NGOs based in Geneva and concerned with training, information and research was established. HURIDOCS contributed to two meetings of this network.

Board members continue to represent HURIDOCS in various contexts. Examples include:

- meetings with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and international NGOs based in Geneva, Aida Maria Noval and Agnethe Olesen
- meetings with potential partners in London, Jonathan Kuttub and Judith Dueck
- meetings with potential partners in Strasbourg and Bern, James Lawson
- deepening relationships with CATW-AP, Aurora Javate de Dios
- Activities of chairman, Kofi Kumado in the Ghana training course and various other areas
- many demonstrations of HuriSearch

HURIDOCS organised several visits to North American organisations and donors, including Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Rights and Democracy, OneWorld, CECI, Resource Centre of the Americas (Minneapolis), Human Rights Education Research Associates (HREA), FAST (Boston and Oslo) and foundations in Montreal, Vancouver, Boston and Minneapolis. The purpose of these visits was to share HURIDOCS tools, deepen existing partnerships, explore possibilities for joint projects and investigate financial support potential. The visits were made by Board member Judith Dueck with assistance from Special Projects Advisor Sue Barkman.

5. Strategic Partnerships and Network Building

Identification and creation of formal and informal partnerships is important. In 2005, a partnership was established with the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (the OSCE) concerning HuriSearch.

Rights & Democracy is now established as HURIDOCS Canadian partner and is able to receive Canadian donations. HURIDOCS and FAST formally agreed to partner up in the HuriSearch project, developing an easy to use, unique and sophisticated information tool which fills an obvious void.

6. Network and Partner Communications: Production and dissemination of information and materials

-- Brochures and printed materials

HURIDOCS produced a booklet providing an overview of HURIDOCS as well as many one page leaflets highlighting current key programmes such as training and tool development. These materials were circulated to foundations and organisations that might be able to assist HURIDOCS in strengthening its organisational capacity. See <http://fast.nidvelven-it.no/huridocs/downloadarea/publications/>

-- Websites

HURIDOCS is developing a new public Website as a model featuring new technical developments relevant to Human Rights organisations. It will be released in 2006. A site for documents for the Continuation Committee was set up, allowing them to have access to important documents at all times.

-- Electronic mailing lists

HURIDOCS continued to maintain two public mailing lists to share information with the network.

- [huridocs-gen-l](#) contains announcements of activities and other general messages.
- [huridocs-tech](#), hosted by the *Human Rights Education Associates* in the United States, contains messages about information technologies and how they affect human rights

HURIDOCS assists thematic networks by maintaining the list [indi-health-l](#) and in other ways. This list facilitates contacts among NGOs dealing with the issue of health of indigenous peoples.

D. CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

OBJECTIVE 6: *To provide a centre of excellence on methods and techniques for human rights monitoring, documentation handling and information management*

1. Human Resources

Board member Judith Dueck provided ongoing coordination and organisational guidance to the Secretariat between May 2004 and November 2005. In November, this task was gradually handed over to Board member Agnethe Olesen.

During 2005, the HURIDOCS Secretariat consisted of a full-time Programme Coordinator, Bert Verstappen and a part-time Administrative Officer, Nejib Ghali. On basis of the need to strengthen its Secretariat, particularly the Training programme, and after an evaluation of the financial situation, HURIDOCS has been able to appoint a Training Officer who will start work in January 2006.

HURIDOCS is truly a **global network** which depends on its many partners, contacts and participants. As usual a wide range of people and organisations have contributed to the HURIDOCS network in order to improve services, training and tools. Some of these are noted on the inside cover.

2. Organisational planning

Sue Barkman (Canada) generously agreed to provide pro bono services as a Special Projects Advisor to work on long term planning issues and **capacity building**. In the latter half of 2005, she provided substantive input to the Board; she offered to continue her support in 2006.

3. Support services

The key functions of the **Centre of Excellence** are to: support the network, coordinate programme, advise organisations, host interns, demonstrate tools, maintain a specialized library, be a help desk, promote information standards, demonstrate information management leadership, consult with the network, inform the network, respond to requests, implement Board policy/directives along with a host of other activities. Current levels of financial support present a critical challenge to HURIDOCS infrastructure and its ability to provide these services to the network.

Kofi Kumado, HURIDOCS Chairperson

HURIDOCS is an initiative of NGOs convinced that cooperation, collaboration and their effectiveness to the different publics they serve would be enhanced by standardisation and professionalisation of their information systems and tools.

The 2005 Report of activities of the network shows that this need is as urgent in the twenty-first century knowledge society as it was in 1982 when HURIDOCS was inaugurated in Strasbourg, France.

The NGO community has expanded considerably. It continues to expand. So are the demands for simple, standardised but flexible tools and techniques for information management to facilitate exchange – exchange between producers and consumers.

Training on existing tools and development of new ones remain a main priority. In this regard, the Report reveals that HURIDOCS is at the cutting edge of the revolution in access to credible, reliable and useful information through its search engine – HuriSearch. As the human rights community consolidates, so must our response.

The activities outlined in the Report show that HURIDOCS continues to maximise the utilisation of funds made available to it by its development partners. Nevertheless, funding remains a major headache for the network. All international NGOs have these funding problems. But it is particularly acute for a service network like HURIDOCS which is not directly involved in advocacy.

The Report is commended to all. We in HURIDOCS will endeavour to continue working for the ideal of expert information management for NGOs, big or small, urban or rural, international or grassroots. For, after all, human rights are about the ideal conditions for the human race. Measured against that ideal, the 2005 Report reflects a major success for the HURIDOCS network.

HURIDOCS Report Card

*Facilita
centres*

HURIDOCS has:

Produced a wide range of tools

- introductory manuals on monitoring, documentation and information handling
- manuals and software for libraries handling bibliographic human rights information
- manuals and software for documenting human rights violations
- manuals for monitoring economic, social and cultural rights
- HuriSearch: a multilingual specialized human rights search engine

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Provided training services all over the world

- conducted 140 training courses, workshops and similar activities
- conducted a series of training for trainers courses starting in 1994
- produced a training manual which contains 27 training modules along with training aids
- received over 50 interns at the Secretariat

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HURIDOCS

Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems, International

HUman Rights Information and DOCumentation Systems, International

A global capacity-building network of organisations that use documentation techniques, monitoring methods, information management systems and available technologies in the defence of human rights and the prevention of abuses.

Vision: A world where the **power of information** and communication is harnessed in the service of human rights

Mission: To strengthen the **effectiveness and credibility** of human rights organisations and national human rights institutions by enhancing their capacity to manage and communicate information

Goal: To ensure that human rights organisations have the **tools, knowledge, skills and supporting services** to use their information resources effectively



Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council
Operational Relations Status with UNESCO
Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights