

Annual Report of Activities 2006



Documentalists from indigenous peoples' organisations in Latin America learn how to use the WinEvsys database to document violations. Geneva, July 2006

June 2007

HURIDOCs

Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems, International
48, chemin du Grand-Montfleury
CH-1290 Versoix, Switzerland
Email: info@huridocs.org

Websites:

<http://www.huridocs.org> – main website

<http://www.hurisearch.org> - HuriSearch human rights search engine

The HURIDOCS team

The HURIDOCS Continuation Committee (Board):

- Kofi Kumado (Ghana), Chair
- Judith Dueck (Canada), Vice Chair
- Agnethe Olesen (Denmark), Treasurer
- Jonathan Kuttab (Palestine) Jur. Dr. University of Virginia
- Aurora Javate de Dios (Philippines) Ph. D.
- James Lawson (France)
- Aída María Noval (Mexico)

The staff at our Secretariat in Versoix:

- Bert Verstappen, Programme Coordinator
- Daniel D'Esposito, Training Officer
- Nejib Ghali, Administrative Officer

HURIDOCS Continuation Committee (CC) and Secretariat staff



From left to right: Daniel D'Esposito (training officer), Jonathan Kuttab (Palestine), Nejib Ghali (administrator), Judith Dueck (Canada), Bert Verstappen (programme coordinator) Agnethe Olesen (Denmark), Kofi Kumado (Ghana), James Lawson (France), Aida Maria Noval (Mexico), Aurora Javate De Dios (Philippines)

I. Introduction

HURIDOCS in brief

The *Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems, International (HURIDOCS)* is 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.

Our vision: A world where the power of information and communication is harnessed in the service of human rights.

In this respect, our work is focused on four fields:

- A. Tools and Techniques Development**
- B. Training and Capacity Building**
- C. Outreach and Network Strengthening**
- D. Centre of Excellence**

Purpose of the report

The objective of this Annual Report of Activities 2006 is to give you an overview of the activities and projects under-taken by HURIDOCS.

2006 was the last year of HURIDOCS' Strategic and Action Plan for 2004-2006. It was an active and productive year for HURIDOCS, which is in particular due to the help and contributions of our partners and supporters.

Acknowledgements

HURIDOCS thanks in particular:

- the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation
- Fast Search & Transfer (HuriSearch partner that provide in-kind support)
- Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE (HuriSearch partner)
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland (HuriSearch)
- Rights & Democracy, Canada (HuriSearch)
- United Nations Mission in Iraq (training course for Iraqi librarians)
- Creative Associates International, United States (needs assessment missions in Nicaragua)
- International Development Research Centre and Mennonite Central Committee Canada (participation of Canadian board Member in HURIDOCS activities)

HURIDOCS also thanks all network members, partners, volunteers and professionals who contributed time and expertise to HURIDOCS, and in particular:

- The members of the Continuation Committee (Board) and the members of the HURIDOCS International Advisory Council.
- The various regional networks and their Secretariats
- The WinEvsys Design Team members
- James Lawson, Judith Dueck, Fast Search & Transfer (FAST), and ODIHR for continuing advice and support on the HuriSearch search engine
- Trainers at the various HURIDOCS training courses
- Hans Thoolen for representing HURIDOCS on the Board of the Martin Ennals Award, as its Executive Chairman
- Nidelven-IT (Norway) for helping develop the new HURIDOCS website and HuriSearch
- Interns at the HURIDOCS Secretariat
- Volunteer translators

II. Activities and Achievements in 2006

Our activities focused on four areas corresponding to the central objectives of HURIDOCS:

A. Tools and Techniques Development

Human rights organisations need tools and techniques on human rights monitoring, information management and communication. These tools should be flexible for adaptation to local use.

- ❖ HURIDOCS develops these tools in consultation with organizations in the network.
- ❖ It seeks to ensure that these tools are available in different forms and languages, and, in the case of software, easy to install.

For this purpose, HURIDOCS developed a large number of tools:

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

In collaboration with the leading enterprise search provider [Fast Search & Transfer](#), HuriSearch was developed by HURIDOCS to facilitate access to human rights information on the web.

It provides the human rights community and others concerned with human rights with a powerful web research tool. It also aims to increase the visibility of information published by human rights organisations and to encourage webmasters to use metadata¹ systematically, thus making human rights information searching on the Internet much more reliable and efficient.

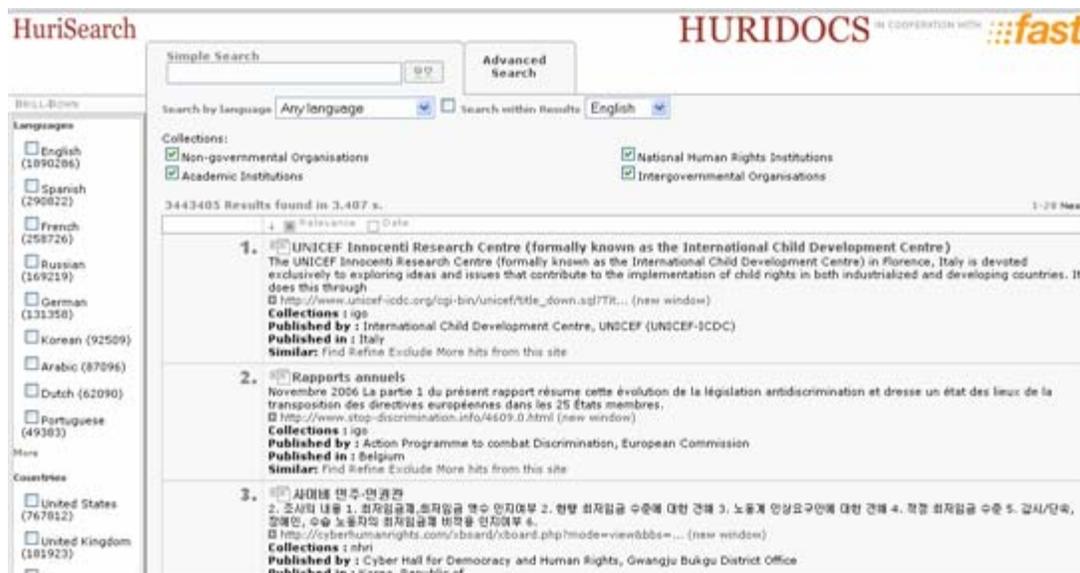
HuriSearch, the Web search engine for human rights, is available at: <http://www.hurisearch.org>.

¹ Meta-data are data about data. They are used to facilitate the understanding, use, management and retrieval of data.

HuriSearch start page



HuriSearch results page



In 2006 HuriSearch has seen some major improvements in various areas:

→ **Search capabilities:**

HuriSearch now offers the following search functions:

- Search by language of publication and by country of publication
- Search by publishing organisation, or type of publishing organisations.
- Search by index term: search results are scanned for the most frequently mentioned HURIDOCS index terms. The HURIDOCS index covers the most relevant terms in human rights work.

- Search by keyword: HuriSearch uses artificial intelligence to analyse search results and identify relevant keywords, giving suggestions for refining searches.

→ **Search scope:**

- 650 new websites were researched and added to the index, which by the end of 2006 contained more than 3 million pages from over 3250 websites,
- These websites are now crawled every eight days, and on a daily basis for the websites of intergovernmental organisations, national human rights institutions and academic institutions. In consequence, HuriSearch is capable of retrieving very fresh information.

→ **Look and feel, usability, access:**

- HuriSearch now offers a complete series of orientation pages for the user: help page, feedback page, etc.
- The whole search interface, including orientation pages, is now available in eight languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese, German and Korean.

→ **HuriSearch launch campaign**

- HURIDOCS carried out a launch campaign to promote the largely improved search engine and encourage its use.

A notable front-page review by BBC News can be found at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/6198244.stm>. HuriSearch was also covered in many other media Websites and several blogs in the field of human rights and information technology.

An [article on HuriSearch](#) was published for a special issue on International perspectives of human rights education of the online [Journal of Social Science Education](#).



James Lawson presenting HuriSearch at the [2006 ECCHR meeting](#) in London.

Following the launch, the numbers of people visiting HuriSearch each month increased by 1500 % from October to December 2006.

In addition, by end 2006 an increasing number of websites and blogs are now linking to HuriSearch, or providing a HuriSearch search box directly on their pages.

A list of sites linking to HuriSearch is available at <http://www.huridocs.org/tools/linklist0706.doc>;

a list of third-party search boxes is available at <http://www.huridocs.org/tools/hurisearchboxes.doc>.

At the end of 2006, HuriSearch included sites based in 151 countries – see map below.



Red = country from which sites are included in HuriSearch

HURIDOCS also collaborated with and provided advice to the [Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Information System](#) (TnD) of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). From the TnD Websites, searches for NGO material are carried out on HuriSearch. The TnD Information System was launched in Warsaw on 12 October, in the presence of two HURIDOCS representatives.

Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Information System

OSCE Home | ODIHR Home



Print version

Home | About | Contact | How to contribute | How to use this website

Hide main menu

<p>Quick reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ODIHR collection point ■ OSCE/ODIHR key resources ■ Action plans ■ Inter-governmental organizations ■ International instruments ■ Specialized institutions ■ Recently added <p>Browse this section</p>	<p>Comers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Civil society ■ Education ■ Law enforcement ■ Legislative support <p>Browse this section</p>	<p>Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Anti-Semitism ■ Freedom of religion or belief ■ Gender-based discrimination ■ Hate crime ■ Hate on the Internet ■ Homophobia ■ Intolerance against Muslims ■ Racism & xenophobia ■ Roma, Sinti & Travellers <p>Browse this section</p>
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Advanced search

Country pages

-- select --

[See all countries](#)

Search the documents database

or try [Advanced search](#)

Search the initiatives database

or try [Advanced search](#)

Find NGO information with HuriSearch

Upcoming events

- OSCE High Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding
- Bucharest
- 7-8 June 2007
- [More information](#)

New publications from ODIHR

- Teaching materials on the history of Jews and anti-Semitism in Europe. Part 1, Anti-Semitism in Europe up to 1945 (Lithuanian sample)
- 30 March 2007

[ODIHR's TND website](#)

3. EvSys: Documenting Human Rights Violations

Many human rights organisations are in need of a **comprehensive, user-friendly and adaptable** database programme to record, manage and retrieve information about cases of violations.

HURIDOCS developed an innovative database program (EvSys) for this purpose as early as the late 1980s.

With WinEvsys (the Windows version) users are able 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.

The screenshot shows the EvSys database interface. At the top, there is a menu bar with options like 'Evsys Menu', 'Set Up', 'Exit', and 'Help'. Below the menu is a toolbar with various icons. The main window displays a table with columns: 'Name', 'Counting Unit', 'Number of Persons in Group', and 'Sex'. The table contains several rows of data, including 'Egyolisan Riot Police', 'Five minors from Ordu', 'Human Rights Watch', 'Ordu Chief Public Prosecutor', and 'Ordu Police'. Below the table is a hierarchical diagram showing the structure of the database. The diagram starts with 'Person' and 'Event' at the top. 'Person' is linked to 'Biographic Details'. 'Event' is linked to 'Chain of Events'. 'Act' is linked to 'Victim' (under Roles), 'Perpetrator', 'Source', and 'Intervening Party'. 'Act' is also linked to 'Involvement', 'Additional Details', 'Information', and 'Intervention'.

Name	Counting Unit	Number of Persons in Group	Sex
Egyolisan Riot Police	Group, organisation or institution	0	Not applicable
Five minors from Ordu	Group, organisation or institution	5	Male
Human Rights Watch	Group, organisation or institution	0	Not applicable
Ordu Chief Public Prosecutor	Group, organisation or institution	0	Not applicable
Ordu Police	Group, organisation or institution	0	Not applicable

Thanks to the establishment of a mailing list, users of WinEvsys can be informed of the latest updates. This will also help us to identify additional organisations that use WinEvsys. See: <http://www.huridocs.org/involved/winevsys-list>

WinEvsys is used by organisations in the following countries:

- Europe: Serbia, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine
- Americas: Ecuador, Haiti
- Africa: Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia
- Asia: Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines

4. Software for Human Rights Libraries

HURIDOCS has developed Bibliographic Standard Formats which are used by at least fifty libraries and documentation centres world-wide which have collections on human rights and related areas. These formats have been programmed into CDS-ISIS for Windows, a software developed and distributed by Unesco.

The Arabic versions of the CDS-ISIS for Windows software and of the HURIDOCS Bibliographic Standard Formats were used at the training course for librarians from Iraq and made available to the participants.

5. 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, Chinese, Korean and other languages. In this respect, 2006 has seen a major effort in the area of translation. This is done on basis of expressed needs of

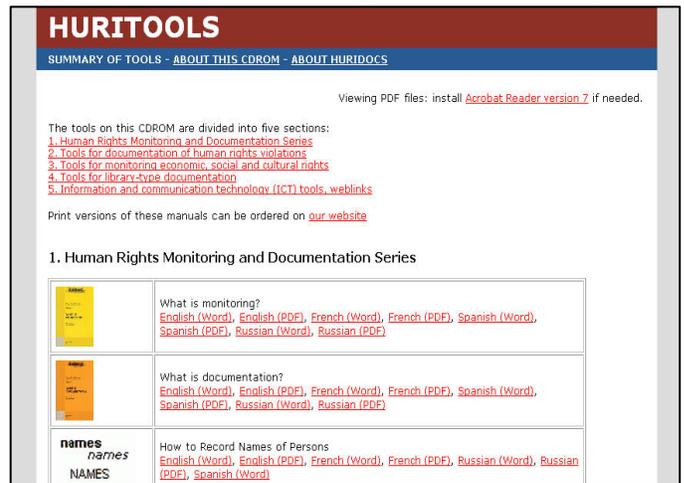
organisations in HURIDOCS' network, who themselves initiate these translations. Progress in 2006 included:

- Translation of the Events Standard Formats, the Micro-thesauri and the WinEvsys software into Spanish and into Turkish, plus start of the translation of these tools into Portuguese and Arabic
- Start of the translation of the manual *The Right to Food : A Resource Manual for NGOs* into Spanish
- Translation of the background pages of the HuriSearch search engine and of the search interface into French, Spanish, German, Russian, Arabic, Chinese and Korean

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

HURITOOLS CD-ROM

In 2006, HURIDOCS produced a new version of the HURITOOLS- CD-ROM which provides all its tools and manuals developed in electronic format. This is very convenient for organisations and persons with slow internet access. Throughout 2006, we distributed about 200 copies of HURITOOLS.



B. Training and Capacity Building

HURIDOCS aims at:

- ❖ Supporting human rights organisations to set up and strengthen their information systems
- ❖ Building the capacity of the human rights community to master and adapt these tools and techniques to their specific needs through training and other activities

HURIDOCS activities to achieve these objectives include:

1. Tools Mastery through Training Courses

HURIDOCS provides training courses and workshops in various parts of the world. The training activities are specialised and practical, responding to the specific needs of the human rights organisations.

The courses usually last from 3 to 5 working days, and in average there are 15 to 20 participants. HURIDOCS collaborates with its partners to adapt the tools and techniques for their use and to set up their information systems. It provides continuing advice and support to ensure that the systems remain operational and conform to the needs of the particular organisation.

Examples of HURIDOCS training activities in 2006:

Turkey – ongoing: as part of a [Netherlands Helsinki Committee](#) project, together with two major Turkish human rights NGOs, [Human Rights Association of Turkey](#) and [Mazlumder](#), HURIDOCS trained a team of trainers in fact-finding and reporting. These trainers will then train volunteers at branch level.

Switzerland - December 2006: in partnership with the [Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) and the [United Nations Mission in Iraq](#), HURIDOCS organised a ten-day course on library management for human rights librarians from Iraq. The course was given in Arabic, included modules on how to use and adapt CDS-ISIS, and several study visits to the documentation centres of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the library of the UN Office in Geneva, and the library of the Law Faculty of Geneva University.



Ankara, Turkey – November 2006: in partnership with [IHOP](#) (the Turkish Human Rights Joint Platform that brings together human rights NGOs in Turkey), HURIDOCS provided training in documentation to a group of human rights NGOs.

As an outcome of the training, the participating NGOs are setting up the HURIDOCS WinEvsys database system to pool together data collected on human rights violations. IHOP also translated manuals and software into Turkish.



Geneva, Switzerland - July 2006: in partnership with the [Indigenous Peoples' Center for Documentation, Research and Information \(DoCIP\)](#), the [Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú \(Chirapaq\)](#) and the [Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North \(RAIPON\)](#), HURIDOCS provided two simultaneous trainings on documenting human rights violations to a group of indigenous peoples' organisations. Thanks to its international trainers' pool, HURIDOCS was able to provide these trainings in Russian and



Spanish.

Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia – July 2006: in partnership with the [Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe \(OSCE\)](#), HURIDOCS provided training on documenting human rights violations to a group of NGOs working in favour of refugees. They wish to become more active in advocacy and will use the HURIDOCS WinEvsys database system to build an analysis of problems affecting refugees in this area.

Liberia – February 2006: in partnership with the **Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy** (FOHRD), a Liberian NGO, HURIDOCS provided training in documentation to a group of Liberian human rights NGOs. The participating NGOs are setting up the HURIDOCS WinEvsys database system to pool together data collected on human rights violations, and provide the analysis for a joint report on the human rights situation in Liberia.



For a current list of training requests for training, see:

<http://www.huridocs.org/about/docs/Training.pdf>

2006 has also seen the drafting of several new projects that are to be further concretised in 2007:

- A Geneva-based training on the **monitoring of economical, social and cultural rights**, bringing together expertise and resources in Geneva – to be held during the meetings of the [Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights](#).
- A **distance learning training** (e-learning) on documentation of human rights violations.

Finally, HURIDOCS developed new training materials, as for example:

- A complete trainers manual for documentation of violations using WinEvsys (including power points, exercises, forms)
- A complete trainers manual for a two-day course on fact-finding
- A small module on using the indicators approach (with film and exercise)

These materials will be placed on a special section on the HURIDOCS website, accessible to the trainers' pool.

C. Outreach and Network Strengthening

HURIDOCS aims at:

- ❖ Improving human rights advocacy and reporting techniques
- ❖ Expanding human rights outreach and network capacity

It is obvious that networking has become an important element of work for human rights organisations. Indeed, it simplifies especially the pooling of resources, adoption of common positions and joint actions in response to issues and events.

For this purpose HURIDOCS carried out several activities in order to facilitate contact, cooperation and interaction among and between human rights organisations:

1. Network and Partner Development

a. Regional and Thematic Network Development and Support

HURIDOCS has maintained contacts with regional and thematic networks in the field of information management and documentation handling, including:

- Arab Human Rights Information Network (AHRINET)
- Asia-Pacific Committee for the Training of Trainers (ACTT)
- Red de Informática y Documentación en Derechos Humanos de América 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 (IRDN)
- International Torture Documentation Network (ITDN)

- Documentary Network of Indigenous Peoples (DNIP)

At the 29th meeting of the *European Co-ordination Committee on Human Rights Documentation (ECCHRD)* which was organised by Amnesty International and held in London on 8 and 9 June, HURIDOCS presented the new HuriSearch and an update on HURIDOCS activities as well as the application of new Information Technology facilities in human rights documentation work.

HURIDOCS is also actively involved in [InForHumanum](#), a newly established network of Geneva-based NGOs concerned with information, training, research and education in the fields of human rights, humanitarian law and peace.

b. General Assembly and Conference 2007

With the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM) as one of the co-organisers, HURIDOCS is preparing a conference for 2008. The theme of the Conference is: *International Criminal Court and Human Rights Council: the New Challenges for Human Rights Communications* and it will be followed by a General Assembly.

c. International Governance

During 2006, the HURIDOCS **Continuation Committee** held two board- meetings at the HURIDOCS Secretariat including discussions on finances and fund-raising, long-term strategies and planning as well as the promotion of HURIDOCS and HuriSearch. The meetings were used for contacts between Board members and various Geneva-based partners.



The CC at work at the HURIDOCS Secretariat in Versoix

The **International Advisory Council** of HURIDOCS consists of 13 members. They were informed of HURIDOCS activities, invited to Continuation Committee meetings and asked for advice or assistance.

d. Relations with Intergovernmental Organisation and Institutional Representation

Board members continue to represent HURIDOCS in international contexts with the aim of building the network, sharing tools and expertise, training, facilitating linkages, responding to requests and otherwise deepening relationships.

e. Strategic Partnerships and Network Building

HURIDOCS has established working relations with over twenty partner organisations.

In 2006, it collaborated in particular with the following organisations:

- [Fast Search & Transfer](#), Norway: collaboration in the development of the HuriSearch search engine
- the [Tolerance and Non-discrimination Programme](#) of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Poland: collaboration in providing access to NGO material on various aspects of tolerance and non-discrimination through the HuriSearch search engine
- [Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#), Switzerland: collaboration with regard to training – during 2006, training course for Iraqi librarians, and with regard to methods and tools for documenting human rights violations
- [Indigenous Peoples' Center for Documentation, Research and Information \(DoCIP\)](#), Switzerland: collaboration in providing training to representatives of indigenous peoples' organisations and advice regarding the structure of DoCIPs own documentation centre
- [International Service for Human Rights](#), Switzerland: regular collaboration in providing sessions during ISHRs training courses for human rights defenders
- [Human Rights Education Associates](#), United States: collaboration among others through the huridocs-tech mailing list and in the promotion of HuriSearch
- the [Netherlands Helsinki Committee](#) and two local human rights organisations as well as the [IHOP](#) network in Turkey: collaboration in a project to strengthen the monitoring and documentation skills of human rights NGOs
- the [Special Programme on Africa](#) of Amnesty International, Netherlands section: collaboration to strengthen the monitoring and documentation capacities of human rights groups in Africa – during 2006, with activities in relation to Liberia and Mozambique
- the [Arab Institute of Human Rights](#) collaboration in the training course for Iraqi librarians
- the [Ligue des Droits de la Personne dans la Région des Grands Lacs](#): follow up to previous training through an active internship.
- the [Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific](#), a regional network that continued to train its members in documentation of violence against women, using an adaptation of the Events standard formats and the WinEvsys database
- positive working relations were maintained with [Rights & Democracy](#), Canada which is now established as HURIDOCS Canadian partner.

HURIDOCS carried out different outreach activities which make the HURIDOCS network and its work better known:

Ion Iacos of the [Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims](#), Denmark gave a presentation on documenting human rights violations using the HURIDOCS tools for the fifteen international participants of a human rights training course at the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

Former intern Susan Maret published an overview of HURIDOCS, entitled [Formats are a Tool for the Quest for Truth: HURIDOCS Human Rights Materials for Library and Human Rights Workers](#)

in the magazine “The Progressive Librarian”.

Judith Dueck gave a presentation of HuriSearch at the Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations in Seoul as well as in Canada, Belgium and the United States. available on-line at <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/papers/110-Dueck-en.pdf>.

In November, Ms. Dueck visited Rwanda and met with the Prime Minister and other high-level government officials to discuss matters related to education, human rights and technology. She was also hosted by the Canadian High Commission in Nairobi. In both Kigali and Nairobi, she met with grassroots human rights organisations to exchange ideas and demonstrate HURIDOCS tools. Numerous presentations, discussions and exchanges occurred resulting in deepening relationships and new contacts.

Bert Verstappen represented HURIDOCS at the Conference *Human Rights in the Polder* organised by the [Netherlands Institute of Human Rights \(SIM\)](#) and he took part in the international colloquium *Archives, justice et Droits de l'Homme*, organised by the [Association des Archivistes français](#), the [Association française d'histoire de la Justice](#) and the [Conseil international des Archives](#) at the University of Lyon.

2. Network and Partner Communications

a. Print information and brochures

HURIDOCS regularly updated the set of information brochures about its various activities that was published in 2005. These brochures on HURIDOCS and HuriSearch were translated into several languages.

In addition, a special brochure was produced to illustrate the use of HuriSearch.

b. Website

In 2006, HURIDOCS launched a new version of its **main website** www.huridocs.org, using the Plone content management system. This system has the advantage of being open source and allows the recording of meta-data.



Following the launch of the new website that coincided with the launch of the renewed HuriSearch (December), **the number of visitors to the new website increased by 300%**.

The number of downloads increased from 1096 tools in 2003 to 3950 tools in 2006. Most of the users come from NGOs (64 %), but the tools are also used by academic institutions, business, NHRIs and international organisations.

Except for the Middle East, there is a geographical balance concerning the number of downloads by region.

HURIDOCS tools are downloaded from 101 countries, most downloads coming from the United States, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Mexico, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nigeria.



Red = country from which HURIDOCS tools were downloaded

c. Mailing Lists

- The Secretariat continued to maintain and disseminate information on three public (*HURIDOCS Open*, *huridocs-tech*, *indi-health-l*) and three private mailing lists.
- *WinEvsys list*. Updates on the WinEvsys software.

d. Prompt response to information requests

The Secretariat daily receives requests about HURIDOCS tools and training activities and it provides prompt responses to these requests.

3. Advocacy and Reporting

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

In collaboration with various other Geneva-based NGOs, HURIDOCS developed the Website www.hrcouncil.info which provides easy access to information about human rights events in Geneva, and in particular allows following developments in the Human Rights Council.

HURIDOCS also seeks to strengthen the role of the Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court, as main actors in the changing landscape of human rights. This objective will be discussed in the 2008 Conference (see above).

D. Centre of Excellence

- ❖ *HURIDOCS seeks to provide a centre of excellence on methods and techniques for human rights monitoring, documentation handling and information management*

For this purpose, HURIDOCS seeks to develop its Secretariat into a centre of excellence and a service provider by equipping it with staff with the requisite knowledge and expertise to attain its overall goal. This also involves the setting in place of procedures for planning, monitoring and evaluation.

1. Human Resources

During 2006, the HURIDOCS Secretariat consisted of a full-time Programme Coordinator, Bert Verstappen, a full-time Training Officer, Daniel D'Esposito and a part-time Administrative Officer, Nejib Ghali.

Board member Agnethe Olesen provided ongoing coordination and organisational guidance to the Secretariat throughout 2006.

2. Support Services

The key functions of the **Centre of Excellence** are to support the network, coordinate the programme, advise organisations, host interns, demonstrate tools, maintain a specialised library, be a help desk, promote information standards, demonstrate information management leadership, consult with the network, inform the network, respond to requests and implement Board policy and directives.

3. Fundraising

In order to respond to the many major and important requests it receives, funding for infrastructure is essential for HURIDOCS. HURIDOCS continues to aim for financial sustainability

III. Final Comment

The request and feedback that HURIDOCS regularly receives from human rights organisations world-wide shows that HURIDOCS continues to function as a relevant user and needs-driven network in the field of human rights documentation management and information handling.

Quotations:

"It's a fantastic resource, and essential given the nature of human rights work, where accuracy is everything." – [Live it Lively in Bangladesh blog](#)

Participants from the Russian-speaking course for documentalists of indigenous peoples' organisations: *"The HURIDOCS documentation methodology and the WinEvsys database system are a good chance to systematise our documentation from the paper format into electronic version, and use it for creating the alternative official statistics".*

The year 2007 will constitute a year of transition with regard to HURIDOCS' Strategic Planning. During this year, HURIDOCS will develop a new Strategic Plan covering the period 2008-2012. This Plan will be drafted by the Continuation Committee and discussed at the General Assembly in 2008. HURIDOCS will also carry out various activities in the four components of its programme, as described in the *Annual Strategic Plan 2007*.

Versoix, 13 June 2007
