

**SPECIAL LIBRARIES & OTHER MAJOR
NON-SPECIALISED LIBRARIES**

Chapter 9 Special Libraries & Other Major Non-Specialised Libraries

These sectors have given statistical problems for some time. The level of returns to UNESCO in recent years was so low that UNESCO had decided to discontinue this series. Comments in the 1997 report on *Library economics in Central and Eastern Europe [EUR 18042 EN]* included:

“The special library sector gives particular problems for international comparisons and aggregations because of the way the definition is applied in different countries” (p. iv) and “these overall trends are not really meaningful due to the differing ways in which the various countries apply the ISO definition and the unequal weightings between countries which result.” (p. 34)

“Only six countries of the ten surveyed report libraries in [the Other Major Non-specialised Library] sector and of those reported 261 of the 334 service points are in Poland with another 27 and 30 in Bulgaria and Hungary respectively. To report on this sector is effectively to report on Poland and for this reason no overall trend analysis is undertaken.” (p. 35)

On a more positive note research in the UK and in Germany had explored different methods of data collection to provide information on the scale of Special Library activity in the course of which it became clear that previous statistics had generally understated the size and significance of this sector. It was therefore decided to adopt a radically different approach for the 1998 LIBECON 2000 survey - which was subsequently taken up and extended in the proposals to revise *ISO 2789*.

Scope

The first major proposal was to introduce sub categories into the Special Library sector so that data were reported separately for four identified types of library [five in the ISO proposals] plus a miscellaneous ‘Other’ category. This was partly to clarify what should be included in this diverse sector by each country, but also to provide useful data on some of the more homogenous parts of the sector. It was realised that adoption of this change would take time but that the proposed change for Special Libraries would, in time, produce a very significant improvement.

The second major proposal was to discontinue Sector 5 ‘Other Major Non-specialised Libraries’. It was realised that this could not be introduced without notice and consultation for the 1998 survey - but the Guidance Notes were modified to make a first move in this direction wherever countries found this possible and acceptable. In discontinuing ‘other non-specialised libraries’ such libraries will need to be classified elsewhere - usually as one sort of ‘special library’, but occasionally as ‘national’, ‘tertiary’ or ‘public’. The definition of ‘national library’ allows for more than one in a country. Focus needs to be on the target user rather than on the administration responsible for organising the service.

Reasons given for this change include the following:

- UNESCO returns are too low and inconsistent for this category to be viable/meaningful when compared to the others;
- the definition is often misunderstood so that it is a source of trouble in international comparisons;
- in practice the definition is misused in that the term 'major' is ignored and many small libraries are included;
- having libraries in the few countries concerned in one of the other categories will improve their value for comparisons.

Statistical data

There has been substantial research activity (chiefly but not exclusively in the UK and Germany) to apply statistical sampling techniques. These assemble data from a proportion of libraries - a sample multiplied up to represent the whole. Such estimates are subject to sampling error, which can be substantial. As a result what many had always suspected has been demonstrated - namely that the various types of library designated under the Special Library label are very much larger than had been previously assumed in the absence of systematic statistical evidence. It is anticipated that statistics in this area will always be a hybrid mixture of traditionally maintained statistical series and of sample surveys. Even more than elsewhere the methodology employed needs to be transparent and recognised when making comparisons.

The sub division of Special Libraries into sub categories has also prompted some countries to make more analytical estimates and to recognise the need for estimates for areas not represented conventionally.

The new regime is best described by reproducing the LIBECON 2000 Guidance Notes:

4. SPECIAL LIBRARIES :

Those maintained by an association, government service, parliament, research institution (excluding university institutes), learned society, professional association, museum, business firm, industrial enterprise, chamber of commerce etc., or other organised group, the greater part of their collections covering a specific field or subject, e.g. natural sciences, social sciences, agriculture, chemistry, medicine, economics, engineering, law, history. For the purposes of this survey, Special Libraries are divided into 5 subgroups, as follows:

A. GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES:

Those maintained by any government service, department or agency, or parliament, including both central (national) and local (regional) government organisations. Exclude National Libraries, Public Libraries and Health Service libraries, which have their own categories.

B. HEALTH SERVICE LIBRARIES:

Those which serve health service professionals in hospitals or elsewhere, whether in the private or public sector. Exclude pharmaceutical company libraries, which should be included under 4D.

C. PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Libraries maintained by professional or trade associations, learned societies, trade unions and other similar bodies whose primary objective is to provide services to the members and practitioners of a specific trade or profession.

D. INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS:

Libraries in any industrial enterprise or business firm, maintained by the parent organisation to service the information needs of its staff. Include libraries maintained by information and management consultants, the media, manufacturing and service industries and law libraries

E. OTHER:

Any other library not included elsewhere. Include libraries within voluntary organisations, museums, etc., and other libraries of a learned character which are neither libraries of institutions of higher education nor national libraries.

A return is also included for the total of all Special Libraries.

[The current ISO proposals include a further category for 'media'.]

With such a future transition in prospect the LIBECON 2000 Guidance Notes read as follows:

5. OTHER MAJOR NON-SPECIALISED LIBRARIES:

Non-specialised libraries of a learned character which are neither libraries of institutions of higher education nor national libraries. Wherever possible libraries should be classed as National, Academic, Public or Special, according to the main features of those they are set up to serve, in order to achieve the most realistic comparisons with practice in other countries. We suggest that the word "Major" be taken to mean libraries with collections in excess of 150,000 stock items. Please enclose a list of all libraries included in this category.

Figure 9.1 Data supplied 1991 - 1997

	Total	Gov't	Special Libraries			I&C	Other	Other Maj NSd
			Health	Prof'l				
Austria								
Belgium	=	=	=	=	=		R	=
Bulgaria	R	R	R	R	R		R	R
Czech Republic			R				R	n/a
Denmark	R	=	=	=	=		=	n/a
Estonia	R	R	R	R	R		R	R
Finland	R	=	=	=	=		=	
France	=	=	=	=	=		=	=
Germany	R	=	=	=	=		=	n/a
Greece	=	=	=	=	=		=	=
Hungary	R	=	=	=	=		=	=
Iceland								
Ireland	R	R	R	R	R		R	n/a
Italy								
Latvia	R	R	D	R	D		D	D
Liechtenstein								
Lithuania	R	=	D	=	D		D	D
Luxembourg								
Netherlands	R	=	=	=	=		=	n/a
Norway	R	=	=	=	=		=	
Poland	R	=	=	=	=		=	R
Portugal	R	=	=	=	=		=	R
Romania								n/a
Slovak Republic			R		R		R	
Slovenia	R	R	R	=	R		R	n/a
Spain	R	R	=	R	R		R	R
Sweden	R	=	=	=	=		=	=
Switzerland								
UK	R	R	R	R	R		R	n/a

Key: D Data received, not (yet) included
R Included on database
= Advised no data available
n/a Sector not applicable

Special Libraries: Survey Results

Responses received in time for analysis in this study are shown in Table 9.1

The fact that ten states were able to supply data for at least two sub categories is encouraging evidence that the approach is understood and feasible. Some countries - including Germany, Ireland and the UK - provided no data for years before 1996 or 1997, although estimates for earlier years show on the database.

In practice, few respondents were able to supply a full breakdown - Bulgaria, Estonia, Ireland and the UK. Other countries were able to give a partial breakdown - Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia and Spain. In these countries, data were not collected from one or more of the sub-sectors, or there were believed to be no libraries in that area. A third category comprised countries where the total was not provided, but data were available for some sub-sectors - Belgium, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. In such countries it is possible that any figures supplied for special libraries in the past may not have covered the whole sector.

Sources of these special library statistics are diverse. In certain countries - for example, Bulgaria - data are collected annually on a comparable basis by a national agency, and are available in the same format for all sub-sectors. At the other extreme, figures from Ireland are based on a one-off sample survey carried out for research purposes. A third option is a combination of these - in the UK for example, annual statistics for government department libraries and health service libraries are supplemented by ad-hoc surveys in other sectors carried out for research purposes.

The sub category detail available has not been included on the main database or grossed totals, as no more than seven (out of 29) countries have supplied figures for any given sub-sector. However, these data may be downloaded as individual survey forms from the LIBECON web site.

Some indication of the relative strength of the sub categories is given in Table 9.1 below. For each of these countries the proportionate share of each sub category is shown. The results differ according to the variable - staff, units or materials. The AVERAGE column is a simple average with equal weight given to each country.

Proportions vary between countries both according to their cultural traditions and organisational structures. There is also variety in the data available. This scanty evidence shows that all the proposed sub categories are substantial in some places but that homogeneous results are unlikely. There are differences both in what data is technically available and in the services provided. How far to count very small information units - sometimes with only part time staff - is but one of the practical problems to be addressed. Clearly further investigation is needed - in an interesting, important and hitherto neglected area of library and information work.

Table 9.1 Special Library Sub categories: Analysis of responses (percentage proportions)

	Bulgaria	Estonia	Ireland	Slovenia	Spain	UK	AVERAGE
ANALYSIS BY ADMIN UNITS:							
<i>a) Government</i>	26	3	31	19	10	9	16
<i>b) Health</i>	15	16	13	9	-	13	11
<i>c) Prof Ass'ns</i>	3	4	12	-	17	5	8
<i>d) Ind'y & Com/</i>	27	20	14	42	5	43	25
<i>e) Other</i>	29	57	30	30	68	30	41
	100	100	100	100	100	100	101
ANALYSIS BY TOTAL STAFF:							
<i>a) Government</i>	58	2	32	22	19	17	25
<i>b) Health</i>	8	9	11	13	-	8	10
<i>c) Prof Ass'ns</i>	2	34	8	-	8	8	12
<i>d) Ind'y & Com/</i>	22	7	13	38	7	49	22
<i>e) Other</i>	10	48	36	27	66	18	34
	100	100	100	100	100	100	103
ANALYSIS BY CURRENT PERIODICALS:							
<i>a) Government</i>	72	1	36	33	***	48	38
<i>b) Health</i>	5	3	8	14	***	7	7
<i>c) Prof Ass'ns</i>	1	7	16	-	***	7	8
<i>d) Ind'y & Com/</i>	16	11	15	35	***	26	21
<i>e) Other</i>	6	78	25	18	***	12	28
	100	100	100	100	***	100	102
ANALYSIS BY BOOK ADDITIONS:							
<i>a) Government</i>	62	2	***	30	13	37	29
<i>b) Health</i>	3	5	***	19	-	18	9
<i>c) Prof Ass'ns</i>	0	9	***	-	7	9	6
<i>d) Ind'y & Com/</i>	16	11	***	17	4	24 est.	18
<i>e) Other</i>	19	73	***	34	76	12 est.	43
	100	100	***	100	100	100	105

Special Libraries: Database results

The difficulty in interpreting the data provided lies in the fact that the UK and Germany have provided estimates for the whole sector derived in part from statistical samples (as requested in the Guidance Notes for the survey) while almost all the other countries' responses are restricted to those organisations that have kept and provided conventionally maintained annual statistics: these cover only those organisations that keep statistics. Thus the relatively large totals for the UK and Germany are in large measure explained by the different methodology.

Sector population and Administrative units. The problems of methodology are well illustrated in Tables 9.2 and Table 9.3. Defining the target population for a special library is inherently difficult. Professional association libraries exist primarily for their association members but may in addition provide an important technical service to outsiders. Industrial and commercial libraries exist principally for executive and research staff in the organisation – difficult to delimit. Special interest and voluntary organisation libraries may set out to serve the entire population but may only be of interest to a minute proportion. Health service libraries are used more heavily by qualified doctors and researchers than by nurses and the general public.

These different features are one justification for the sub category approach.

Table 9.2 Total Administrative Units in Special Libraries = [Line 1]

Special		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<i>1-31</i>	All States	18,624	18,273	18,116	17,844	18,706	19,880	19,814	20,039
1	Bulgaria	570	542	502	480	469	463	442	428
2	Czech Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Estonia	135	135	135	128	119	102	96	81
4	Hungary	59	58	58	57	60	69	67	67
5	Latvia	194	107	100	108	100	103	81	81
6	Lithuania	198	198	204	207	178	176	156	128
7	Poland	3,881	3,500	3,089	2,900	2,746	2,600	2,376	2,376
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Slovenia	154	159	163	168	168	169	170	176
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	87	88	90	89	89	91	93	93
15	Ireland	147	145	142	140	140	140	140	140
16	Finland	27	27	27	28	28	27	23	22
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
19	Iceland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	913	922	1,032	999	994	980	968	960
24	Norway	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Portugal	310	332	328	302	314	302	296	420
26	Spain	1,531	1,531	1,531	1,536	1,550	1,558	1,562	1,562
27	Sweden	57	57	56	56	56	42	36	33
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	2,115	2,450	2,759	2,819	3,650	4,597	4,955	5,000
31	Germany	1,189	1,101	1,043	1,074	973	951	871	909

Table 9.3 Sector Population to be Served in Special Libraries = [Line 21]

Special		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<i>1-31</i>	All States	271,755	270,840	270,101	269,906	268,774	268,755	268,645	268,112
1	Bulgaria	5,967	5,948	5,929	5,908	5,885	5,885	5,885	5,885
2	Czech Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Estonia	1,041	1,036	1,030	1,024	1,019	1,019	1,019	1,019
4	Hungary	6,875	6,875	6,878	6,877	6,867	6,867	6,867	6,867
5	Latvia	1,766	1,748	1,727	1,707	1,690	1,690	1,690	1,690
6	Lithuania	2,466	2,462	2,454	2,447	2,441	2,441	2,441	2,441
7	Poland	24,824	24,947	25,081	25,228	25,388	25,388	25,388	25,388
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Slovenia	1,314	1,323	1,333	1,341	1,347	1,347	1,347	1,347
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	3,382	3,385	3,388	3,390	3,393	3,391	3,389	...
15	Ireland	2,395	2,373	2,352	2,330	2,309	2,305	2,302	2,299
16	Finland	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	6,537	6,525	6,513	6,501	6,489	6,516	6,543	6,571
19	Iceland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	9,705	9,650	9,595	9,540	9,485	9,584	9,683	9,781
24	Norway	2,834	2,844	2,853	2,862	2,871	2,881	2,890	2,899
25	Portugal	6,934	6,858	6,781	6,705	6,628	6,664	6,700	6,736
26	Spain	26,049	25,827	25,605	25,384	25,162	25,256	25,350	25,350
27	Sweden	5,746	5,755	5,763	5,772	5,781	5,789	5,798	5,806
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	10,255	9,931	9,714	9,754	9,371	9,111	8,973	9,000
31	Germany	53,524	53,537	53,550	53,653	53,576	53,550	53,344	53,228

The results shown in these two tables demonstrate how non comparable they are at the present time. Finland's 81,000 is clearly not comparable with over two thirds of the total population estimated by Poland and Germany. However, these answers can be taken to indicate that, for the sector overall, large numbers of the population are estimated as actual or potential users. The statistics emphasise the need for further research work and for a broader appreciation of the scope of special libraries.

The statistics of service point provision are hardly significant for this sector. There are very few special libraries with more than one service point. (The totals estimated for 1998 are 20,039 administrative units with 21,182 service points.)

Table 9.5 Books and Bound Periodicals per 1,000 Sector Population = [Line 4 ÷ UN Pop (aged 15-64) × 1,000]

Special		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<i>1-31</i>	All States	1,048	1,030	1,034	1,016	1,075	1,166	1,207	1,191
1	Bulgaria	1,373	1,336	1,224	1,225	1,225	1,220	1,196	1,181
2	Czech Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Estonia	2,377	2,387	2,402	2,166	2,368	2,113	2,006	1,781
4	Hungary	917	917	914	929	1,056	1,182	1,099	1,099
5	Latvia	15,536	13,572	13,222	13,843	12,530	11,081	11,366	11,366
6	Lithuania	2,656	2,661	2,814	2,595	2,174	2,140	2,010	1,962
7	Poland	1,476	1,504	1,532	1,446	1,360	1,331	1,303	1,303
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Slovenia	1,561	1,538	1,514	1,493	1,588	1,689	1,790	2,170
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	990	964	1,269	1,357	1,241	1,183	1,175	1,201
15	Ireland	701	701	700	701	700	701	701	702
16	Finland	764	836	884	940	1,109	1,147	1,125	1,168
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	48	47	47	46	45	44	43	43
19	Iceland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
24	Norway	1,485	1,242	1,228	1,284	1,281	1,414	1,516	1,476
25	Portugal	800	800	800	776	846	798	752	754
26	Spain	1,024	1,033	1,042	1,051	1,031	997	993	990
27	Sweden	572	519	516	559	580	464	503	525
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	525	548	577	440	943	1,450	1,517	1,513
31	Germany	991	990	966	1,011	962	1,029	1,161	1,100

Table 9.6 Book & Bound Periodical Additions per 1,000 Sector Population = [Line 11 ÷ UN Pop (aged 15-64) × 1,000]

Special		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<i>1-31</i>	All States	46	43	44	40	47	48	49	48
1	Bulgaria	26	13	23	18	13	9	10	10
2	Czech Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Estonia	78	68	88	49	424	35	58	27
4	Hungary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Latvia	1,398	1,221	1,190	1,246	1,128	1,008	715	715
6	Lithuania	29	29	31	28	23	23	22	21
7	Poland	23	23	22	22	21	17	13	13
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Slovenia	30	30	30	30	43	57	70	73
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	30	24	31	34	34	32	34	37
15	Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Finland	49	51	51	41	49	61	74	62
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
19	Iceland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Norway	47	39	37	37	39	43	44	37
25	Portugal	20	24	33	26	35	29	40	29
26	Spain	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29
27	Sweden	7	14	6	7	24	6	11	9
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	56	55	54	45	70	99	114	114
31	Germany	26	26	28	23	24	24	25	24

Materials

The following Table 9.4 shows some important features of Special Libraries use of materials as compared - in very broad terms - to the Tertiary and Public sectors. In this context Special Libraries exhibit quite different features but their activity and resource is very substantial.

Table 9.4 'Materials' Features of Special Libraries

(1998-millions)	Public	Tertiary	Special
Book Stock	1,172	596	380
Book Additions	62.7	20.5	15.3
Current Periodical Titles	1.9	3.8	4.6
Current Periodical Subscriptions	2.3	5.1	3.8
Materials (print) Spend (€s)	762	780	900
Electronic Materials Spend (€s)	5	81	419
Loan Transactions	2,336	254	78

Given that the Special Libraries statistics are subject to considerable error - and that the financial figures in particular may be exaggerated, it is nonetheless interesting to see how different they are from the other sectors. If measured by loan transactions Special Libraries are not large - but then much of their material is consulted on the premises. The relatively high figures for Current Periodicals as compared to Tertiary libraries will come as little surprise to specialist suppliers in this area. That, and the high spend figures for Electronic Materials, corresponds with received wisdom in the profession. But the figures for Book Additions and spend on print materials are surprisingly high. They are much influenced by the UK estimates and they, in turn, show particularly high spend by Legal libraries and Business Consultants within the Industrial & Commercial sub category. Loan transactions overall are relatively low - but there will be considerable variation in the sub categories.

The detailed results per 1,000 population are shown in Tables 9.5 and 9.6. The trends shown are mostly accounted for by changes in data collection methods and in the varying number of libraries comprised in the sector.

Staffing Table 9.7 shows the average number of staff per service point - and there will be only 6 per cent more per administrative unit. The average of 3.0 staff in total comprises an average of only 1.6 trained staff. This confirms what was suspected - namely that the average special library is a very small scale operation.

Table 9.8 shows the number of Trained Librarians in Special Libraries relative to each country's population. The figures show no particular trend - and will again reflect differences in data collection over the years.

It is perhaps significant and interesting that there is reasonable homogeneity in the staffing statistics. The high UK result for Trained Librarians is explained by the different statistical methodology but does not affect the Staff per Service Point where almost all responses are in the range 2.0 - 5.0

Table 9.7 Staff per Service Point = [Line 24 ÷ Line 3]

Special		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<i>1-31</i>	All States	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.8	3.0
1	Bulgaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Czech Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Estonia	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.9
4	Hungary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Latvia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Lithuania	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.9
7	Poland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Slovenia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.1	3.2
15	Ireland	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
16	Finland	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.7	5.0	5.1	4.6	4.5
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.3
19	Iceland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.0
24	Norway	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.6
25	Portugal	4.0	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	3.1
26	Spain	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
27	Sweden	4.3	4.6	4.3	4.3	5.1	7.2	7.6	8.4
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	9.5	8.1	7.4	7.0	5.5	3.4	3.6	3.6
31	Germany	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.5	4.1	5.3

Table 9.8 Trained Librarians per 100,000 Sector Population = [Line 22 ÷ UN Pop (aged 15-64) × 100,000]

Special		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<i>1-31</i>	All States	8.9	8.9	8.3	8.7	9.1	9.4	10.0	10.4
1	Bulgaria	9.7	9.1	8.0	7.2	7.3	6.8	6.0	4.4
2	Czech Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Estonia	21.4	21.5	19.7	17.4	16.7	14.8	15.2	12.1
4	Hungary	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	6.7	8.2	9.1	9.1
5	Latvia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Lithuania	18.1	18.1	18.1	17.5	14.0	14.4	14.0	13.2
7	Poland	6.3	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.2	6.7	6.9	6.9
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Slovenia	3.9	5.0	6.1	7.1	10.4	13.8	17.1	9.7
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	5.6	5.0	5.9	6.2	5.3	5.6	5.6	6.2
15	Ireland	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.1
16	Finland	4.0	4.0	3.9	9.0	8.9	8.8	7.5	6.9
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
19	Iceland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Norway	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	8.3	9.3	9.7
25	Portugal	6.1	7.1	7.8	8.1	8.9	8.8	9.3	11.6
26	Spain	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5
27	Sweden	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.6	4.4	4.1	3.7
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	21.9	22.2	17.6	20.9	23.3	22.9	23.3	23.3
31	Germany	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

‘Other Major Non Specialised Libraries’

Latvia provided data for one library - the Library of the Latvian Academy of Science. Lithuania also provided data for one library only. Estonia provided data for two libraries - the Estonian Academic Library and the Archive Library of the Estonian Literature Museum. These are all genuinely ‘major’ in the sense of the definition employing over 90 staff per service point.

Four other countries responded with data for this sector:

Bulgaria provided admirably comprehensive data for categories of Special Library and also for this ‘Other MN-S’ sector. In sector 4(e) they included “museums, theatres, archives and pedagogical institutions libraries”. There remained 27 ‘Other MN-S’ libraries employing 823 Trained Staff (average 30) - with no data for Total Staff. The average Book Stock is 399,000. The fact that so many large libraries are allocated to this sector may go some way to explain relatively low figures for Bulgaria in the other main sectors.

Poland shows 250 libraries (and an equal number of service points) in this sector employing 559 Trained Librarians - an average of 2.3 - and Total Staff of 1,338 - an average of 5.5 per library. The average Book Stock is 50,438. There are therefore many small libraries included in the return which cannot be properly classified as ‘major’.

As regards Special Libraries the Polish response says they cannot divide data on special libraries for the categories proposed and that all the (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) categories would be incomplete. Their special libraries include “libraries which serve special categories of users such as workers and employers, members of learned societies, teachers, blind, etc., i.e. libraries which do not open for all”. As regards ‘Other MN-S’ libraries “we think it would not be proper to connect 4 and 5 sectors together in the case of the Polish data”. Existing statistical categories are formally defined by government.

Portugal 13 libraries employ 43 Trained Librarians out of a Total Staff of 91, i.e. averages of 3.3 and 7.0 respectively. Book stock averages 130,000.

Spain was one of the few states to provide almost complete data for the special library sub categories - Health being the only gap. They returned for Sector 5 data for ‘research, religious & archives/museums’ libraries but agreed subsequently that these could be counted in category 4 (e) as recommended in the Guidelines. These ‘Other MN-S’ libraries number 61 with 670 Trained Librarians, 1,470 Total Staff, and a Book stock estimated at 8,034,000 - average 132,000.

It can be seen therefore that the libraries remaining in Sector 5 for this survey comprise both single large libraries of national importance and a variety of medium sized and small libraries. It should be possible to move most of these to other sectors - particularly to sector 4 (e) which is specifically defined as covering libraries that do not fit elsewhere - for future surveys. However the position in Poland and Bulgaria would appear to warrant further and detailed investigation.

In view of the particular transition arrangements for this survey no grossed up totals have been included for non responding countries.