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The United Nations Scholars' Workstation at Yale University

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NOTE: At the time of publication, the author Martha L. Brogan was affiliated with Yale University. Currently June 2007, she is the Associate University Librarian for Collection Development and Management at the University of Pennsylvania.

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The United Nations Scholars' Workstation at Yale University

Abstract

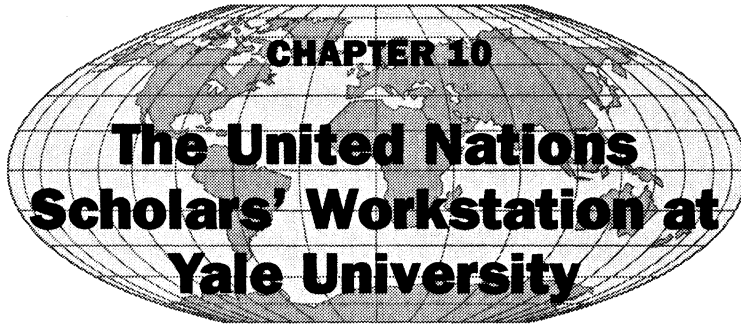
This chapter describes the creative and technical processes that led to the realization of a rich and dynamic academic tool, offering a guided tour through the development, funding, design, content, and use of a World Wide Web (WWW) site devoted to the United Nations (UN) system.

Launched on the Internet as a WWW site in May 1995, the United Nations Scholars' Workstation at Yale University provides electronic access to information in three areas: Yale's academic program in United Nations Studies and the Independent Working Group on the Future of the United Nations, headquartered at Yale; descriptions of the Yale Library's UN depository collections, reference tools, and numeric data; and other Internet sites created mainly by UN agencies. Designed to meet primarily the needs of students, faculty, and researchers, the Scholars' Workstation attempts to bring together in one convenient site the texts, documents, finding aids, maps, and data sets most useful to scholars pursuing the study of the UN system. It aims to serve as an electronic table of contents and index to major resources by and about the UN through an organizational structure that encourages browsing by topic but also offers searching by key word.

Comments

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Martha L. Brogan

Introduction

This chapter describes the creative and technical processes that led to the realization of a rich and dynamic academic tool, offering a guided tour through the development, funding, design, content, and use of a World Wide Web (WWW) site devoted to the United Nations (UN) system.

Launched on the Internet as a WWW site in May 1995, the *United Nations Scholars' Workstation at Yale University* provides electronic access to information in three areas: Yale's academic program in United Nations Studies and the Independent Working Group on the Future of the United Nations, headquartered at Yale; descriptions of the Yale Library's UN depository collections, reference tools, and numeric data; and other Internet sites created mainly by UN agencies. Designed to meet primarily the needs of students, faculty, and researchers, the *Scholars' Workstation* attempts to bring together in one convenient site the texts, documents, finding aids, maps, and data sets most useful to scholars pursuing the study of the UN system. It aims to serve as an electronic table of contents and index to major resources by and about the UN through an organizational structure that encourages browsing by topic but also offers searching by key word.

Site Conceptualization and Purpose

The concept of the *Scholars' Workstation* developed from a series of brainstorming sessions within the Yale Library about projects that would take

advantage of new technologies in support of a particular academic department. The UN was selected as the focus of concentration because:

- a new interdisciplinary program of study was initiated at Yale in 1993, drawing primarily on faculty in Political Science, History, Economics, and International Relations. The *Workstation* was viewed as a potential tool for attracting graduate students into the program and would allow the library to develop a partnership with the academic program;
- Yale was the site of the International Secretariat of the Independent Working Group on the Future of the United Nations, established by former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali under the auspices of the Ford Foundation. The *Workstation* could provide members of the Working Group with background information valuable in developing their report and eventually would serve as a dissemination site for the full text of the report throughout the world;
- Yale is a depository for UN documents and publications. It also possesses the manuscripts, papers, and transcripts of diplomats influential in the history and development of world governance organizations. The *Workstation* would offer the Yale Library the opportunity to promote its holdings and to experiment with digitizing primary-source material;
- among its faculty, diplomats-in-residence, and librarians, Yale has a cadre of experts in the UN system. The *Workstation* would take advantage of this expertise and stimulate collaboration among librarians and scholars;
- the UN is a prolific producer of documentation in printed and electronic form. Moreover, it had already developed a presence on the Internet. The *Workstation* would help to assemble and organize a disparate collection of analog and digital resources; and
- members of the Yale academic community had already established working relations with various departments, libraries, and archives at the UN Secretariat in New York. The *Workstation* would provide opportunities to build on and develop these relations.

As a result of these factors, the *Scholars' Workstation* would serve as a public-service workstation prototype by allowing the Library to design and deliver a subset of electronic information of interest to scholars in a particular interdisciplinary area. Not only does it advance the Library's efforts to enhance client-oriented services but also it encourages collaborative team-managed projects within the Library.

Site Development and Funding

Coordinated by Martha Brogan, Social Sciences Librarian, the *Workstation* was developed by a core team, including Sandra K. Peterson, Government Documents Librarian; JoAnn Dionne, Social Science Reference Librarian and Data Archivist; and Ann Gerken Green, Data Consultant, Social Science Statistical Laboratory. Their work was periodically reviewed by a larger group consisting of librarians from Manuscripts and Archives, Preservation, Bibliography, the Systems Office, and the Law Library. This work model strengthened the cross-fertilization of expertise within the Library through the sharing of knowledge among primary-source specialists, subject bibliographers, reference and numeric data librarians, and technical specialists.

The Yale Library contributed \$25,400 to initiate and evaluate the project, with half of the funds allocated to the Social Science Statistical Laboratory (StatLab) to develop access to numeric data and the other half to the Library to design the *Workstation* interface and create digitized finding aids. Overall the funds have been expended about equally between new computer equipment and student wages. In addition, some funds were reserved to cover several exchanges of visits between Yale and Dag Hammarskjöld librarians as well as to conduct a site evaluation. This internal Library funding was supplemented by the U.S. Department of Education's Title VI grant supporting the International Relations program at Yale. Title VI monies were allocated primarily to strengthen Yale's acquisitions related to the UN, especially CD-ROM indexes and microfiche sets, but also augmented the student-wage budget. More recently, the Director of UN Studies at Yale University contributed an additional \$4,000 from external fund-raising efforts to *Workstation* maintenance and equipment costs.

Site Design and Structure

The home page's opening paragraph clearly identifies the "authorities" sponsoring the site as well its purpose. Substantive information is organized in outline or table-of-contents format, clustering information into three categories: UN Studies at Yale University; Research Tools to Locate UN Information; and Research Approaches to UN Information (see Figure 10.1, pages 294-95). In addition, the home page features a "What's New to the Site" section that permits regular users to read brief updates arranged in reverse chronological order (see Figure 10.2, pages 296-97). User statistics, technical information, and acknowledgments are found in the "Workstation Overview" at the end of the outline (see Figure 10.3, page 298).

(Text continues on page 299.)

United Nations Scholars' Workstation

at Yale University

The United Nations Scholars' Workstation, developed by the [Yale University Library](#) and the [Social Science Statistical Laboratory](#), is a collection of texts, finding aids, data sets, maps, and pointers to print and electronic information. Subject coverage includes disarmament, economic and social development, environment, human rights, international relations, international trade, peacekeeping, and population and demography. The workstation directly supports teaching and research in United Nations Studies as well as the Independent Working Group on the Future of the United Nations, headquartered at the [Yale Center for International and Area Studies](#) (YCIAS). Some access restrictions apply in accordance with licensing agreements.

What's New

to the site

Search the Site

by keyword

User Survey

please participate



United Nations Studies

at Yale University

[Description of UN Studies at Yale University](#)

[Course Descriptions](#)

[Faculty and Staff](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Independent Working Group and UN Reform](#)

[Research Activities](#)

[Related Associations, Programs, and Organizations](#)

Research Tools

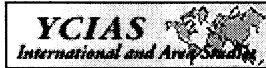
to locate UN Information

[Library Resources and Finding Aids](#)
[Basic Internet Resources](#)
[CD-ROMs and Databases](#)
[Numeric Data](#)
[Maps](#)
[Recent Publications](#)
[Archival Resources and Finding Aids](#)

Research Approaches

to UN Information

[Internet Access by UN Organizational Structure](#)
[Internet Access by Research Topic](#)
[Internet Access by Geographic Area](#)
[Internet Access to Biographical Information](#)
[Internet Access to Current U.S. Legislation](#)



Workstation Overview

Yale University Library and Social Science Statistical Laboratory
Martha L. Brogan, Coordinator of Collection Development, Social Science Libraries and Information Services
comments: martha.brogan@qm.yale.edu
Revised: January 13, 1997
Web Site--><http://www.library.yale.edu/un/unhome.htm>
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Web Design by Sarah Nitterauer '98



Fig. 10.1. United Nations Scholars' Workstation at Yale University.



What's New

Updates to the UN Scholars' Workstation

1997

February/March
January

1996

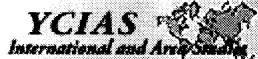
December
November
October
August/September
July/June
May/April
March/February/January

1995

December/November/October/September
August/July/June/May



Yale Library



UN Workstation



What's New

Updates to the UN Scholars' Workstation

February/March 1997

March 11

"Agenda for Democratization", Supplement to Reports A/50/332 AND A/51/512 on Democratization by former Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, has been added to Internet Access to Biographical Information.

February 25

Materials Acquired from December 1996 through February 1997 has been added to Recent Publications for UN Information.

February 24

We added several links to the Children's Rights section of the Internet Access to UN Information by Research Topic: Human Rights page: Country Profiles, Graça Machel's full report on the impact of armed conflict on children, The Progress of Nations, Promise and progress: Achieving goals for children, and The State of the World's Children, all from UNICEF. We also added some other links to the Internet Access to UN Information by Research Topic: Human Rights page: Human Rights, United Nations; and Women, Department of Public Information, United Nations and Women and Gender in the Women's Rights section. UN Reform: The First Six Weeks was added to the Internet Access to UN Information by Research Topic: UN Fiscal Reform page. A link to the UN's Economic and Social Development site was added to the Internet Access to UN Information by Research Topic: Economic and Social Development page. We also added the Country Profiles link to our Internet Access by Geographic Area page.

February 21

We added links to United Nations Information Quest (UN-I-QUE) and United Nations Human Rights Programmes, Information by Country to the Internet Access to UN Information by Research Topic: Human Rights page. The Human Rights Documents: Information by country link was also added to the Internet Access by Geographic Area page.

February 5

We added links to the Virtual Library on International Development and The World Wide Web Virtual Library: International Development Co-operation from the Internet Access to UN Information by Research Topic: Economic and Social Development page. We also added links to EnviroLink from our Internet Access to UN Information by Research Topic: Environment page and to the Millennium Institute's State of the World Indicators from our Numeric Data for UN Information page.

Fig. 10.2. What's New?



Workstation Overview

User Statistics

The UN Scholars' Workstation became available on Yale University Library's web server the week of May 7, 1995. The Library's server tracks weekly use of the top twenty most frequently accessed sites. If pages from the UN Workstation are among the top twenty, you will find them listed under "20 items most accessed" as /un/*. [Detailed statistics](#) of the [home page](#) have been maintained since August 30, 1995 by the University of Alberta "Geo-Counter." You can view, for example, [the last 20 accesses](#) or [the top 30 machines](#) which access the page most frequently. [Usage statistics](#) on sixteen pages of our site exclusively are available from November 25, 1995 onward.

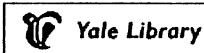
Technical Specifications

We are currently using Netscape 3.0 as our web graphical user interface, but have chosen not to implement the new features this browser can process. If you are using a different web browser and have difficulty reading our information, please let us know.

In the section on "Library Resources and Finding Aids for UN Information," a direct connection to "Orbis," Yale Library's online public access catalog, requires installation of a TN3270 application such as TCP3270 for Windows from McGill. "Morris," Yale Law Library's online public access catalog; "Eureka," the Research Libraries Group's database; and "Nexis/Lexis," Reed Elsevier's news service require installation of a Telnet application (e.g. selected in Netscape in the Options menu under "Preferences" then "Applications and directories."). In addition, access to "Eureka" and "Nexis" is restricted to members of the Yale academic community. Consult with your local computer systems' expert, if you need TN3270 or Telnet applications installed.

Acknowledgments

Yale University Library and Social Science Statistical Laboratory
Revised: March 1, 1996
Home URL: <http://www.library.yale.edu/un/unhome.htm>
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UN Workstation

Fig. 10.3. Workstation Overview.

It required almost six months of discussion and planning—including numerous design iterations—to understand the concepts of Web structure and methodology. Ultimately, Patrick Lynch's *Web Style Manual* informed the fundamental page design,¹ buttressed by consultation of the extremely useful Web site on *Quality, Guidelines, and Standards for Internet Information Resources* at Australia National University.² Striving for simplicity and clarity, the *Workstation*'s home page draws also on the tenets of journalism and inspiration from Edward Tufte's work in graphic design.³ Consistency of graphics, hierarchical headers, navigational tools, and scholarly apparatus helps to achieve a unique visual identity and lends internal coherence to the site.

The home page's "footer package" identifies the institutions responsible for the site; the name, title, and E-mail address of its coordinator; the most recent page-revision date; the Web site's address on the Internet; and a copyright statement. Each of these elements in the page footer, with the exception of the coordinator's particulars, is repeated on all pages associated with the site.

Navigation buttons make it possible to return to the home page of the Yale Library or the Yale Center for International and Area Studies, the academic home of UN Studies. Subsequent *Workstation* pages feature additional navigational buttons that easily return the user to the top of the section or link them to other related pages within the site.

Site Content

UN Studies at Yale University

From the outset, the *Workstation* focused its attention on resources and research topics of greatest relevance to UN Studies at Yale and to the mission of the Independent Working Group. Clustered in the first section of the site, "UN Studies at Yale University" describes the academic program of study: its curriculum and faculty (see Figure 10.4, page 300). Here, too, one finds a calendar of major events, descriptions of the key research activities undertaken by the faculty, and links to related academic associations and programs, most notably the Academic Council on the United Nations System, headquartered at Brown University. Another significant feature of this section is information about the Independent Working Group in particular and UN reform in general.

The Independent Working Group on the Future of the United Nations was convened by the Ford Foundation in late 1993 at the request of Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali to reassess the role, mission, and function of the UN. Co-chaired by Moeen Qureshi, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, and Richard von Weizsäcker, former President of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Independent Working Group included environmental, financial, technical, scientific, and government specialists from 10 other countries in

United Nations Studies

Description of UN Studies at Yale

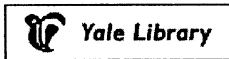
United Nations Studies at Yale University was organized in June, 1993, under the umbrella of International Security Studies. It is intended to serve as a sustained and cumulative source of ideas for what may be an epochal transformation of the international system. Numerous projects all have the goal of training the next generation of scholars and practitioners, and giving intellectual input to the improvement of the UN system.

The end of the Cold War, transition to democracy, ethnic conflict and civil war, economic migrants and political refugees, environmental degradation -- all of these universal issues, and more, are testing the United Nations. As UN Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros Ghali stated, "The United Nations is being called upon to serve as an agent of change at the same time that it is required to change itself."

The current importance of the UN stands in vivid contrast to the paucity of serious scholarship and professional training devoted to it in recent decades. This neglect during the Cold War era results now in a scarcity of trained specialists to analyze and recommend policy in the academy, to implement policy in practise, and to aid the US's capacity to reform itself. Fresh concepts and new techniques are needed for the creation of appropriate structures for global cooperation.

Yale has responded to the challenge with the establishment of United Nations Studies, directed by Bruce Russett, Dean Acheson Professor of International Relations and Political Science. The United Nations Studies International Advisory Board was formed in 1995. As part of International Security Studies, directed by Paul Kennedy, J. Richardson Dilworth Professor of History, United Nations Studies is headquartered in the Yale Center for International and Area Studies, located in Henry R. Luce Hall on the Yale campus.

The program feeds into allied research and training programs in the Graduate and Professional Schools, as well as Yale College, with a variety of activities including: faculty and graduate students seminars; new courses for existing degree programs; support for graduate student and faculty research; and policy and organizational recommendations useful to the UN, other organizations and governments.



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Revised: August 6, 1996
Home URL: <http://www.library.yale.edu/un/unhome.htm>
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Fig. 10.4. Description of UN Studies at Yale.

Central America, Eastern Europe, East and South Asia, and North America. The Secretariat of the Working Group was established at Yale University under the leadership of Paul Kennedy, J. Richardson Dilworth Professor of History and Director of International Security Studies, and Bruce Russett, Dean Acheson Professor of International Relations and Director of United Nations Studies.

Presented to the Secretary-General on 19 June 1995, the Working Group's report, *The United Nations in Its Second Half-Century*, appears in hypertext (also available via file transfer protocol) on the *Workstation* (see Figure 10.5, pages 302–3).⁴ Among other findings, the report recommends a new Economic Council, a new Social Council, and the existing but expanded Security Council. A Global Alliance for Sustainable Development, comprised of high-level state representatives, would coordinate policy and programs of the Economic Council and the Social Council.

Related sources on reform of the UN are also gathered here, including Peter Hajnal's "United Nations Reform: A Selected Bibliography" (see Figure 10.6, page 304) which has links, wherever possible, from the citations to the electronic texts available on the Internet. Similarly, the synopsis of the Commission on Global Governance's report, "Our Global Neighbourhood" is accessible from this page.⁵

Research Tools to Locate UN Information

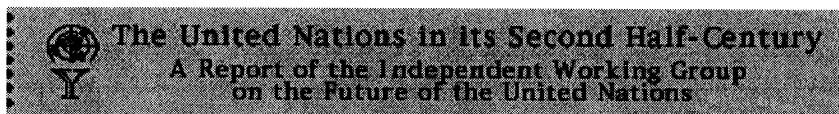
The second major section of the *Workstation* brings together the "Research Tools to Locate UN Information." This includes descriptions of library collections, such as Yale's UN depository holdings, as well as direct links to the public online catalogs of Yale Library and Yale Law Library. Other databases, such as Eureka (the union catalog of the Research Libraries Group) and Nexis (the full-text research and retrieval database of newspapers, journals, wire services, and broadcast transcripts), are described, although online access is limited to members of the Yale academic community. In each instance, however, sample search strategies are outlined and are geared specifically to the UN (see Figure 10.7, page 305).

Yale Government Document Librarian Sandra Peterson's *Description of the UN Collection at the Government Documents Center* is an extensive hypertext guide to the UN depository programs and policies as well as to the documentation and publication system of the UN. Peterson's "Concise Finding Aid to UN Information" explains how a General Assembly resolution is passed and how to find resolution voting records and texts, speeches and country statements, and agenda items (see Figure 10.8, page 306). Here, too, is a new category, "Bibliographies on Special Topics," that includes a bibliography of dissertations related to the history and development of the UN as well as another link to Peter Hajnal's bibliography on UN reform.

(Text continues on page 307.)

The United Nations in its Second Half-Century

<http://www.library.yale.edu/un/un1e3co.htm>



*The Independent Working Group
on the Future of the United Nations*

Moeen Qureshi, Co-Chair

Former Prime Minister, Pakistan

Richard von Weizsäcker, Co-Chair

Former President, Federal Republic of Germany

Alicia Bárcena Ibarra

Executive Director of the Earth Council, Costa Rica

Muchkund Dubey

Former Foreign Secretary, India

Stéphane Hessel

Ambassador, France

Koji Kakizawa

Former Prime Minister, Japan

Wangari Maathai

Green Belt Movement, Kenya

Xue Mouhong

Scholar and former Ambassador, China

Anthony Parsons

Former Permanent Representative to the United Nations,
United Kingdom

Felix Rohatyn

Investment Banker, United States

Road Sagdeev

Physicist, Russia

Hanna Suchocka

Former Prime Minister, Poland

Yale University Secretariat

Paul M. Kennedy, Director

International Security Studies

Bruce Russell, Director

United Nations Studies

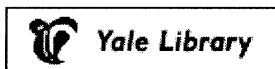
A project supported by the Ford Foundation.

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New York, New York 10017

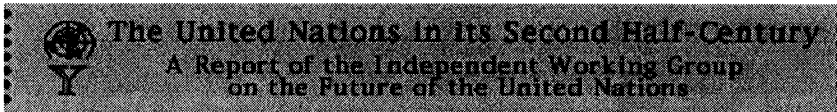
This Report is available for downloading via anonymous FTP at: <ftp://ftp.library.yale.edu/pub/UN>

[[Table of Contents of the Report](#)]



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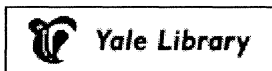
Fig. 10.5. The United Nations in Its Second Half-Century: A Report of the Independent Working Group on the Future of the United Nations.



Contents

Preface

1. *The Challenges to Humanity at Century's End*
2. *The Future United Nations System*
3. *Strengthening the United Nations for its Second Half-Century*
 - Providing Security from the Scourge of Violence
 - Improving Global Economic Conditions
 - Protecting the Social Fabric
 - Leadership, Organization and Resources
4. *Reaching the Common Goal*
5. *Summary of Principal Recommendations*
 - Providing Security from the Scourge of Violence
 - Promoting Economic Betterment
 - Protecting the Social Fabric
 - Leadership, Organization and Resources



Yale University Library and Social Science Statistical Laboratory
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Fig. 10.5—*Continued*


 Research
Tools

 United Nations Reform: A Selected
Bibliography

Prepared by Peter Hajnal, University of Toronto
Revised January 27, 1997

1. *L'adaptation des structures et méthodes des Nations Unies: colloque, La Haye, 4-6 novembre 1985 = The Adaptation of Structures and Methods at the United Nations: Workshop, The Hague, 4-6 November 1985*. Organized by the Hague Academy of International Law and the United Nations University; edited by Daniel Bardonnet. Dordrecht: Boston: M. Nijhoff; Norwell, MA: Distributors for the U.S. and Canada. Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1986. xviii, 416 p.
2. *Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. Inventory of Arrangements for Programme Co-ordination in the United Nations System*. Geneva?: ACC, 1987. 157 p. ACC/1987/INF/1.
Covers ninety-four formal arrangements for program coordination among organizations of the UN system, indicating for each the establishing authority, mandate, main areas of collaboration, and participating organizations. In three sections: 1, established subsidiary bodies of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC consists of the UN Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies); 2, other inter-organizational coordinating mechanisms reporting to the ACC; and 3, other inter-organizational coordinating arrangements. Excludes ACC itself and ACC's Organizational Committee.
3. Aga Khan, Sadruddin, and Maurice F. Strong. "United Nations Financial Emergency: Crisis and Opportunity." New York, August 1986. Unpublished. iv, 65, 2, 5, 2, 3 p.
Assesses the UN financial emergency, and recommends short-term remedies and longer-term measures aimed at program consolidation and rationalization, staff reductions, and the elimination of duplicated or ineffective UN programs. Although an independent effort, this study was seriously considered by the UN along with the report of the "Group of 18," formally known as the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations.
4. *Agenda for Change: New Tasks for the United Nations*. Edited by Klaus Hüfner. Opladen, Germany: Leske + Budrich, 1995. 312 p.
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11. Baratta, Joseph Preston, comp. *Strengthening the United Nations: A Bibliography on U.N. Reform and World Federalism*. Bibliographies and Indexes in World History, No. 7. New York: Greenwood Press, 1987. [ix], 351 p. See also Baratta's more recent and extensive bibliography, *United Nations System*. International Organizations Series, Vol. 10. Oxford, Eng.: Clio, 1995. [xxx], 511 p. Chapters cover "U.N. Reform" and "Financing the U.N.," in addition to the specific organs and functions of the U.N. System. Includes author and subject indexes.
12. Barnett, Michael. "The New United Nations Politics of Peace: from Juridical Sovereignty to Empirical Sovereignty." *Global Governance* 1, No. 1 (Winter 1995): 79-97.
13. Bedjaoui, Mohammed. *The New World Order and the Security Council: Testing the Legality of Its Acts*. Dordrecht, Netherlands; Boston, MA.: M. Nijhoff, 1994. xix, 531 p.
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15. Beigbeder, Yves. *Management Problems in United Nations Organizations: Reform or Decline?* Studies in International Political Economy. London: Pinter, 1987. x, 174 p.
16. Bertram, Christoph. "Multilateral Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution." *Survival: the IISS Quarterly* 37, No. 4 (Winter 1995-96): 65-82.
17. Bettati, Mario. *Le droit d'ingérence: mutation de l'ordre international*. Paris: O. Jacob, 1996. 384 p.
18. *Beyond Bretton Woods: Alternatives to the Global Economic Order*. Edited by John Cavanagh, Daphne Wysham and Marcos Arruda. Transnational Institute Series. London: Boulder, Colo.: Pluto Press with Institute for Policy Studies and Transnational Institute, 1994. 229 p.

Fig. 10.6. United Nations Reform: A Selected Bibliography.

Research Tools

Orbis Guide to UN Information

[Read the basic guide to Orbis.](#)

Search by Title

Title searches find the titles of books and journals in Orbis. Omit initial articles, punctuation, and accent marks. You do not need to type in the complete title; truncation is automatic.

t=encyclopedia of the united nations
t=minderheitenschutz im rahmen der vereinten
t=index to resolutions
t=un chronicle

Search by Author

An author may be the name of a person, a conference, a governmental body, an institution, or an organization. For personal name searching, type the last name followed by the first name or initial. Try alternate forms of the name if no entries are found.

a=boutros ghali boutros
a=united nations conference on
a=united nations environment programme
a=center for u n reform education

Search by Subject Heading

Use the exact form of a subject heading as it appears in the Library of Congress Subject Headings. Use two hyphens between subdivisions.

Search by Agency

s=united nations
s=food and agriculture organization of the united nations
s=world health organization
s=international agencies [use instead of "united nations--specialized agencies"]

Search by Geographic Subdivision (continent or country)

s=united nations--africa
s=united nations--iraq
s=united nations--united states
s=united nations--european economic community countries

Search by Subject Subdivision

s=united nations--armed forces
s=united nations--history
s=united nations--economic assistance
s=united nations--reorganization

Search by Form of Publication

s=united nations--archival resources
s=united nations--bibliography
s=united nations--congresses
s=united nations--periodicals

Search by Related Subject Headings

s=disarmament
s=environmental policy
s=international organization
s=security international

Search by Keyword

Keywords are automatically searched in author names, titles, subtitles, series titles, subject headings, and other fields unless specifically limited within the search statement. They may be used in combination with boolean and positional operators to expand or limit the search results.

Broad Keyword Search

k=cyrus vance
Finds records with Cyrus Vance in the author, title, or subject field.

Fig. 10.7. Orbis Guide to UN Information.



Concise UN Finding Aid

How a General Assembly Resolution is Passed

1. An item is proposed by a country or countries for inclusion in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly (usually in the form of a letter which is published as a mimeograph document *A/sess.no./no.*); it may also be held over from the previous year.
2. The item on the provisional agenda is approved by the General Committee of the General Assembly and assigned to one of the Main Committees of the General Assembly or to the Plenary; the General Assembly approves the recommendations of the General Committee.
3. One of the Main Committees or Plenary discusses the item.
 - Each Member State gives its views in a general statement;
 - A draft resolution is proposed;
 - Amendments are proposed.
4. The Committee votes on the draft resolution and amendments
 - If the draft resolution, as amended, is passed, the Committee reports to the General Assembly;
 - If the draft resolution is not passed, the item is dropped.
5. The General Assembly discusses the report of the Committee and its recommendation (which is the draft resolution which has passed in the Committee).
 - Further statements by Members States may be made;
 - Further amendments may be proposed.
6. The General Assembly votes on the draft resolution, as amended.

Important Documentation of an Agenda Item

1. Request for inclusion of an item on the agenda [usually published as a mimeograph document (*A/(sess)/no.*). An annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly is printed as a masthead document (*A/(sess.)/100*)]
2. Substantive reports on the item, e.g., Secretary-General's report, report of Special Rapporteur, Special Committee, ad hoc committee of experts, etc. [may be published as a supplement to the official records or as a mimeographed document]
3. Records of debates in Committee [summary records of committee meetings are received as masthead documents (*A/C.(no.)/(sess)/meeting no.*) and bound as part of the official records]
4. Report of Committee to the General Assembly on the item giving a summary of the debate and the draft resolution adopted in Committee [published as mimeograph document (*A/(sess.)/no.*)] Draft resolutions are printed separately but usually as "Limited" documents [*L.(no.)*] which are not distributed to depository libraries. "Limited" documents may be "republished" in the Annexes of the General Assembly Official Records.
5. Records of the debates in the General Assembly Plenary. These records are initially published as masthead documents (*A/(sess.)/PV.no.*); they are made available in a cumulated volume two to three years after the debate has taken place.
6. Final resolution adopted by the General Assembly. [Initially printed as a mimeograph document;

Fig. 10.8. Concise UN Finding Aid.

“Basic Internet Resources for UN Information” allows users quick access to the most comprehensive sites dealing with the UN. These include sites from the UN Secretariat’s Department of Public Information, the United Nations Drug Control Programme, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)—all described more fully by Lilia Vázquez in Chapter 8—as well as the Virtual Library in International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh and Yale Library’s “Research Resources in International Affairs” site.

“CD-ROMs and Databases for UN Information” identifies the key compact disks that offer bibliographic, numeric, or full-text access to UN-related documentation, statistics, and publications. In each instance, the CD-ROM is briefly described, and sample search information is provided (see Figure 10.9, pages 308-9). Many of these CD-ROMs are mounted on a Novell local-area network that operates within the Social Science Library, the Government Documents Center, and the Social Science Statistical Laboratory.

As explained in “Numeric Data for UN Information,” the Social Science Data Archive at Yale University holds numerous datasets related to international relations, economics, and world politics. These studies fall into three broad categories: conflict, aggression, violence, and wars; international alliances and military affairs; and social and economic indicators. For each study, an abstract describes the contents and identifies the producers and distributors of the data. These abstracts are indexed in the Social Science Data Archive Catalog on the Web, accessed by the *Workstation*. When feasible, clusters of files were compiled, including a codebook, how-to files, and lists of country variables. These cluster files are accessible on the Yale mainframe computer and on the network computers at the Social Science Statistical Laboratory. Since the data files were acquired from suppliers who apply access restrictions, the numeric data sources are not available to non-Yale researchers.

“Maps for UN Information” describes the computer mapping products available in the Yale Library and provides links to world and national maps on the Internet. Of particular interest are the hypertext maps of UN Peacekeeping Operations developed by George Mason University and at the UN Department of Public Information.

“Recent Publications for UN Information” offers periodic acquisitions lists of UN publications and secondary literature added to the Yale Library. In addition, it provides links to the UNIPUB database of publications and to the publications and sales offices of the UN and its specialized agencies. Users are encouraged to check the holdings of their local UN depository library prior to placing orders for materials.


 Research
Tools

CD-ROMs and Databases for UN Information

 Descriptions and sample searches of the following compact discs and databases:

- ◆ *Contemporary Women's Issues*
Covers over 500 sources published by more than 100 organizations around the world from 1992 to present. Full-text access to women's issues related to health and reproductive rights, development, human rights, and legal issues drawn from the alternative press, government reports, proceedings, and other sources.
- ◆ *Earth Summit CD-ROM*
Electronic collection of documentation related to the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development. (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)
- ◆ *Foreign Broadcast Information Service Electronic Index*
Electronic index to the *FBIS Daily Reports*. [Readex product description](#). Continued by: *Global Newbank*, 1996-- and *World News Connection*, 1994--.
- ◆ *Global Newbank*
Bibliographic access and full-text of articles cited, providing comprehensive coverage of news sources, broadcasts and transcripts from hundreds of international sources, translated by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service. Continues *FBIS Electronic Index*, from 1996 to present.
- ◆ *Human Rights on CD-ROM*
Bibliographic citations for approximately 12,000 UN documents and publications issued since 1980 on subjects related to human rights.
- ◆ *Index to United Nations Development Programme Project Reports*
Bibliographic access to UNDP project reports on economic development and technical cooperation from 1972 to the present. [Readex product description](#).
- ◆ *Index to United Nations Documents and Publications*
Bibliographic access to documents and publications of the United Nations from 1979 to present, with some full-text information as well. [Readex product description](#).
- ◆ *International Financial Statistics (IFS) CD-ROM*
A numeric database of the International Monetary Fund that corresponds to the print edition and contains time series of financial and economic variables.
- ◆ *IntEe CD-ROM*
The Index to International Economics, Development, and Finance. Bibliographic citations to periodicals and research papers compiled by the staff of the Joint Bank-Fund Library of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. [Chadwyck-Healey product description](#).
- ◆ *StatBase Locator on Disk*
Detailed inventory of international computerized statistical databases.
- ◆ *Statistical Masterfile*
Comprehensive bibliographic index to statistical publications, including those of international intergovernmental organizations.
- ◆ *Statistical Yearbook of the United Nations*
Numeric access to data in the 1991 *Statistical Yearbook of the United Nations*. [UN Statistical Division product description](#).
- ◆ *UNBIS Plus on CD-ROM*
Description of the [UN Bibliographic Information System](#) (UNBIS) from the Dag Hammarskjöld Library (New York). Provides bibliographic access to ten databases of the UN system as well as some full-text information. [Chadwyck-Healey product description](#).
- ◆ *World News Connection*
Online search service which provides access to news and information from hundreds of non-US media sources as monitored and translated by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service. Continues [FBIS Electronic Index](#), covering the latest two years (1994 to present), with full-text articles available.
- ◆ *United Nations Women's Indicators and Statistics Database (WISTAT)*
A global database of statistics and indicators on women and men on a wide range of topics from information currently available at the international level in the offices of the United Nations Secretariat, the statistical services of the United Nations regional commissions and the specialized agencies. [UN Statistical Division product description](#).

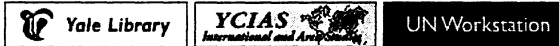
 Fig. 10.9. CD-ROMs and Databases for UN Information.

Internet Accessible Databases

- ◆ **Treaty Body Database**, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva
Monitors the principal international human rights treaties, also known as conventional mechanisms and includes:
 - full texts of State reports submitted under these treaties
 - concluding observations or comments
 - general comments and recommendations
 - other basic documents submitted to and issued by the treaty bodies.
 Searchable by treaty, country, type of document, and symbol.
- ◆ **UN-I-QUE: United Nations Info Quest**, Dag Hammarskjöld Library (DHL), United Nations, New York
A ready reference database created to respond to frequently asked questions, focusing on documents and publications of a recurrent nature.
- ◆ **The United Nations Demining Database**, Dept. of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations (New York)
Provides program reports, country and area reports, and casualties and incidents on a country-by-country basis, covering the land mine crisis.
- ◆ **United Nations Treaty Database**, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations (New York)
Requires registration (free-of-charge) prior to use. Electronic version of two major documents: *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary General* and eventually, the *UN Treaty Series*.

Other Electronic Resources

- ◆ **Electronic Resources in International Affairs**, Yale University Library
- ◆ **Electronic Resources Available at the Government Documents and Information Center**
- ◆ **Electronic Resources Available at the Social Science Library and Information Services**
- ◆ **Databases Available in the Yale Library System**
- ◆ **Databases and Publications**, Dag Hammarskjöld Library (DHL), United Nations (New York)



Yale University Library and Social Science Statistical Laboratory
 Revised: March 12, 1997
 Home URL: <http://www.library.yale.edu/un/unhome.htm>
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Fig. 10.9—Continued

“Archival Resources and Finding Aids” includes the “Guide to the United Nations Oral History Project Interview Transcripts,” which are available in the Manuscripts and Archives Department of Yale Library. As Richard Szary states in “Overview of the Papers: Summary”:

These interview transcripts were produced as part of a project sponsored by the Institution for Social and Policy Studies of Yale University to document significant events in the history of the United Nations and its operations. Interviewees include U.N. officials, ambassadors from various countries, and other participants in the events documented. Events and topics documented include the San Francisco conference, the founding of the UN, its charter, the founding of Israel, Middle East wars, the Congo, Korea, the Cuban Missile Crisis, relief operations, Secretaries-General, the Falklands/Malvinas War, and UN operations.

The "Guide to the Microfilm Publication of the Diary, Reminiscences, and Memories of Colonel Edward M. House," adviser to President Woodrow Wilson and a major actor in the peace negotiations of World War I (1917–19) as well as the Paris Peace Conference, has been added to "Archival Resources and Finding Aids" on the *Workstation*. In the guide's introductory essay, "The Historical Significance of the House Diary," Arthur Walworth states:

Now, as what may come to be known in the world's history as "the American century" nears its end, the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the bold pioneering of Wilson and House in behalf of a league of nations provides a most fitting occasion for the publicizing of House's complete diary. Indeed, it is particularly fortunate, as efforts are being made to re-evaluate and revitalize the United Nations, to have at hand a reliable account of the experience of Wilson and House in their devoted efforts to give responsible leadership in satisfying the popular demand for a new world order that would prevent repetitions of the intolerable horror that international war had become.⁶

Research Approaches to UN Information

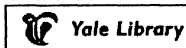
The third section of the *Workstation* functions as a series of indexes to other WWW and gopher sites on the Internet. It offers access by organizational structure, research topic, and geographic area. It also provides access to biographical information about key UN officials and to current legislation related to the United States' participation in the UN.

Among the most frequently used pages are those organized by research topic: disarmament, economic and social development, environment, human rights, international trade, peacekeeping, population and demography, and UN fiscal reform. Information about UN conferences, the UN Demining Database, and the UN Treaty Database are also accessible from this page (see Figure 10.10). "Economic and Social Development" leads to additional pages on the *Workstation* that pertain specifically to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the UNDP as well as to the work of the IMF, regional economic commissions, development banks ("Economic Development"), and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the World Summit on Social Development ("Social Development").

Research Approaches

Internet Access to UN Information by Research Topic

- ▶ **Disarmament**
- ▶ **Economic and Social Development**
- ▶ **Environment**
- ▶ **Human Rights**
Refugees, Children's and Women's Rights, UN War Crimes Tribunal
- ▶ **International Trade**
- ▶ **Peacekeeping**
- ▶ **Population and Demography**
- ▶ **UN Fiscal Reform**
- ▶ **Searchable Index of Press Releases**, Department of Public Information, United Nations
- ▶ **UN Conferences and Observances**, Department of Public Information, United Nations
 - ▶ **Brief descriptions and calendar** of conferences and observances arranged by subject.
 - ▶ **Index** to major UN conferences from 1992 to present.
 - ▶ **International Conferences and Meetings**, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva.
 - ▶ **Guide to Major United Nations Conferences** Prepared by the Dag Hammerskjöld Library (DHL), United Nations (New York)
These are lists of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council conferences convoked under the aegis of the United Nations from 1948 to the present. The entries are arranged by document series symbol in reverse order so that the most current conferences are listed first.
 - ▶ **UN Decades and Resolution Citations**, Northwestern University.
- ▶ **United Nations Demining Database**
Provides program reports, country and area reports, and casualties and incidents reports on a country-by-country basis.
- ▶ **UN Treaty Database**
Electronic version of two major documents: *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary General* and eventually, the *UN Treaty Series*



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 Home URL: <http://www.library.yale.edu/un/unhome.htm>
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Fig. 10.10. Internet Access to UN Information by Research Topic.

Site Browsing and Searching

The site is constructed with simplicity in mind, to allow a new visitor to browse the site and locate immediately—without expert intervention—the category of information of most interest. However, a search engine also makes it possible to construct searches using Boolean operators (*and, or, not*) to identify specific information. At the present time, the searches only identify “hits” at the document or page level. Because of the growing size and complexity of the site, a more sophisticated search mechanism that will identify hits at the item level by highlighting the occurrence of the word within a document is desirable.

Site Use and Evaluation

During a 10-month period, the *Workstation* was consulted more than 40,000 times by scholars and policymakers from more than 40 countries. The home page alone is consulted, on average, 50 times a day, seven days a week. The Use Log for the period from 25 November 1995 to 24 September 1996 appears on Table 10.1 and tracks total use of 16 of the *Workstation's* more than 80 pages.

Since its inception, the *Workstation* has engendered inquiries from students and scholars. These questions have been helpful in understanding how the *Workstation* is used and how it might be developed to better meet the needs of researchers. Among the types of information sought:

- I'm looking for a 1993 Security Council resolution on North Korea.
- I'm looking for a report on the environment from the Rio de Janeiro conference.
- I'm writing a paper about the UN War Criminal Tribunal and the former Yugoslavia.
- Which UN agencies have issued reports about Haiti?
- What's the status of the peacekeeping mission in Somalia?
- I heard that Maya Angelou recited a new poem at some recent UN gathering. Where can I locate it?
- I'm trying to verify a citation to an International Labour Organisation publication.
- I read a speech or statement made by a UN official about refugees. Can you find it?

Table 10.1 UN Scholars' Workstation Use Log: 25 November 1995 to 24 September 1996

Rank	Page	Number of Visits
1	Home Page	17,230
2	Internet Access by Research Topic	3,058
3	Maps for UN Information	2,947
4	Internet Access by Organizational Structure	2,275
5	Numeric Data for UN Information	2,006
6	Basic Internet Resources for UN Information	1,906
7	Library Resources & Finding Aids	1,757
8	Independent Working Group & UN Reform	1,756
9	Internet Access by Geographic Area	1,371
10	Recent Publications for UN Information	1,321
11	Description of UN Studies at Yale	1,198
12	CD-ROMs for UN Information	1,191
13	What's New	848
14	The UN in Its Second Half-Century	776
15	Internet Access to Current U.S. Legislation	743
16	Internet Access to Biographical Information	732
Total Use		41,115

- Can you direct me to any United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization publications about textbook research, or publication in small-scale states and Third World countries?
- I'm looking for the country reports submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The *Workstation* has also captured the attention of Web providers from various UN agencies. This exchange of information with the originating source of UN Web documents has proved mutually beneficial. In late October 1995, John Northcut, Principal Officer of the Information Systems Co-ordination Committee, United Nations Office at Geneva, led a delegation of UN agency librarians on a site visit to Yale Library, where the *Workstation* figured prominently in the discussions.

Finally, the *Workstation* benefits from student use in course-related projects at Yale University. In Fall 1995, a group of Yale librarians worked with a faculty member to introduce new graduate students in international relations to the *Workstation* and related research resources through an innovative case-study approach. The faculty member wrote a series of six scenarios dealing with such subjects as agricultural price supports in international economic relations; international trade in services; human rights, refugees, and the law; and international environmental policy and global climate change. For each scenario, the librarians identified a set of 8 to 10 resources (print and electronic), including the *Workstation*, located in various libraries around campus that might assist the students in carrying out their assignment. Students then worked in teams to evaluate the Library resources in terms of their effectiveness in helping them to deal with the questions inherent in each scenario.

In 1996, two independent consultants evaluated how well the *Workstation* was meeting the needs of academic users and recommended improvements. In addition, the *Workstation* coordinator has implemented an ongoing online evaluation and user survey. Undergraduates enrolled in a course on "The United Nations and the Maintenance of International Security" also completed a survey about the *Workstation* as a course assignment (see Figure 10.11, pages 316–17).

Conclusion

Keeping a Web site such as the *United Nations Scholars' Workstation* at Yale University current and relevant shares many characteristics with editing and publishing a journal. In this respect, the Web-site coordinator carries the responsibility of managing editor, with an editorial board to provide quality control and a cadre of contributing authors in the field who submit materials. In an academic setting, students may serve as editorial assistants performing functions such as data entry, copyediting, and site maintenance. Such is the case of the *Workstation*, where an undergraduate maintains the site under the guidance of the Web coordinator. Responsibility for the first section of the site will transfer soon directly to the faculty and administrative staff of UN Studies. Similarly, the Social Science Data Archives and Statistical Laboratory are responsible for the numeric data files.

Unlike a monograph, which becomes fixed in time and place upon publication and is frequently the work of a single author, a Web site is a dynamic and ongoing effort that requires continual editorial oversight and renewal. Established Web providers must constantly keep abreast of developments on the Internet, noting when related sites emerge or vanish that may enrich their site or render it obsolete. Cultivating a Web site, like the best of gardens, requires creativity and endurance. Those contemplating the

establishment of a dynamic and evolving Web site need to think seriously about the short-term and long-term allocation of human, technical, and financial resources.

The success of the *United Nations Scholars' Workstation* has exceeded by far any expectations of its creators, particularly in its use and demand outside of Yale. This is a tribute to the *Workstation* as a communal effort that will continue to flourish through collective commitment.

Notes

1. Patrick J. Lynch, *Web Style Manual*, 2nd ed. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale Center for Advanced Instructional Media, 1996). URL address: <http://info.med.yale.edu/caim/manual/index.html>.
2. T. Matthew Ciolek, *Quality, Guidelines, and Standards for Internet Information Resources* (Canberra, Australia: Research Schools of Social Sciences & Pacific and Asian Studies, Coombs Computing Unit, Australia National University). URL address: <http://coombs.anu.edu.au/SpecialProj/QLTY/QLtyHome.html>.
3. Edward Tufte, *Envisioning Information* (Cheshire, Conn.: Graphics Press, 1990).
4. Independent Working Group on the Future of the United Nations, *The United Nations in Its Second Half-Century* (New York: Ford Foundation, 1995). URL address: <http://www.library.yale.edu/un/unhome.htm>.
5. Commission on Global Governance, *Our Global Neighbourhood: The Report of the Commission on Global Governance* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995).
6. Yale University, Library, Historical Manuscripts and Archives, *Guide to the Microfilm Publication of the Diary, Reminiscences, and Memories of Colonel Edward M. House in Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library*, 11. Ed. Judith Ann Schiff (New Haven, Conn.: The Library, 1994).



United Nations Scholars' Workstation User Survey

1. INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> College or University | <input type="radio"/> Public library |
| <input type="radio"/> United Nations agency or affiliate | <input type="radio"/> Non-profit organization |
| <input type="radio"/> Other intergovernmental or international organization | <input type="radio"/> Business or commercial enterprise |
| <input type="radio"/> Government Agency | <input type="radio"/> News or media organization |
| <input type="radio"/> Research Institute | <input type="radio"/> Other |
| <input type="radio"/> K-12 school | |

2. USER PROFILE

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Faculty | <input type="radio"/> UN Agency Official or Employee |
| <input type="radio"/> Administrator or Staff | <input type="radio"/> Government Official or Employee |
| <input type="radio"/> Graduate Student | <input type="radio"/> Non-profit Organization Employee |
| <input type="radio"/> Undergraduate Student | <input type="radio"/> Business or corporate employee |
| <input type="radio"/> K-12 Teacher or Staff | <input type="radio"/> News or media employee |
| <input type="radio"/> K-12 Student | <input type="radio"/> Other |
| <input type="radio"/> Librarian | |
| <input type="radio"/> Independent Researcher | |

3. Are you affiliated with Yale University?

- Yes
 No

4. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

From which country do you regularly access the UN Scholars' Workstation?

5. Have you found the UN Scholars' Workstation helpful in the performance of your assignments, job responsibilities, or research?

- Not Helpful
 Somewhat Helpful
 Very Helpful
 Not Applicable

Please provide comments or examples about how the UN Scholars' Workstation has helped you:

Fig. 10.11. Survey of UN Scholars' Workstation.

6. How would you rate the UN Scholars' Workstation?

- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Poor

What features or services do you like most about the UN Scholars' Workstation?

What features or services would you like to see changed or added to the UN Scholars' Workstation?

Do you have any other comments or opinions about the UN Scholars' Workstation?

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

This information will remain confidential and will only be used to follow-up any concerns or questions you may have about the UN Scholars' Workstation or this survey.

Your name:

Your e-mail address:

Thanks for taking the time to fill out this survey.
Martha Brogan, Social Sciences Bibliographer
martha.brogan@yale.edu
Yale University Library
New Haven, Connecticut

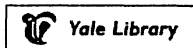


Fig. 10.11—Continued