**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**
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**Eighth Meeting of the Standing Committee
on Harmonization and Standardization of
Information Systems in Africa**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
21-25June 1999**

Report on the Survey on the Utilisation of Local Area Netwoks (LANs)

by African Universities and Research Institutes

The meeting of the Standardisation Subcommittee no. 5: Intranet and Internet Connectivity in Africa held 6-8 March, 1996 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia recommended that a survey be conducted to assess the utilisation of electronic data processing and networking systems in African universities and research institutes.

To this end, a questionnaire was developed; mailing lists were searched and compiled from different databases and directories. In July 1997 about 450 questionnaires were distributed to universities and research institutes through normal mail.

The data collected from this exercise is believed to provide useful information on the degree of utilization of ICT products in terms of quantity and quality and on the potentials of connectivity to local and global systems like Internet. Moreover, it can be used as an input for determining future ICT needs of the universities and research institutes and also for formulation of ICT strategies, plans and policies at national level.

The response obtained from the total number of questionnaire disseminated was quite discouraging, i.e., out of the 405 questionnaires distributed, only 103 of them were completed and sent back to ECA.

The information obtained from the returned questionnaires has been compiled into a database and it is now available at DISD for consultation.

A questionnaire was developed to assess the electronic processing and networking capabilities and future needs of African universities and institutions of higher learning. Contact lists of African institutions were compiled from different databases and directories. The questionnaire with a covering letter was sent to around 450 organizations in July 1997, through normal post, electronic mail and fax.

In total we have received 105 completed questionnaires, which is about 23% of the number sent out. The returned questionnaires were entered into a Microsoft Access database. Results generated from the database are given below.

Country	No. of Questionnaires Received
1. Algeria	19
2. Benin	2
3. Botswana	1
4. Burkina Faso	1
5. Cameroon	1
6. Chad	2
7. Congo	1
8. Djibouti	2
9. Egypt	3
10. Ethiopia	7
11. Ghana	3
12. Kenya	2
13. Madagascar	1
14. Malawi	1
15. Mali	1
16. Mauritius	7
17. Morocco	18
18. Mozambique	1
19. Namibia	1
20. Niger	1
21. Nigeria	6
22. Rwanda	1
23. Senegal	3
24. Seychelles	1
25. Sierra Leone	1
26. South Africa	4
27. Sudan	3
28. Tanzania	2
29. Togo	3
30. Tunisia	3
31. Zaire (Dem. Rep. of Congo)	1
32. Zambia	1
32. Zimbabwe	1
TOTAL	**105**

The figures below show the types of institutions analyzed.

Universities: 71%

Research Organizations: 16%

Training/Technical Colleges: 13%

The overall results regarding the availability of computers, e-mail, LAN, Internet and web sites are given in the table below.

Computers		E-mail		LAN		Internet		Web sites	
Yes %	No %	Yes %	No %	Yes %	No %	Yes %	No %	Yes %	No %
95	5	55	45	43	57	47	53	21	79

Concerning the total number of computers per institution, the largest number of computers in an institution is 4061 whereas on the other hand the minimum number is 1.

The survey indicates that:

70% of the institutions < 100 computers
27%   " "   100 - 1000 computers
3%   " "   > 4000 computers

It also shows that:

92% of the institutions <200 professionals and researchers
 8%   "   "   200 -1700 professionals and researchers with computer skills at different level.