

The ISLP/IASE International Statistical Literacy Project

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The International Statistical Literacy Project (ISLP) is one of the projects of the International Association for Statistics Education (IASE), a section of the ISI. One of our missions is to promote statistical literacy activities of different organizations in the world, and to inform the world about them. Another goal is to create activities and actions that help increase statistical literacy awareness. We fulfill our missions in several ways. We try to achieve the promotion and information mission through our wiki web site, dissemination of the information at conferences, both local and international, participation in statistical literacy forums, and use of international resources in the ISLP's statistical literacy awareness activities. Our activities to increase statistical literacy awareness where it is most needed are designed to benefit many individuals and parts of the world in the long run. We place particular emphasis on reaching the most statistically illiterate groups in order to bring them on board with the most literate ones and achieve equality in statistical literacy around the world, but we involve in our activities, inform on and promote the resources of every country on earth and we always work in cooperation with local groups. The ISLP is supervised by the IASE executive and an advisory board of experts in statistical literacy from around the world. Friends and sponsors of the ISLP support and contribute immensely to the ISLP too.

The ISLP Web Site

The web site of the ISLP is our forum of communication. The page is under the umbrella of the IASE web site and can be found at <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/>. It is a page hosted by the University of Auckland in New Zealand. The most recent statistical literacy awareness activities of the ISLP and very recent activities of institutions are in the "home" page and the "news" page. The main strength of the web site is the "list of pages" link, where there are resources for everybody (teachers, parents, students, journalists, workers that handle data, adults in general, curriculum designers, and many others). The pages are under the supervision of the Director of the ISLP, and they are maintained and managed both by the Director of the ISLP and the page coordinators of the ISLP. The ISLP page coordinators are, in most of the cases, experts in the different statistical literacy areas that their page represents. All of our pages are constantly being updated as new resources appear and new activities are developed. These web pages were initiated in 2001 and managed until 2006 by Carol Joyce Blumberg, the previous ISLP Coordinator, with the help of page coordinators from different countries that you can see listed in the link "people." We are currently keeping the structure they had under her tenure for those who got used to that structure; but it is very possible that the interface will change in the very near future as users get more familiar with the new interface. These web pages of the ISLP are now wiki based, like Wikipedia, so it is very easy for statistics members of the IASE/ISI community to enter links to resources or information in their own language. The ISLP Director will make sure that the resources are well linked and satisfy the high standards of the ISLP.

Of particular interest to new visitors is the page that can be accessed from the home page: "Navigating the ISLP," which gives general directions to move throughout the resource pages, provides brochures with suggested paths to follow if you are a parent, a user of a national statistics

office data, an adult, a student, a teacher, or member of some other group. There are also documents that show you how to use the Wiki to enter your resources.

If you have any suggestions as to new pages or resources that we could add, please, contact the ISLP Director and let her know. The more countries contributing their resources, the more the whole world can benefit and the closer we will be to achieving statistical literacy for everybody. Listed below in Table 1 is a brief description of the current list of resource pages in the ISLP, and the page coordinators.

Table 1. Resource Pages of the ISLP and their page coordinators
<http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/list>

Homepage. Current activities of the ISLP, current feature documents and welcome page.	Assessment of Statistical Literacy Coordinators: Sara Finney, Kenn Barron, and S. Jeanne Horst	General Resources on Statistical Literacy	Definitions of Statistical Literacy
School (pre-college) curriculum reforms in the world.	Resources for Teachers to use in Classrooms or Improve their Knowledge of Statistics, Resources for those Training the Teachers.	Resources for Journalists and Other Members of the Mass Media. Page Coordinator: Paul J. Fields, Media	Resources for Adult Learners and Adult Educators. Coordinator: Brian Cann
Newspaper and Internet Articles and Reports Useful for the Classroom. Coordinator: Eunice Goldberg	CensusAtSchool. Coordinator: Neville Davies	Training Programs and Learning Materials Sponsored by National and International Statistical Offices. Coordinators: Reija Helenius and Carol Joyce Blumberg	List of Projects and Other Efforts by National Statistics Offices, National Statistical Societies and Similar Groups Coordinators: Paola Giacché and Carol Joyce Blumberg

In addition to the pages with resources listed in Table 1, the reader can find in all pages links to the history, the people, the mission, news, and Navigation instructions at the ISLP.

The place of the ISLP among other International Statistical Literacy Institutions.

There is not one single definition of Statistical Literacy and therefore, methods of assessing it, promoting it and of creating materials about it vary. Those interested in reaching school children, may choose to influence the school curriculum and adapt their resources to the curriculum. Hence statistical literacy activity for this group is complementing the curriculum or improving it. On the other hand, those interested in reaching consumers of national statistics published by statistical offices may have less specialized goals, and consider statistical literacy what is enough to understand those statistics. Those training the teachers may consider statistical literacy what helps the teacher implement the curriculum. By browsing often through the ISLP resource pages, one becomes aware of the commonality in all efforts: most initiatives, materials, projects and trainings share the goal of making citizens aware of statistics and its importance in their daily lives. The difference is in the models and materials for achieving that and this difference depends to a large extent on who/what support the efforts and what those initiating the efforts know about what others have already done for similar constituencies. In many cases, we see lots of duplication.

Public and private funding is often used to reinvent in one part of the world the wheel that has already been invented in other part. The ISLP, by keeping track of multiple sources of statistical literacy programs and by staying in close contact and participation with many of the existing statistical literacy attempts throughout the world, can help avoid that to a large extent by advising, providing information and suggesting directions that others have followed and that have been successful. Energies and private and public funding can be used not to repeat what others have done, but to learn from what others have done and use that, with the local funds and energies, to mold initiatives to the intrinsic characteristics of your institution. Our promotion activities help a great deal in this endeavor.

If countries and institutions are aware of others' resources, they can dedicate local funds to develop only what is specific to the institutions of that country. The ISLP can help save energy, public and private money and frustrations for those who have the best of intentions in their struggles to bring statistical literacy to their communities. *Use whatever is already developed in other countries and will work for you and be rewarded for that. Add only what suits your piece of the world and share it with others. Get rewarded for that, too.* The ISLP shares this view of cooperation yet specialization to your soil.

But the ISLP has a much bigger role, which goes beyond informing, promoting and advising on international cooperation in statistical literacy promotion in countries that have already started. The ISLP also has the mission of promoting statistical literacy where it is least implemented or nonexistent, plant seeds, attract resources and plan and conduct activities and engage those individuals and countries who are not yet in the speediest road to statistical literacy. We achieve that through the ISLP Statistical Literacy Awareness activities.

ISLP's Statistical Literacy Awareness Activities

Most of the activities that the ISLP conducts around the world are intended to share with those in communities where IASE has meetings, that are not attending the meetings, a little bit of what goes on behind close doors. At the same time, the ISLP learns more about those communities and can establish partnerships and relationships that will benefit the ISLP and those in the world using its resources. The ISLP also participates in international meetings on numerical and statistical literacy and creates activities to help promote countries' projects that help the wider international community. Below are the activities that are in our most recent agenda.

Local statistical literacy games: The most recent activity has been the literacy game "Who Wants to Be Statistical Literate?" a game conducted in some towns of North Portugal in cooperation with project ALEA of the INE. We keep track of all the details of this game in the web page <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/game> The games written in portuguese to train the students, the bulletins released to the students, dates, locations and results of the games, as well as the actual final competition and assessment of the activity will stay there forever for other countries of Portuguese language in Africa, Asia and South America to use if they wish. The philosophy of these games is that they have to be done in the language of the native country and involve statistical questions about the country where the game takes place. The games must also use resources already available in the country. One of the outcomes we expect to achieve with these games is to motivate students to see statistics as something that can be fun and useful outside the classroom setting while making them more aware of the statisticians in their community and international statistical community.

International online game: In the future, we plan to keep the games local, with our next game in Monterrey Mexico, 2008, and then in South Africa in 2009. But we will also have a international version of the game that will take place electronically during the year. The inspiration for this online game came from the Eurologo project

(<http://projects.eurologo2007.org/imaginecup/index.php?lang=en>) where our current IASE President, Gilberte Schuyten, used to collaborate. We are planning to start this game next year. All countries in the world will be able to participate. Countries with less access to the Internet will be able to do a paper and pencil copy sent to them and compete with those doing the game online. The winners will be unveiled at the corresponding meeting of the IASE/ISI.

Adult statistical literacy games: We plan to pursue activities like these games for adults too, in the more informal settings of a social gathering and in communities where statistics has not yet made it through the public educational speeches in churches, community organizations and business. These statistical literacy games for adults will also take the form of very informal gatherings at ISI/IASE meetings. Quite often the technical training obtained in Statistics has not left us time to understand the most basic numbers that affect our everyday decisions or that shape the wellbeing of our countries. The goal of these games is to touch base with everyday statistics.

Awards for best statistical literacy projects around the world. This is a new initiative that will reward those programs that best reach the communities they are intended to reach and that best contribute to statistical literacy beyond their constituencies. Countries that desire to compete for this award must pay a \$100 fee and describe how they satisfy the criteria established by an international panel of judges experts in statistical literacy. There will also be a popular vote. All this will be coordinated by the ISLP.

Participation in international or national initiatives to promote literacy: The ISLP often gets invited to participate in the promotion of quantitative literacy projects and to contribute to discussions on how to improve statistical literacy of populations. All these meetings contribute immensely to increase our wealth of resources to share with the rest of the world.

Sponsoring and supporting the ISLP

Sponsorship of the ISLP can be in kind, by donating prizes, or it can be monetary. Any donation is a good donation and we would encourage you to consider contributing. Your name and institution will appear in the list of sponsors of the ISLP activities. For financial support to the ISLP, follow these directions:

For electronic donations to ISI earmarked to ISLP/IASE, by credit card, go to the ISI' Secure Electronic Payment Site <http://isi.voce.nl/ms/?get=shop> In the window "Membership number" enter "ISLP Donation" if you are not an ISI member. In the section on "Donation" enter in the section "Donation to ISLP."

For donations by check, send a check (writing in it that it is a donation to ISLP/IASE, to

[International Statistical Institute](#)

[428 Prinses Beatrixlaan, P.O. Box 950](#)

[2270 AZ Voorburg, The Netherlands](#)

RÉSUMÉ (ABSTRACT)

The ISLP is a project of the International Association for Statistical Education intended to provide information, conduct, promote and encourage activities on statistical literacy around the world. The project has a web page at <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/> that compiles international activities, programs and materials relevant for the statistical literacy of media groups, workers, students, teachers and others. Under its new wiki approach, members of the statistical community can enter their materials and announcements in their native language. I present in this paper an overview of the web site, other activities of the ISLP, the agenda for the next four years, and venues of participation in the project.