

ISLP Newsletter

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A new Book of the ISLP: Government Statistical Offices and Statistical Literacy

At the IASE, we often admire the work that Academic Statistics Educators do in their daily battle to change the state of Statistical Literacy in Schools. We hear less frequently praise for the work that Education divisions of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) or International Organizations

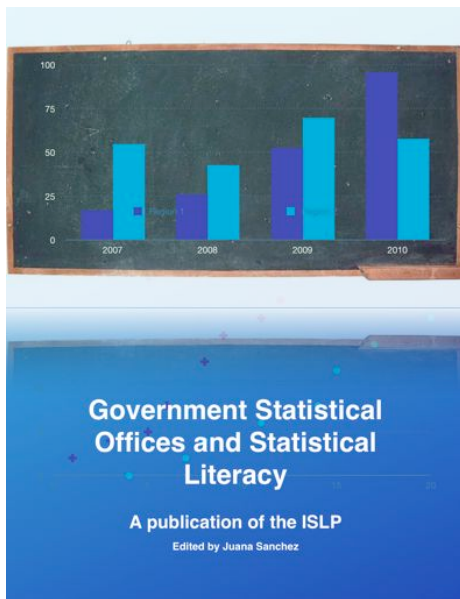


Figure 1.- Cover of the book

do to educate the public in Statistics as the science of data. In doing so, NSOs are just trying to do something that everybody producing statistical information (numerical or graphical) should be doing: educating the users of these statistics so that they understand them and use them responsibly as consumers of statistical information or as producers.

The authors of the book are: Pedro Campos, of Statistics Portugal; Sharlene Forbes, of Statistics New Zealand; Paola Guiache, of the Italian Institute of Statistics; Reija Helenius, of Statistics Finland; Paul Taylor, of the Australian Bureau of Statistics; Mary Townsend, of Statistics Canada, and Juana Sanchez of the Department of Statistics at UCLA. The first edition of the book is electronic, and can be accessed from

<http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/home>

Our book selects the best active and currently maintained programs of NSOs. The main authors explain how these programs came about, what they consist of, and what kind of activities they contain to improve statistical literacy. The editor puts this in the context of the new trends in Statistics Education and writes about some programs that are partial, have been discontinued or are only temporary, i.e., tied up to a Census or a specific survey.

Comments from readers are welcome. Soon in December, the ISLP will unveil another book, closely related to this one, on the comparison of school curriculum around the world, but with an original perspective. With these two books, we hope to fulfill the promises we made at the Executive Meeting of the ISLP in Portugal, during the 56th Biennial Meeting of the ISI (Minutes of that meeting are available upon request).

Hispanic and Portuguese Statistics Educators gather in Monterrey, Mexico, to talk about the statistics education of teachers in Latin America: the ELEE meeting.



From left to right: Teresita Teran (Argentina); Lisbeth Cordani (Brasil); Armando Albert (Mexico); Carmen Batanero (Spain); Ernesto Sanchez, Mexico; Carolina Carvalho (Portugal) and Olga Escudero (Mexico), all opening the ELEE meeting.

ELEE stands for “Encuentro Latinoamericano de Educacion Estadistica,” or “Latin American Meeting on Statistics Education.” This meeting followed the joint ICMI/IASE gathering with the same theme, and was focused on the problems in training teachers in Latin American countries, which include every country south of the United States. The language was Portuguese and Spanish.

The organizers of this meeting were Carmen Batanero, past president of the IASE and Cileda Coutinho, from Brasil, in cooperation with the local organizers of the ICMI/IASE conference.

The presentations and posters in this meeting reflected the state of research on the statistical

education of teachers in this area of the world. Most participants were directly involved in the Education of teachers and had plenty of experiments and observational studies to illustrate how teachers think and teach Statistics. Along the way, many of the presenters unveiled new resources. It was refreshing to see that new pedagogical resources are being developed in Brasil using the free software R. For more information on this meeting, visit http://www.ugr.es/~icmi/iase_study/Encuentro.htm

We thank the organizers for inviting the ISLP to introduce the project to this audience. We have to say that the number of new people met and the new resources and research learned was a gift that we will always remember, with the new ISLP board members we have gained.



1st International Statistical Literacy Competition of the ISLP: National Committees start Planning the National Phase

The next phase of the Competition will be the national phase, where countries will choose the national representative among those selected in the first eliminatory round. Self-organized national committees will decide half of the questions and will manage this second phase. Two of these committees have already been formed

Italian Committee, organized by Committee representative Maria Gabriella Ottaviani, Stefania Mignani, Paola Giacché, Laura Terzera; with Paola Monari and Donata Marasini.

Portuguese Committee: Maria Manuel da Silva Nascimento, Pedro Campos, Jaime Carvalho e Silva, Maria Eugénia da Graça Martins, Emilia Oliveira and Jose Alexandre dos Santos Vaz Martin.

The second phase will be done online and the winner will be known immediately, with some exceptions in some countries. The ISLP will provide half of the questions and the internet venue to do the exam. Grading and more competitions of the first phase will continue until the end of October, but countries already done will have their results by September.

Announcements and New Resources

- **UNECA Newsletter:** [The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa](#) has released the new [June 2008 newsletter](#). It is full of information and resources. The idea that Economic Development can come through Statistical Capacity is a very interesting one and the newsletter is full of articles illustrating how that is being done in Africa. Prof. Denise A. Lievesley, ISI President, is heavily involved in this newsletter and the UNECA. Please, read also in the newsletter the article of the ISLP on the Best Cooperative Project Award of the ISLP and the article by Cynthia Clark on Women and Statistics.
- **Switzerland:** There are [new resources](#) for education from the Federal Statistical Office in Switzerland. In particular, [Statistigoal](#) (More than just Football Statistics). An interactive game online prepared for the Euro 2008 cup. People can warm up by reading a lot of information provided about football and official statistics of the countries. Then the football game begins and you move around the field depending on how well you answer the questions.
- **Brasil:** A new book, *Do Tratamento da Informação ao Letramento Estatístico*. Autores: Irene Cazorla e Eurivalda Santana ed. (2008) is coming out in August. **Translation:** *From the Treatment of Information to Statistical Literacy*. This book is a sequel to the very popular first volume [“*Interpretation of Information for Elementary and Middle School*.”](#) The book is a result of the program AVALE in Brasil, which builds statistical activities for teachers to use in the classroom using the free software R.
- **OECD:** As promised, the video full of resources of the whole Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Turning Statistics Information into Knowledge is at www.oecd.org/oecdworldforum/statknowledge. The talks can also be downloaded.
- **OECD:** [Training course on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy: Understanding Societal Change, September 2008](#).
- **BLOGS:** A suggestion of Vicente Novegil Souto (in the photo on the front page), ISLP advisory board member, is that we start a page with blogs on Statistics. He contributed the following blog in Spanish called [“Apuntes de Estadística”](#)
- **CensusAtSchool International Workshop:** The [Second International Workshop](#) of the International [CensusAtSchool](#) project will take place at UCLA, Los Angeles, July 28-29 (open meeting) and July 30-31st (closed meeting). Hosted by the department of Statistics at UCLA, the ISLP Director, Juana Sanchez, offered to organize it with the hopes that new developments in the project will benefit non-English speaking countries.
- **ISI 2009:** Abstract submission, registration and expression of interest is now open at <http://www.statssa.gov.za/isi2009>. The ISLP is organizing an invited session on the importance of graphs for Statistical Literacy.

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Please, submit your resources, and articles to jsanchez@stat.ucla.edu