

REPORT ON PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING REPORT ON FUNDING ALLOCATION

1. As per Governing Council Resolution GC/51/R10, the Director is requested to report on publication activities on an annual basis.

Knowledge Management

2. Publications are an integral part of IARC's work reflecting ongoing efforts to capture knowledge and disseminate it to the scientific and public health community. The main initiatives in the reporting period were the development of an on-line sales platform for IARC publications and the continued efforts to improve the publications workflow.

Technical infrastructure for the launch of e-book sales

3. A consultancy was carried out between November 2013 and June 2014 which provided recommendations for actions. In this last reporting period, the Knowledge Management Centre focused on turning those recommendations into the foundation for the launch of e-book sales. This has involved making technical and contractual decisions, largely in the selection of e-commerce vendors and technologies: EPUB file conversion for e-books suited to reading on mobile devices, an online shop, digital rights management to copyright protect IARC's publications, and a payment gateway to securely process credit card purchases.

4. A significant step in laying the groundwork has been the creation of a new IARC Publications website, which was launched in December 2015. The information architecture was overhauled to provide users with a modern and intuitive search and browse experience, and more importantly, the underlying database structure allows information on publications to be readily maintained and updated by non-technical staff. The site has been designed to support institutional customers (i.e. universities, libraries, research agencies) with site licenses to IARC publications, and to serve as a platform that integrates with the technologies necessary for e-book sales to individuals. The result to date is a marked increase in the number of publications-related enquiries received since the launch of the new website and, alongside interest in recent key publications, a growing interest in IARC's previous titles.

5. As the sale of e-books directly from IARC's site is a new venture and the *WHO Classification of Tumours* (Blue Books) series has historically accounted for up to 99% of total publications revenues, in order to gather evidence on which to base marketing decisions a survey on the reading and access preferences of the Blue Books readership was conducted. The survey, which ran for seven weeks in the autumn of 2015, generated nearly 600 responses, mainly from regular users of the Blue Books. Results indicate that although readers understand and value the advantages offered by electronic formats, the majority prefer print, and even where e-books are preferred, readers are drawn preferentially to a format that structures pages in a layout that mirrors print (i.e. PDF). Aside from questions of format or methods of access, however, the survey confirms continuing support for the Blue Books and the importance of their content.

6. Development of PubCan has continued, with the aim of providing a database which cross-links various IARC publications. PubCan currently manages a significant volume of IARC content, but needs re-design to turn it into a modern and mobile-ready information platform. The system also needs further investment in terms of enriching links between the various components of content to enable full search options. PubCan remains of potential value as a longer-term effort for disseminating IARC scientific output. However, PubCan requires further investment for completing the development of the database and for long-term sustainability, options for which are currently being explored as part of IARC's wider resource mobilization efforts.

Publications workflow streamlining

7. The work of streamlining and standardizing publishing processes continues. This extends to the earliest stage of clearing manuscripts intended for external publication (i.e. mainstream journals, books, etc.). This reporting period saw the development of a new online manuscript clearance system that will better enable IARC to track scientific paper submissions.

Publications in 2015

8. A list of IARC publications in the reporting period is given below:

WHO Classification of Tumours:

[WHO Classification of Tumours of the Lung, Pleura, Thymus and Heart, 4th edition](#) (print)

IARC Monographs:

[Volume 109: Outdoor Air Pollution](#) (PDF)

[Volume 112: Some Organophosphate Insecticides and Herbicides: Diazinon, Glyphosate, Malathion, Parathion, and Tetrachlorvinphos](#) (Monographs on Diazinon, Glyphosate, and Malathion) (PDF)

IARC Working Group Reports:

[Mycotoxin control in low- and middle-income countries, IARC Working Group Report No. 9](#) (print, PDF, and EPUB)

[Lutte contre les mycotoxines dans les pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire, Rapports des Groupes de travail du CIRC N° 9](#) (print, PDF, and EPUB)

[Control de las micotoxinas en los países de ingresos bajos y medios, IARC. Informes de grupos de trabajo N° 9](#) (print, PDF, and EPUB)

IARC Scientific Publication:

[Air Pollution and Cancer, IARC Scientific Publication No. 161](#) (PDF)

IARC Technical Publications:

[Planification et développement des registres du cancer basés sur la population dans les pays à revenu faible ou intermédiaire, Publications techniques du CIRC N° 43](#) (PDF)

[Planificación y desarrollo de registros de cáncer de base poblacional en los países de ingresos bajos y medios, IARC. Publicaciones técnicas N° 43](#) (PDF)

[The Origin of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, IARC Technical Report No. 6](#) (PDF)

Biennial Report:

[IARC Biennial Report 2014–2015](#) (PDF and print)

Non-Serial Publication:

[International Agency for Research on Cancer: The First 50 Years, 1965–2015](#) (print, PDF, and EPUB)

Electronic Resource:

European Code Against Cancer, 4th edition (<http://cancer-code-europe.iarc.fr>) in many European languages in addition to English

Revenue from the sale of IARC publications by WHO Press

9. Net revenue from the sale of IARC Publications by WHO Press amounted to €700 413 in 2015, of which 75% is allocated to the IARC publications programme in 2016, in accordance with Resolution GC/56/R12.

10. The WHO Classification of Tumours series on its own (print) generated 98% of the overall publications sales revenue for IARC in 2015, with 95% of the overall volume of sales.

Recommendation from the Working Group on the production of standard reports

11. In view of the recommendation from the Working Group on the production of standard reports, outlined in [Document GC/58/9](#), requesting the Director to start reporting on publication activities at IARC on a biennial rather than annual basis, should the Governing Council agree, the next report on publications activities will be at the 60th Session of the Governing Council in May 2018.