



**JUSTICE STUDIES CENTER OF THE AMERICAS
QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY-MARCH 2008**

A. FULFILLMENT OF JSCA’S INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

1. To develop in-depth studies of justice systems and promote innovative approaches to the discussion of judicial reform.

Indicators	Results
A broad local and regional debate is generated by our studies.	This quarter saw the launch of an evaluation of Mexico’s criminal justice system. JSCA team members traveled to Mexico and observed several hearings and met with judicial officials, members of Parliament and members of civil society.
Our studies are cited in other research.	This quarter we finished the book <i>Criminal Procedure Reform in Ecuador: Experiences in Innovation</i> . The Spanish-language publication will be released in April.
Countries around the region implement initiatives motivated by those studies.	
Funding is captured in order to carry out our studies.	During this period we completed the study on strategic prosecution in the Eastern Sector of Santiago, which JSCA was asked to execute by the Public Prosecutor’s Office.

RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

Evaluation of Mexico’s Criminal Justice System

During the last week of February 2008, a team of JSCA experts visited Mexico in order to evaluate the federal criminal justice system and contrast it with the new adversarial and oral system projected as a result of the constitutional reform process.

JSCA experts gathered data, observed hearings and met with academics, political authorities and justice system operators in three states and Mexico City. The objectives for the first stage of the research include: exploring the level of efficiency of the criminal justice system; ascertaining the level of respect for the presumption of innocence and right to a defense in federal criminal procedures; and identifying the situation of victims in regard to criminal procedures and the consideration of their interests. The final report will identify the main changes that will be required for the implementation of an adversarial criminal system at the federal level, which is currently under discussion in Parliament.

Book: “Criminal Procedure Reform in Ecuador: Experiences in Innovation (*La reforma procesal penal en Ecuador: Experiencias de Innovación*)”

This quarter our team finished this publication, which was written by Diego Zalamea. The text describes initiatives implemented in Quito, Cuenca, Guayaquil and Azores in order to improve the criminal justice system. This is Volume V of the Follow-up Project on Criminal Procedure Reforms in Latin America and will be published in April 2008. A total of 2,000 copies will be printed.

Study on Strategic Prosecution in the Eastern Sector of Santiago

The study formulated by JSCA for the Eastern Sector Prosecutor’s Office for the Metropolitan Region was completed in February 2008. The focus of the effort was mechanisms for developing strategic prosecution in the Eastern sector of the city. JSCA researcher Nataly Ponce presented the project to and received approval from the Regional Prosecutor and his team.

Support for Haiti’s Judicial System

During this quarter, JSCA member Pierre-Gilles Belanger formulated a project for training and dialogue with members of Haiti’s criminal justice system. The purpose of the effort is to identify priority areas for support for the criminal justice reform process in that country, capitalizing on empirical experiences in countries throughout the region including the Canadian experience. The project will be executed by JSCA in cooperation with the Government of Haiti and Canadian Ministry of Justice.

MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

Judicial Indicators for Ibero-America: Presentation of the Plan, Data Gathering and Legal Consulting (Report 20)

Management and Information Coordinator Cristián Hernández traveled to San José, Costa Rica this January 14-16 to draft the final version of this document with the support of the Statistics Area of the Supreme Court. The document was presented February 4-6 in Andorra at the Third Preparatory Meeting of the XIV Ibero-American Judicial Summit.

Judicial Statistics in Guatemala

The final reports for this project were approved this quarter, bringing JSCA’s technical assistance to a close. Two workshops have been scheduled to disseminate the results and train participants in the use and interpretation of judicial indicators with the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court. The events will be held in April 2008.

White Book on Information and Communications Technologies and Justice Systems

A first draft of the “White Book” was drafted in January 2008 in coordination with Microsoft. The document was discussed during an internal workshop at JSCA and the observations shared there were used to develop a second draft. This document will be submitted to Microsoft this April in order to plan a workshop.

Project: “Design of a Public Bidding Model for Mediation Services,” executed with the Chilean Ministry of Justice

The final report for this project, which was developed in collaboration with Universidad Diego Portales, was submitted in January 2008. The Ministry of Justice is analyzing the document and a workshop on the results has been planned for the first week in April.

2. To promote regional cooperation and the exchange of experiences among key justice system actors.

Indicators	Results
1) A sustained increase in the number of applications for internships.	JSCA received 9 applications for its internships, 3 for paid internships and 6 for pro bono internships.
2) A sustained increase in the number of people and institutions who apply solutions and request training.	A total of 213 applications from 17 countries were received for the Inter-American Training Program.

TRAINING

Preparatory Activities for the International Seminar on Innovation in Civil Justice

This quarter we began to prepare for this event, which will be held May 14-15 in Santiago. The purpose of the seminar is to analyze the factors that should be considered in order to construct a civil justice reform agenda in Latin America. Participants will discuss ongoing initiatives from Europe and Latin America in order to provide innovative responses to the problems that our region is facing in this area. The specific topics to be addressed are: small claims court; monetary debt recovery and sentence execution; dejudicialization policies and coordination between formal justice and alternative dispute resolution methods; procedural and statutory models; and specialized justice.

At the close of the first quarter, 47 papers on ongoing initiatives were received by the Center. Sixteen were selected for presentation. Also, we have confirmed the participation of 22 people.

Inter-American Program for Training Trainers for Criminal Procedure Reform

This quarter saw the 2007 program draw to a close. A total of 53 participants completed the program, 30% of whom were women. The final papers were graded and the results are presented below:

Criterion	Grade
Highest Grade	98%
Lowest Grade	60%
Median	81% and 90%
Average Grade	81%

The fourth stage of the program, Local Replicas, was created to give students an opportunity to submit projects to be implemented in 2008. A total of 16 proposals had been received by the end of March, and they are currently being evaluated by JSCA staff. In some cases the students have been contacted with counter-proposals and in others the original idea has been accepted and JSCA has requested key information. The results of the process will be detailed in the next report.

Also, in January we began to accept applications for the 2008 Program. This process ended March 3. We received 213 applications from 17 countries, 104 of them from women (48%).

Table: Applications by Country

<u>Country</u>	<u>Number of Applications</u>
Argentina	39
Bolivia	39
Brazil	1
Chile	5
Colombia	5
Costa Rica	7
Dominican Republic	7
Ecuador	5
El Salvador	1
Guatemala	2
Honduras	17
Mexico	19
Nicaragua	10
Panama	1
Peru	50
Uruguay	1
Venezuela	4
Total	213

Note: 30.9% of the applications were received from the program's priority nations – Bolivia, Honduras and Nicaragua.

The pre-selection process was held during the last month of the quarter, and we have confirmed the participation of 52 people.

Local Replicas of the Inter-American Training Program (Report 14)

<u>Student</u>	<u>Replica</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Participants</u>
<i>Luis Ramírez and Ariel Ciano</i>	Training Processes in Guatemala: Introduction	Alta Verapaz and Baja Verapaz, Guatemala	February 25	450 participants, including prosecutors, public defenders and judges

<i>Luis Ramírez and Ariel Ciano</i>	Training Processes in Guatemala: Introducing Oral Procedures Prior to Arguments	Alta Verapaz and Baja Verapaz, Guatemala	February 26	45 participants, including prosecutors, public defenders and judges
<i>Luis Ramírez and Ariel Ciano</i>	Training Processes in Guatemala: Strategic Litigation	Chiquimula, Guatemala	February 28-29	30 participants, including prosecutors, public defenders and judges
<i>Javier Aguirre and Alcides Chichay</i>	Theoretical-Practical Workshop “Pretrial Hearings in the 2004 Criminal Procedure Code”	Lima, Peru	March 25-26	15 participants
<i>Patricia Soria and Carolina Mauri</i>	Training Program: Oral Litigation for a New Criminal Procedure	Managua, Nicaragua	March 26-28	40 participants including prosecutors, public defenders and judges

Internship in Canada

As was indicated in the last quarterly report of 2007, with the inauguration of the “Virtual Campus” just for former participants of the Inter-American program (REDEX), JSCA solidified its efforts to promote interaction with its main local allies. As a result, in January and February, a competition was held for former students to participate in a one-month internship in Canada in May 2008.

The purpose of this effort is to provide former students with an opportunity to gain direct and practical knowledge of Canada’s adversarial system. The interns will spend three weeks in Ottawa, where they will work in the Public Prosecution Service and will have the opportunity to attend hearings and learn about case management practices. They also will visit the National Judicial Institute and learn about the training programs that it offers.

Eleven former students from five countries in the region submitted applications. **Natalia Gambaro**, who is currently working at the Buenos Aires Prosecutor’s Office, and **Verónica Ferrufino**, of Honduras, who works in the Supreme Court Electronic

Documentation and Judicial Information Center, were chosen to participate in the program, which will run from April 28 through May 16.

Workshops and Visits to Learn about the Operation of an Adversarial Criminal Justice System

- Visits:

Delegation from the Transitory Unit of Ecuador's Public Defender's Office

On February 15, representatives of this entity visited JSCA in order to learn about Chile's Public Defender's Office in view of the criminal procedure reform. Nataly Ponce, of the Research Area, and Claudio Fuentes, of JSCA's Training Area, received the delegation.

Delegation from the Buenos Aires Magistrate's Council

A delegation of 8 prosecutors and 1 judge from this entity visited JSCA from January 7 through January 11. The purpose of their visit was to learn about the operation of Chile's criminal procedure reform. The delegates were received by JSCA Training Coordinator Mauricio Duce, who offered a talk on the current state of reform in Chile. The delegation visited the Santiago Justice Center, met with Regional Public Defender Leonardo Moreno, observed hearings, and visited special units in the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Delegation from the Dominican Republic

Five attorneys from the Dominican Republic visited JSCA on January 18 in order to learn about JSCA's work and purpose and its role in the region. Participants attended a presentation on JSCA's work and received copies of the Center's most recent publications.

Visit by Peru's Public Defender's Office

Four officials from Peru's Ministry of Justice visited JSCA in the company of the former Chilean National Public Defender, Rodrigo Quintana. The visit, which was held January 21-25, included presentations on the structure, operation and work of Chile's public defense service. Participants visited the National Public Defender's Office, both Regional Public Defender's Offices in Santiago, the Regional Public Defender's Office of Valparaíso and the State Defense Council of Chile. JSCA's Research Director offered a presentation on criminal procedure reform in Chile.

- Seminars, Workshops and Related Events:

131st Period of Sessions of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission

On March 13, Juan Enrique Vargas and Cristián Riego participated in a dialogue in the context of this event in Washington, D.C. They offered a presentation on the institution's work and took part in a discussion of the new challenges that criminal procedure reforms present in the area of human rights in the Americas.

Seminar on Judicial Reform in Latin America

On January 25, Cristián Riego visited Los Angeles, California in order to participate in a seminar on judicial reform in the region organized by the University of Southwestern California. He presented on criminal procedure reform in Chile as a success story.

XIV Ibero-American Judicial Summit

This event was held March 2-6 in Brazil. The main topic addressed was “Modernization, Legal Security, Access and Social Cohesion: Justice Prepares for the Future.” JSCA Executive Director Juan Enrique Vargas and Academic Director Cristián Riego participated in the event.

Trinidad & Tobago Seminar

JSCA Senior Intern Pierre-Gilles Belanger traveled to Trinidad and Tobago from March 5 through March 7 in order to participate in a meeting of the REMJA Group of Experts on mutual judicial assistance in criminal law and extradition. Belanger offered a presentation on JSCA’s e-learning training program and met with delegates from several Caribbean nations and the Haitian Minister of Justice.

- Paid Internships:

Rosa Reynoso began her paid internship at JSCA this quarter as part of the agreement signed with the Dominican Judicial Academy. Specific information about her work is presented below:

INTERN	PERIOD	MAJOR	WORK COMPLETED
Rosa Reynoso	January-July 2008	Law	Third version of the Report on Judicial Systems: - Changes to data gathering spreadsheets - Updating of contact database

This quarter we also received three consults regarding the paid internship program. Two came from Venezuela and one came from Paraguay.

- Pro Bono Internships

During this period we received 6 consults regarding pro bono internships. Two were from Chile, two from the U.S., 1 from Colombia and 1 was from Argentina.

The following individuals will begin pro bono internships next quarter:

INTERN	COUNTRY	PERIOD	UNIVERSITY	MAJOR
Amanda Wiss	USA	Late May- late July	Brooklyn Law School	Law
Kelechi Acholonu	USA	June-July	Georgetown Law Center	Law

Pierre-Gilles Belanger, who will work for the Center throughout 2008, joined our team in January as a Senior Intern. He is developing activities to support judicial reform in Haiti.

3: To generate and disseminate instruments that improve the quality of information on justice in the Americas.

Indicators	Results
A sustained increase in the number of people who visit our website and the institutions linked to it.	The number of “sole visitors” to the main JSCA Website doubled this quarter.
A sustained increase in the number of people who rate our virtual products and publications as useful	The Publications and Calendar sections saw 42% and 25% increases, respectively, in the number of visitors. There was an overall increase in visits to the Website.

VIRTUAL INFORMATION CENTER (CIV)

During this quarter the CIV did not develop new software. It instead focused on maintaining existing applications and providing general technical support.

It is important to note that a new structure of Nexus Newsletter was unveiled this quarter. The publication is now more compact and has a link to the Website that provides more details on each topic. This quarter the CIV developed the registration form for the “Course on Strategies for and Contents of Judicial Modernization in Latin America.” This required more time and effort due to the amount of data that applicants are required to provide.

E-learning Platform

This quarter a new course entitled “Training Trainers for Judicial Reform Replica” was added to the e-learning platform. The course was directed at 20 participants in Guatemala and was handled by specialist Erick Juárez. It is composed of the following modules:

1. Module I, Introducing Oral Procedures, January
2. Module II, Pretrial Custody, February
3. Module III, Judicial Organization, March
4. Module IV, Prosecutor’s Office, April
5. Module V, Public Defense, May

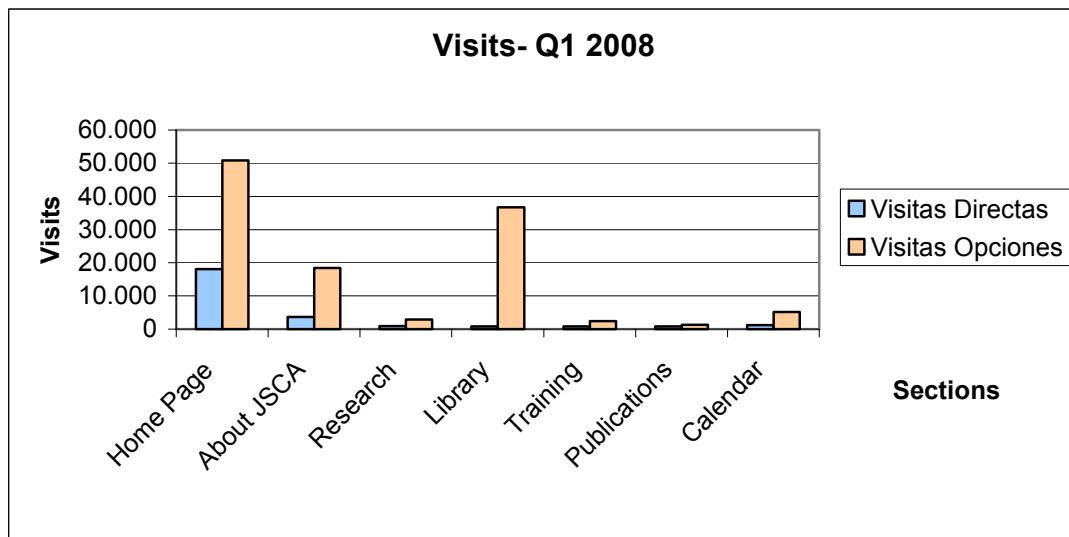
Visits to the Website

This quarter saw growing numbers of visits to the JSCA Website. The greatest increase occurred with the “Home Page,” which can be interpreted as a general increase in visitors to the site. While the “Virtual Library” received slightly fewer visits, there was a significant increase in visits to the “Publications” section, which may be explained by the new design of Nexus Newsletter.

The table and graphic below show the respective trends:

Section	Direct Access		Sub-options	
	Direct Visits	Compared to Previous Quarter	Options Visits	Compared to Previous Quarter
Home Page	18,022	100.76%	50,793	16.93%
About JSCA	3,614	6.61%	18,399	15.54%
Research	934	-2.10%	2,884	9.04%
Library	833	-4.91%	36,686	0.74%
Training	816	-5.01%	2,428	-7.86%
Publications	888	7.9%	1,304	42.98%
Calendar	1,239	1.64%	5,127	25.48%
TOTAL	26,346	54.09%	117,621	10.9%

(1) “Direct Access” to the home page corresponds to visitors to the Website. “Sub-options” corresponds to surfing the contents shown on the home page.



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Indicator	Results
A sustained increase in subscriptions to Nexus Newsletter.	At the close of this quarter, there were a total of 9,030 subscribers to the Newsletter, which represents a 12% increase over the same date in 2007.
A sustained increase in mentions of JSCA in the media.	The journal “Reforma Judicial,” which is published by the Legal Research Institute at Universidad Autónoma de México, published two articles from Issue 12 of Judicial Systems Journal. There was a 2% increase in mentions of JSCA in the local (in Chile, where JSCA’s offices are located) and regional media as compared to the same quarter last year.
A sustained increase in the number of documents that are added to the Virtual Library.	There was a 2% increase in the collection of the Virtual Library as compared to last quarter.
A sustained increase in the number of documents (books, journals and audiovisual material) that is added to JSCA’s physical and virtual libraries.	A total of 153 new titles (113 books, 10 CDs and 30 journals) were added to the physical library this quarter. During this quarter we received visits from students requesting research materials. The students came from various Chilean and foreign universities.

Judicial Systems Journal

This quarter work continued on Issue 13 of the journal, which the Editorial Committee decided would focus on “Supreme Courts.” Articles were requested and the staff is currently finalizing the publication.

We also worked on the design of a new version of the journal (in virtual format), which will be launched during the second quarter of 2008. The electronic journal will follow the editorial approach of the current publication and the members of the Committee were confirmed.

During this quarter two copies of the journal were sold at JSCA’s offices.

Nexus Newsletter

Three issues of the newsletter were published in Spanish and English this quarter.

9,030 people subscribe to the Newsletter (6,746 in Spanish and 2,284 in English). This indicates that the trend noted earlier (that there is an increase in subscribers) is continuing, as there were only 8,092 subscribers during the same quarter in 2007. This also shows a 12% increase in the total number of subscribers so far in 2008.

A new design and format were introduced in January of this year. This involved a change in the publication's contents, though it will remain a monthly publication and will continue to be distributed via e-mail.

Virtual and Physical Libraries

This quarter we continued to upload documents to JSCA's Virtual Library. A total of **57** documents were made available online (including articles and laws), which brings the total collection to **6,057** documents (4,361 in Spanish and 1,696 in English). This represents an increase of nearly **2%** over the previous quarter.

A total of **153** new titles (113 books, 10 CDs and 30 journals) were added to the physical library. It currently holds **2,439** documents including books, journals, manuals, theses, CDs and DVDs.

As has occurred during previous quarters, during this period we received visits from students from Chilean and foreign universities who requested research materials – generally for their theses. The students photocopied material or borrowed it. Also, the libraries of judicial system institutions from several countries submitted publications to our library.

This quarter publications exchanges were conducted with Peru's Instituto Defensa Legal y Justicia Viva, Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Penales (INACIPE) and the Mendoza Province Judicial Branch Library (Biblioteca Martín Zapata) in Argentina. We received requests for JSCA publications from the Taruja, Bolivia Superior Court Library and the Peruvian Magistrate's Academy.

Press Coverage

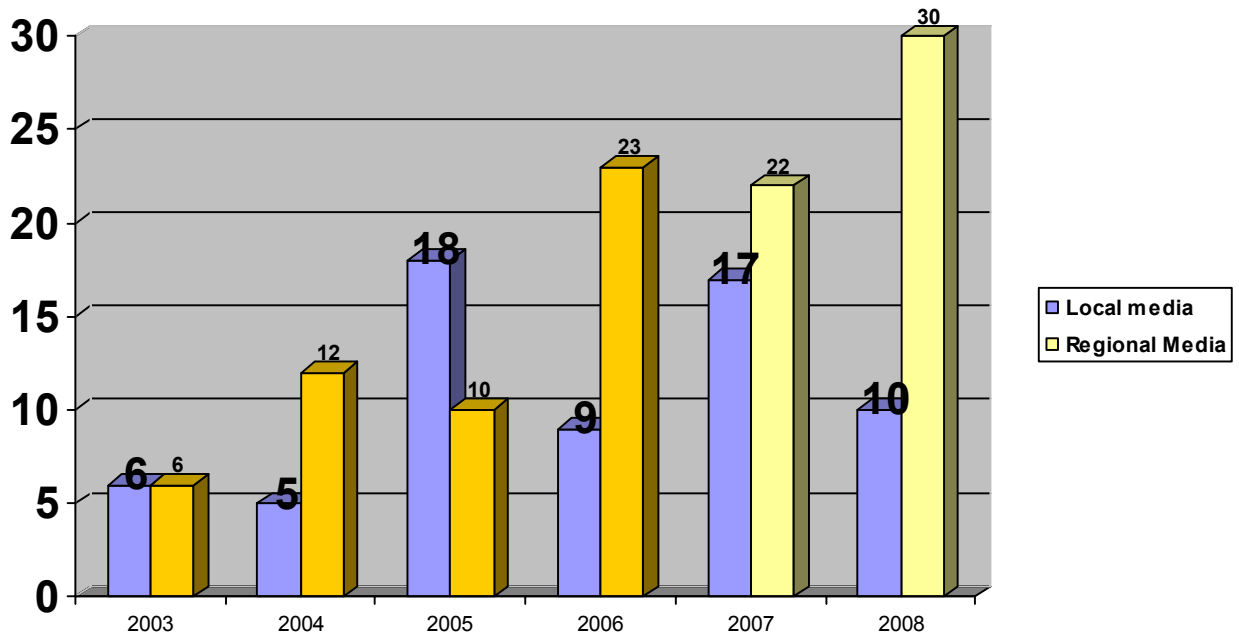
A total of 40 mentions of JSCA were made in the media this quarter (10 in the local press and 30 at the regional level). This represents a 2% increase over the same period in 2007.

Publicity campaigns designed to promote events, activities or calls to participate in JSCA training courses were issued through press releases for specialized media outlets and institutions around the region.

The institutional activities promoted were the international seminar "Innovation in Civil Justice" and the Inter-American Program for Training Trainers for Criminal Procedure Reform.

JSCA experts were asked to contribute columns and give interviews in key media outlets.

Mentions of JSCA in the Press Q1 2003-2008



B. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

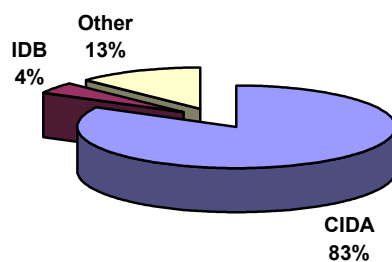
1. Financial Report

Source	Starting Balance	INCOME	EXPENDITURES	End Balance
USAID				
<i>Activities</i>	73,060		90,458	-17,398
<i>Overhead</i>	9,325		13,569	-4,243
<i>Interest</i>	1,044			1,044
CIDA				
<i>Activities</i>	175,623	474,458	107,779	542,302
<i>Overhead</i>	32,589		12,934	19,655
<i>Interest</i>	6,566	1,866		8,432
EUROSOCIAL	-27,550			-27,550
USAID GUATEMALA	11,245		11,245	0
IDB				
<i>Activities</i>	5,502	25,379	8,171	22,711
OTHER SOURCES				
<i>Other Projects</i>	13,668		4,000	9,668
<i>General Fund</i>	370,206	74,378	51,169	393,415
TOTAL	671,278	576,081	299,324	948,035

1.1. INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

1.1.1. ANALYSIS OF INCOME JANUARY-MARCH 2007

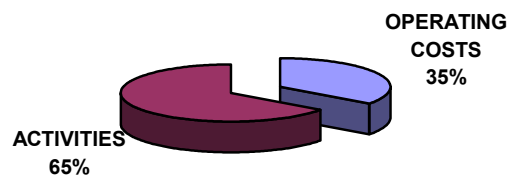
Most of the contributions that were received during this period came from CIDA and the Government of Mexico.



1.2 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURES

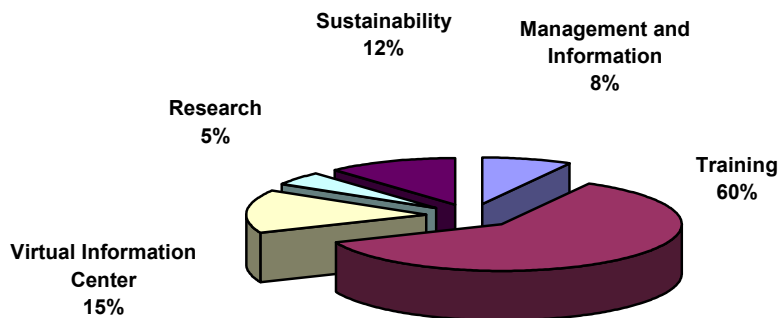
1.2.1 TOTAL SPENDING (%)

The percentage of spending that went to activities dropped from 66% to 65% this quarter and the spending on operating costs increased from 34% to 35%.



1.2.2 SPENDING ON ACTIVITIES (%)

Most of the spending on activities was related to training.



1.2.3 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXPENDITURES ON ACTIVITIES

2. Activities	
a) Research	
Research Salaries	8,300
Follow-up Studies	481
b) Training	
Training Salaries	60,512
Specialized Virtual Courses	3,708
Projects on Innovation	19,744
Organization of and Participation in Seminars	1,483
Local Replicas	9,830
Senior Internship	4,964
Other Internships	2,866
c) Management and Information	
Measurement of Verifiable Judicial Indicators and Standards	8,033
Information Technologies	5,559
d) Virtual Information Center	
Website	12,865
Newsletters and Publications	12,774
e) Sustainability	
Sustainability Actions	19,893
Sub-total	171,013