A section contains a set of entries, each describing an initiative related to IL in the country.

Observed variables
The general format of the initiatives listed in the EnIL Observatory includes the following fields:

```
Title and network address:
Body responsible:
Start date:
End date (if applicable):
Typology:
Textual description:
Keywords:
```

Fig. 2 - Format of any single entry in the EnIL Observatory

Except for the Title, each field has been identified and included in the format because it has been considered functional to a variable which must be observed.
The earliest start date indicates the "age" of the IL discourse in the country, thus expressing the *"timeliness"* of the country in dealing with the IL issue.
The "body responsible" is representative of the *degree and nature of the involvement*: a government initiative obviously reveals a wider involvement than a faculty or library initiative, while an initiative by the Ministry of Education, rather than by the Ministry of Telecommunications or the Ministry of Innovation, expresses the country's *perception* of the *nature* and *context* of the IL issue.
The typology expresses the *scale* of the initiative: a national policy document, a research project or a library tutorial evidently have different effects and impacts on the country. The existence, distribution and prevalence of the different kinds of initiatives in a country are a sign of the *value* attributed to IL.
Each initiative described in the Observatory has been assigned a set of keywords, denoting its subject content. To date, the keywords have been freely attributed, due to the lack of a controlled vocabulary for the field of IL policies. This is among the future tasks to be performed in the EnIL Observatory, in order to achieve better indexing of the documents and allow for *comparative searching* among the various countries.

The EnIL Observatory as a source of IL policy indicators

The term "indicator" derives from the Latin verb *indicare*, which means "point out", "call attention to". The term is widely used in statistical analysis as a major tool for informed decision-making in policy formulation. This means that having the right indicators will result in better decisions and policy-making. According to the Oecd (1993), indicators are parameters that give information on some phenomenon and reduce complexity in order to make problems quantifiable and communicable. Averch (1980) conceives indicators as tools "to shape lines of arguments and policy reasoning".
A recent worthy attempt to define a set of IL indicators was made by Catts (2008), with the publication of a study commissioned in March 2006 by the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) of Unesco:

> The study recommends that a set of indicators of information literacy be defined on the basis of existing survey data, as many countries were unlikely to have the financial resources for