quality and timeliness of their printed information, but also, and perhaps more, on the effectiveness of their web presence.

Appropriate measures should be taken. Websites must be built and maintained by professionals. There should be, if at all possible, a continuous monitoring system of user satisfaction and visitors' browsing behaviour. This for the purpose of easing access to popular items, noting signs of apparent user confusion, and general continuous improvement of the site. If dynamic access to databases is offered, such applications should be reasonably bug-free and have reached sufficient maturity. Launching a high-technology service that generates numerous disappointed users brings benefits to no one. The need to maintain a full range of up-to-date ICT capabilities, including web skills, in an environment where such qualities are in high demand, is a burden to many national statistical agencies. Outsourcing can be a solution, but since information dissemination is a core activity of official statistics, it is not an obvious alternative.

As an aside it may be mentioned here that the Internet offers excellent possibilities to disseminate and retrieve international standards and guidelines for statistical work. An example is the classifications server RAMON developed by Eurostat.

As the mass of readily accessible statistical information increases, there is urgent need to improve the protection of individual information provided by persons or establishments, using techniques known as statistical disclosure control. The odds here could be shifting in an unfavourable direction, since statisticians need to provide more information faster, while ill-intentioned users attempting to filter out sensitive information have access to ever more powerful analytical computer tools, and time on their side. It has become impractical to visually inspect each table or data cube (see below) for potential risks, but automatic screening tools are coming to the rescue. These will suppress, combine, or otherwise obscure potentially risky cell values.

The list of census websites at the end of this paper provides ample opportunity to explore various countries efforts.

Information dissemination on non-rewritable high-capacity media also remains an important delivery channel, especially for massive data that is not highly time-sensitive, such as most census information. Censuses nowadays routinely result in the production of many CD's, and the first DVD products of much higher capacity have appeared. Data structures on CD-ROM and those underlying a website can have much in common, including the use of browsing through hyperlinks. Parallel development of the applications is an efficient way to benefit from that.

Storage of census data in a "warehouse" structure favours its use in conjunction with other statistical information kept there. This is strictly speaking not a census issue, since it addresses the broader subject of statistical information management. A warehouse might consist of a number of data cubes, n-dimensional spaces where one dimension consists of observations, the others are selection dimensions. In a simple example dealing