

Irelp

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The “corona crisis” did not substantially affect the IREL P. For two different reasons. The first is that we expected a global crisis. Obviously, we had no plans for a pandemic-type crisis and containment. We expected a financial crisis of the order of 2008 but much more severe (in our opinion, this crisis is coming).

So, we have moved forward for several years to be an Institute solid on its foundations, recognized by its own and with a large enough audience that trusts us. Did we get there? The future will tell.

The second reason is that we are a small Institute with a small budget. We don't have any employees. This budget is mainly based on our own products and support from friendly organizations; not at all on the support of patrons nor on that of public funds. This is a problem in normal times, it is luck in times of crisis: we could only rely on ourselves.

First of all, we have not recorded any deaths. In the global tragedy of the virus crisis, we know others have been sorely affected and they are the ones we think of first.

With the confinement, we had to close our premises and we were unable to receive researchers or students. The classification of our archives, that of the Library (both are still in constant development), the purchase of the necessary furniture have been stopped. In short, everything that was in the realm of physics has been cut short. Undoubtedly, this has been a lack. Our international relations have also been affected.

We did, however, make the electronic links work much more than usual. First, to break the isolation of the 2,500 correspondents. We pointed out to them the books or online reviews that were on our site, multiplying the information, sending sometimes old articles. We also conducted a survey and a report with our correspondents on their appreciation of our site, which made it possible to continue the dialogue (the IRELP was not inactive). But we have not resolved the issue of (rare) people who do not have access to the internet.

The closure of our premises has affected our activities, and therefore our finances, but the owners of the premises that we rent (Mairie de Paris indirectly) have shown a great deal of understanding. We would like to thank them.

As soon as the postal deliveries were able to resume our shipments gradually resumed. As the importance of the relationships with our correspondents enabled mutual trust, orders for books and magazines continued, even in smaller quantities.

We have also urgently modified the content of our review, scheduled for October, which will be devoted to "Natural disasters, epidemics, clericalism, anticlericalism". Our contacts appreciated our responsiveness.

This situation has forced us to note the great delay in the digitization of our archives and the need to make up for this delay, at least partially.

Strength and efficiency (within our means) are elements that have allowed us to operate during this difficult period.

Jean-Marc Schiappa, Chairman