

INASP Review and Highlights 2008

Communication, Knowledge and Networks for Sustainable and Equitable Development

Message from INASP's Executive Director, Tag McEntegart

Notwithstanding the enormity of the international debt crisis and the way that it will continue to work its way through the international development 'bloodstream' in 2009, INASP's work in 2008 was marked by significant achievement. This is testimony to the excellent track record achieved in the previous five years and the credibility and reputation thus gained by and for the work, especially through the first 'generation' of PERI and through the development of and by the global network of INASP partners.

As a result, in 2008, INASP secured five years of core funding for PERii from a multi-lateral group of funders -DFID, NORAD, and Sida- acting together in a harmonised way. Key to this is INASP's emphasis on an internationally centred network, strengthened by the PERii Steering Committee and an international Board of Trustees, which has incorporated members of the former International Advisory Panel.

INASP has also taken important steps towards achieving a better balance of the use of staff time and, appropriately and proportionately, as an organisation, meeting its leadership, management and its internal/external accountability obligations.

We believe that the challenges and opportunities ahead will bring out the imaginative and the innovative in us all, especially that which gets us turning outwards to connect globally with professional developing world colleagues.

I warmly acknowledge the efforts of all INASP's staff and Country Coordinators to give no ground, even when the prevailing conditions are getting tougher. Your dedication, together with that of our trustees, advisors, partners, funders and those we serve, are enabling our work still to 'seize the day'. In anticipation of a fantastic set of 'next steps', my thanks go to you all.



"It was my first time attending an INASP workshop. I had a vague idea about how resources were being acquired etc. I however have full knowledge now and know our position (as a consortium) and my responsibility as a member of the consortium in regard to acquiring e-resources."

Workshop Participant, 2008

Country Partnerships and Coordination

Key activities 2008:

- Ongoing partnership with 22 partner countries, supported by jointly agreed documentation and regular phone conversations
- 9 Peer Exchanges
- Annual Steering Committee meeting with 19 partner countries represented

In 2008, we worked with 22 partner countries: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Key to this work is effective INASP/CC team and CC team/CC team relationships. PERii nurtures these via: INASP-CC team conference calls, an e-discussion forum, peer exchange visits, face-to-face meetings when INASP/CCs are visiting partner countries/UK, and the annual Steering Committee (SC) meeting.

In 2008, two Ethiopian colleagues attended the UKSG conference in the UK, two Rwandan colleagues visited Kenya to learn more about setting up and developing a successful library consortium; four colleagues from the library and research section of the Ugandan Parliament visited counterparts in the Nigerian Parliament to share best practice on providing balanced advice and information on science and technology; and a Kenyan colleague participated in the first Steering Committee meeting of the new INASP/Association of Commonwealth Universities initiative: Publishers for Development (PfD).

The 2008 SC meeting was hosted in Oxford, UK. CCs and INASP staff planned together for PERii, using the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation tool Outcome Mapping, and reflected on country-specific information shared via posters developed by each country and INASP. Having a visual representation of the situation in each country/programme area provided useful insights and lesson learning. Additionally, INASP hosted visits from representatives from Mozambique, Nepal (who had been unable to attend the SC meeting), Nicaragua and Pakistan.

An electronic survey circulated to all CC teams and INASP staff concluded that the annual Steering Committee meeting should be held alternately in the UK and a different partner country, and the 2009 meeting will be hosted by the Bangladesh CC team in Dhaka.



"The [SC meeting] facilitated sharing of experience from different parts of the world and this was indeed very helpful in solving some of the problems we experience at home. I was able to discuss our problems with various [INASP] officers face to face...The resource person was out of ordinary. He tactfully made us come up with all the solutions many of which we had but were not aware of"

CC Steering Committee meeting participant, May 2008

Evidence Informed Policy Making

In 2008 a strategic partnership was formed with the UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) to carry out joint activities to strengthen the capacity of African Parliaments to handle science and technology issues.

POST, an internal office of the UK's Houses of Parliament, has been providing advice and support to UK parliamentarians for over 20 years. The POST Africa project, which started in 2007 and is funded by the Gatsby charitable foundation, aims to strengthen the capacity of African parliaments to handle policy issues relating to Science and Technology (S&T). Activities have been centred on the Parliament of Uganda.

In the initial stages of the POST Africa programme, a brainstorming meeting was held with Members of Parliament (MPs), parliamentary staff and representatives of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS) to discuss what challenges MPs face in handling S&T, and to identify and outline what could help strengthen the Ugandan parliament's capacity to deal with S&T issues.

Activities in the first year were designed to address issues discussed. These included: an MP-scientist pairing scheme aimed to build links between MPs and scientists, while staff training activities aimed to improve the quality of science information available to MPs. In addition, a baseline study was initiated to deepen understanding of how science and technology are currently dealt with in parliament. The results of this study will inform planning of future capacity strengthening activities.

In partnership with POST, INASP aims to sustain and develop the activities which have been initiated in the Parliament of Uganda and to pilot activities in collaboration with other African parliaments. POST and INASP jointly recruited Dr



"...the small grant programme has decentralized INASP training activities and set up outreach programmes to members of institutions...who would not have been covered. We request, if possible, the numbers of grant awardees' be increase so to maximize training"

Local organiser/facilitator of 2008 Kenya workshop

ICT Training

The ICT training programme area continued to focus on training stakeholders to support the end-users. In 2008, this primarily involved working with networks of researchers and information professionals to ensure that the researchers have the knowledge and skills required to access and use all of the e-resources that are available to them. We prioritised:

- activities that demonstrate direct engagement and outreach with bodies of researchers in partner countries that are organised and run at a local level
- ensuring that all partner countries have had the opportunity to participate in the full range of training workshops
- identifying new training and support needs that partners have, working to respond to requests where common or important needs and themes are identified
- offers of support to workshops that reach institutions away from the main centres of excellence
- supporting training that helps countries move towards sustainability, for example in their licensing and negotiations with publishers



Key achievements 2008

- Over 3,500 participants from around 600 institutions attended one or more of 136 workshops
- Of the total number of workshops, 76% (104) were country-led
- Developed two new sets of training materials covering 'Bandwidth management and optimisation for university and research libraries' and 'Strategic bandwidth management'
- Laid groundwork for implementation of pilot 'Online health information master trainers' programme' in Vietnam
- Growth of pool of skilled facilitators in partner countries, with 19 people taking on the role for the first time in 2008
- Partnership with the UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology to train parliamentary librarians in the use and management of e-resources for policy makers

Participants in the training events continue to evaluate them very positively, with 95% of those surveyed 6 months after the training saying they had applied elements of the training in their work.

Library Development

Key achievements in 2008

- Supported curriculum development workshops in Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda
- Supported representatives from ten partner countries to participate in the UNESCO Information Literacy workshop in South Africa
- Institutional repository development support in Bangladesh
- Supported representatives from six partner countries to participate in a DSpace workshop

There is a growing interest in institutional repositories and the digitisation of local content. In these areas, PERii has funded an institutional repository development in BRAC University in Bangladesh; and sponsored six librarians to attend a DSpace workshop in Pretoria, South Africa. Following this workshop three of the six attendees submitted applications to PERii to organise and facilitate institutional repository workshops within their own institution. A workshop on DSpace was also conducted in Ghana will several more planned for 2009.

In addition to core training activities, small grants have been available to support innovative projects and the publication of library research. Interesting proposals have included: the development of a theses database; the development of a digital botanical database; and the development of an e-reference service.

Support of professional associations and the publication of their conference proceedings have both been long-standing activities for INASP. In July INASP sponsored the Standard Conference of National and University Libraries of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (SCANUL-ECS) pre-conference in Lusaka, Zambia and participated in the biennial Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL) convention.



Information Delivery

Key achievements for 2008

- 7 new publishers/aggregators participating in PERii, bringing the total to 68 high-quality academic resources from 52 publishers
- Resource use continued to reflect a greater understanding and awareness of what is available, increasing information literacy and developing infrastructure
- Number of institutions registered increased to 1,111
- Percentage contribution to costs from countries has increased year on year as self-funding mechanisms develop
- Recruitment of 2 new staff members strengthened publisher relationships and supported work on a new country coordinators space on the website and the Publishers for Development (PfD) initiative

The number of journals and databases available via PERii has increased year on year. Looking at full-text titles alone, between 2002-2008 there has been an increase from 10,680 to 31,863. The 2008 collection includes e-books in addition to the previous e-journal collections. In addition to these full-text articles there is a very wide range of abstract databases and discounted access to document delivery via the 20,000 journals of the British Library. INASP also maintains a list of relevant complementary initiatives and free and open access materials.

Historically, hard science has been the main focus, but subject-specific resources (including specific requests for law, humanities, computer studies and economics) are now being requested. This is largely because the coverage of other disciplines is good and the feedback from consortium members is widening as new stakeholders are joining and being consulted.



One part of this work is advocacy with international publishers, so they are mindful of developing country needs when working with initiatives like PERii or directly with librarians and researchers in-country.

To further this, we are newly cooperating with the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) to develop a publisher forum (PfD) to improve communication and discussion among publishers' concerning known issues (access, connectivity, software) in developing countries, successes and initiatives and challenges while giving a supportive space in which to ask questions find information about the key issues as needed. This forum also encourages a two-way dialogue with librarians by feeding outcomes/requesting input from the networks in which they are already active.

Publishing Support

Key achievements in 2008

- Sri Lanka and the Philippines JOLs set up
- African Journals OnLine (AJOL) has secured funding from the Ford Foundation
- Writing skill, JOL use and management, and strategic publishing workshops/seminars involved 144 participants from 39 institutions
- AuthorAID website attracted 9,246 visits from 145 countries
- Successful collaboration with the Public Knowledge Project (PKP), Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA), the Digital Himalaya Project and Emerald



The Journals Online (JOLs) component of PERii supports peer-reviewed journals from developing and emerging countries in getting published online, so that researchers can access knowledge and contribute their own articles. The aim is to put research from developing and emerging countries firmly on the international map and in 2008 PERii helped to raise the visibility, access and use of over 450 journals from Bangladesh, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and 26 countries in Africa. This resulted in over 890,000 papers from developing and emerging countries being downloaded by researchers across the globe.

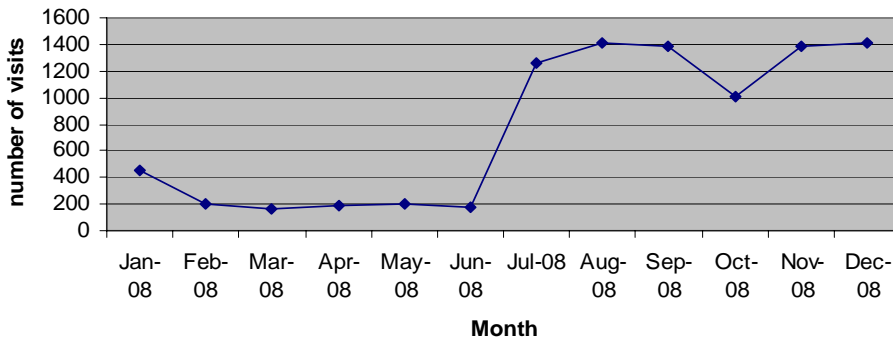
"As soon as we got into PhilJOL, the number of submissions has increased significantly. The increase is so significant, that I am considering suggesting to our publisher that we increase the number of issues per year from 2 to 3. The quality of the submissions has also improved!"

Editor, Asia-Pacific Education Researcher

PERii also supports individual publishers and editors, via a range of support such as publishing workshops to share best practice, and authors through online mentoring, outreach workshops, resource libraries and discussion forums via AuthorAID.



Visits to AuthorAID website over time



As with the other programme areas, researchers, editors and publishers can download materials for all our publishing support activities at no cost, and adapt and apply them to their own circumstances.

"Most of the participants agree that the information they got during the workshops will contribute in the activities they develop at their institutions. It will contribute in writing scientific papers, in designing and presenting posters and oral presentations, and in improving internal publications at their institutions."

Evaluation report of AuthorAID workshop

INASP Management and Coordination

Since September 2007, when Tag McEntegart took up the post of Executive Director, there have been a number of important changes in the approach to and the shape of how INASP manages and coordinates itself and its work. Among other benefits, these changes allowed INASP stakeholders (strategic leadership, trustees, institutional/organisational partners, directly employed staff) to become more involved in the implementation, growth and development of its vision and mission. Thus, 'INASP' is not the Oxford office and its staff but the combination of its professional collaborators and the work done by us all.

What has emerged from this period of evolutionary change is an organisation that more accurately reflects and uses the relationships that INASP is involved in, with a more streamlined organisational structure that successfully focuses the energy and passion that is clearly possessed by our staff and the professional colleagues in our partner countries.



The Executive and Programme Directors remain responsible for the day-to-day management of the organisation, reporting to the Board of Trustees. In June 2008, the Board of Trustees completed its merger with the International Advisory Panel (IAP), bringing into trusteeship those members of the IAP still serving terms of office. This extends the advisory responsibilities to encompass the full rights that come with Board membership.

INASP has also made considerable progress in developing environmental policies and practice. This includes: recycling and utilising recycled products; buying Fair-trade; encouraging energy conservation; using Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) approved suppliers for organisational publications; minimising foreign travel; using the carbon offsetting programme of our travel agency.

¹ - Joined in 2008 ² - Left in 2008

Staff

- Martin Belcher:
Head of ICT Training
- Lucy Browse:
Head of Information Delivery
- Colby Benari¹:
Implementation Officer
- Peter Burnett¹:
Head of Library Development
- Sioux Cumming:
Programme Officer, Publishing Support
- Liam Finnis¹:
Communications Coordinator
- Caroline Good:
Finance Manager (Maternity Leave)
- Sara Gwynn:
Director of Programmes
- Sian Hodges¹:
Subscriptions and Finance Officer
- Tag McEntegart:
Executive Director
- Julianne Porter¹:
Programme Officer, Information Delivery
- Anne Powell:
Programme Officer, Information Delivery
- Rebecca Priestley:
Programme Officer, Programme Development
- Lee Reszeter²:
Administration and ICT Manager
- Colin Robertson²:
Communications Officer
- Trish Sheehan:
Programme Officer, ICT Training
- Anne Tester¹:
Finance Manager (Maternity Cover)
- Julie Walker:
Head of Publishing Support

¹ - Stepped down during or at the end of 2008

² - Joined Board of Trustees in merger

Board of Trustees:

- Robert Campbell (Chair)
- John Feather
- Sir George Radda
- Ian Russell
- Carthage Smith
- Ling Thompson

International Advisory Panel:

- N. Mukunda (Chair)²
- Gagik Gurzadyan¹
- Dominique Hounkonnou¹
- Teame Mebrahtu²
- Graciela Muñoz¹
- Kay Raseroka²
- Praditta Siripan¹

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2008 £	As restated Total Funds 2007 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities:				
Project Income	1,000,024	1,769,289	2,769,313	2,621,240
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds:				
Investment income and interest	55,975	-	55,975	61,447
Total Incoming Resources	1,055,999	1,769,289	2,825,288	2,682,687
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable Programmes	958,542	1,892,446	2,850,988	2,464,753
Costs of generating funds	-	-	-	5,700
Governance costs	14,830	-	14,830	54,797
Total Resources Expended	973,372	1,892,446	2,865,818	2,525,250
Net Incoming Resources				
Net income for the year	82,672	(123,157)	(40,530)	157,437
Movement in Funds				
Total funds at 1 January 2008 as restated	976,578	520,753	1,488,331	1,362,528
Prior year adjustment in respect of opening funds	-	-	-	(31,634)
Total Funds at 31 December 2008	1,050,205	397,596	1,477,801	1,488,331

	2008 £	As re- stated 2007 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	28,943	45,272
Current Assets		
Debtors	1,359,838	1,723,212
Cash at bank and in hand	991,814	1,382,678
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	(932,794)	(1,662,833)
Net Current Assets	1,418,858	1,433,057
Net Assets	1,447,801	1,488,331
Unrestricted Funds	1,050,205	967,578
Restricted Funds	397,596	520,753
Total Funds	1,447,801	1,488,331

About INASP

INASP focuses on communication, knowledge and networks, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing and emerging countries. We respond to their national priorities for:

- access to national and international scholarly information and knowledge
- capacities to use, create, manage and communicate scholarly information and knowledge via appropriate ICTs
- national, regional and international co-operation, networking and knowledge exchange

We also advise and advocate for improved policy and practice in achieving sustainable and equitable development.

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