Review and Highlights 2007
Enabling worldwide access to information and knowledge

2007 Key Achievements

- 96 training events in 15 countries with 83% managed and implemented by national partners
- Over 2,000 librarians, ICT professionals, publishers and researchers from around 400 institutions were trained
- Over 350 developing country journals (27,000+ abstracts) were made available online from Africa, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Nepal
- Free and deeply discounted access to cross-discipline e-journals, e-books and databases from 48 international academic publishers and aggregators enabled
- 989 institutions registered for e-resource access with over 2 million full-text research papers downloaded via IP

Publishing support workshop,
Malawi,
January 2007

"PERI has indeed brought about a dramatic revolution in the availability of resources for research. This has given a great boost to existing researchers, encouraged new and young people to engage in research, pushed the libraries and even network administrators to modernize their outlook, and has laid the foundation of a nationwide consortium of libraries. The usage statistics have surpassed our imagination by a very wide margin."

Member, Country Coordination Committee, Bangladesh INASP-PERI Consortium
(June 2007)

Message from INASP's Executive Director, Tag McEntegart

The advent of the internet has provided unprecedented opportunities and models for communicating information and playing 'midwife' to new knowledge, including that which is vital to research. Over the last fifteen years, INASP has successfully worked with stakeholders in many partner countries to take advantage of these developments and enable improved access to and dissemination of valuable scholarly information and knowledge.

Rapidly evolving technologies are creating new challenges, opportunities, roles and synergies in developing and emerging countries. Based on its experience, global networks, professional structures and systems, INASP is in an excellent position to help address these emerging needs and possibilities, and to facilitate active participation in the global communication of information and knowledge in the interests of sustainable and equitable development in and of the South.

Strategically, the year has been orientated around identification of and preparation for a new phase of work which seeks to link its ground-breaking grassroots networking with partner countries into advocacy and influence with decision makers and policy groups. This will further the goal that **sustainable, global research communication networks improve the uptake, influence and use of research** and thus contribute to democracy, good governance and poverty reduction.

2007 was a year of considerable change for INASP. Not the least of which, having done a small amount of consultancy work with INASP earlier in the year, I was appointed to take on the challenge and responsibility of becoming its new director.

Since starting work as an INASP staff member in September, my aim has been threefold:

- to prove in practice that INASP progress in its ability to provide a high quality service to all with whom it works
- to stabilise and create the best possible conditions for INASP's staff and its work
- to play an active role in advancing INASP's strategic partnerships

As a signal of the increasing shift of sustainability of the work from North to South, the year ended with a decision in principle by the Board of Trustees to merge itself with our International Advisory Panel, a decision which will come to fruition in 2008.

I am indebted, especially in this, my first year, to the dedication and commitment of INASP's staff and Country Co-ordinators, who, together with our trustees, advisors, partners, funders and those we serve, make our work so productive and worthwhile. My thanks go to you all and I'm greatly looking forward to 2008.

Information Delivery
Negotiations with leading scholarly publishers on behalf of INASP's partner countries continue to expand and 7 new publishers joined PERI during 2007. Library consortia in several partner countries continue to grow and become stronger, enabling colleagues to focus collectively on areas such as budget allocation, collection development, collaborative purchase and renewal of resource subscriptions.

Usage statistics provided by some of the publishers are becoming more and more useful to library consortia. Analysis of these statistics encourages decisions on resource renewals to be based on real needs. During 2007 over 85% of subscriptions were covered by funding from partner countries themselves — an important step towards sustainability and a clear signal that access to information is increasingly receiving the recognition it deserves around the world.

During 2008 INASP will explore working with more publishers, and across a wider range of subjects. This is based on requests from partner countries, eager for the needs of their research community to be met.

Country coordination and sharing experiences
INASP works with over twenty partner countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Each of these countries has a Country Coordinator (CC) - someone from that country who is familiar with the context of information and knowledge, such as a university librarian or someone based at a relevant government ministry. Many countries have adopted a team approach to the coordination of activities, to share the responsibilities that this role involves.

'Working Together to Support Research' workshop, Bolivia

Much can be learned from the wealth of experience within these countries. Peer exchange visits are based on this idea and can involve South→North visits such as Kenyan and Malawian colleagues attending the annual UK Serials Group conference in 2007. Learning between partner countries takes place through South→South visits. For example, two members of the Tanzanian library consortium, COTUL, visited Kenya to learn more about the Kenyan consortium, KLISC. While no two countries are exactly alike, there is often valuable learning to share, and adapting solutions already tried and tested by others ensures that there is less duplication of effort.

In 2008 INASP will work with its partner countries to support them in the formation of CC teams so that different expertise can be integrated and form a strengthened whole. It will also aim to encourage more peer exchange visits so that experiences continue to be shared between colleagues from different countries.

Publishing support
As well as ensuring that developing countries can access research conducted around the world, INASP also supports initiatives that increase the quality and visibility of research carried out in those countries.

One such initiative has been the Journals OnLine (JOL) projects which began with the highly successful African Journals OnLine (AJOL) and has now expanded to include some Asian countries. During 2007, three new JOLs (for Bangladesh, Nepal and Vietnam) were officially launched and initial statistics provided by Google Analytics have been very encouraging.

Journals Online service	N^o journals	N^o ToCs	N^o articles	N^o full text articles	N^o downloads	N^o visits to website	N^o countries accessing
Bangladesh	13	27	464	239	8,063	4,424	125
Nepal	8	48	650	313	34,102	9,044	151
Vietnam	16	44	473	325	30,497	7,774	107
Total	**37**	**119**	**1587**	**877**	**72,662**	**21,242**	

There is a serious (and growing) under-representation within the scientific literature of authors closest to the challenges that beset the developing world. The lack of their voices and their research potentially weakens progress towards poverty reduction. A new pilot project, AuthorAID, seeks to address issues surrounding scientific writing through mentoring support for early career researchers. Links have been established with the International Foundation for Science, The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (WHO) and the National University of Rwanda and the project will continue to develop during 2008.

International Network **INASP**
for the Availability of Scientific Publications

> "The workshop training packages are well organized. The content is very relevant. The language used for the materials is also very easy to understand for a second language speaker."
>
> Local facilitator's report, 'Introduction to Using the Internet workshop', Mekelle University, Ethiopia

Electronic journals workshop
Mekelle, Ethiopia, 2007

ICT Training

Training librarians and researchers in the management, use, and promotion of electronic information resources is one way in which INASP strengthens all aspects of information use and access.

The travelling methodology used for workshops (see http://www.inasp.info/file/417/travelling-workshop-methodology.html for more details) ensures that skills for delivering such training are also developed. In 2007 alone, 96 workshops were delivered in ICT Training. While some (16) were led by INASP or experts from other countries, the majority (80) were national or institutional workshops, organised and facilitated by the research, ICT and library communities in partner countries.

A pilot project of small grants was introduced in 2007, and has enabled a larger number of events to take place with significantly lower workshops costs and higher numbers of participants reached, frequently from outside the main institutions. Many of the workshop facilitators who applied for small grants had previously participated in INASP workshops and wanted to share what they had learned with a wider group of people.

Working in such a wide range of countries means that training needs to be delivered in different languages. In 2007, workshops were delivered in English, French, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Workshops materials from the INASP website enable even more opportunities for training in these areas to take place. There were over 5,200 registrations to download these materials during 2007.

During 2008, INASP will continue to encourage locally led and organised workshops, based on locally identified needs. It is also important to continue to support research institutions away from the main centres of excellence in partner countries so that the capacity of the whole country is strengthened.

Library development

Libraries around the world face new challenges as they work increasingly with electronic information and in a fast-paced and changing environment. Libraries in the South are determined to develop the skills and capacities needed in this information society and so projects around the digital library in its many incarnations are those where INASP concentrated its efforts during 2007.

Three digital library small grants were disbursed for projects in Bangladesh, Malawi and Tanzania. BRAC University in Bangladesh worked on setting up an institutional repository to preserve and allow access to the knowledge base of the university. Bunda College, University of Malawi, applied to digitize important Malawiana content and then bring them together in a digital repository using Greenstone software. The University of Dar es Salaam completed a project to implement electronic reference services in part to increase electronic resource usage in the university and to meet the demand of new distance-learning students.

Another area in which INASP has offered ongoing support during 2007 has been in the development of Library and Information Science (LIS) curricula. Developments are needed in many LIS curricula to reflect the changed and changing role of librarians, and the skills that are now needed to perform this role. After an initial workshop during 2006, a further event took place in 2007 to work in more detail on the curriculum.

With a new Head of Library Development due to begin in January, 2008 will be a period of renewal and revitalisation for this area of work.

Nepal Journals OnLine (NepJOL) workshop, September 2007

> "Thank you for valuable contribution to Nepalese Journals. Most of the authors have downloaded their article (vol-5) through www.nepjol.info and they are pleased with us and we are very much pleased with you and entire INASP team."
>
> Kamal Maden, Editor of Our Nature journal, Nepal

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About INASP

Enabling worldwide access to information and knowledge

The mission of INASP is to enable worldwide access to information and knowledge with particular emphasis on the needs of developing and transitional countries. Established in 1992, we work with partners around the world to encourage the creation and production of information, to promote sustainable and equitable access to information, to foster collaboration and networking and to strengthen local capacities to manage and use information and knowledge.

We act as an enabler, connecting worldwide information and expertise. Working through networks of partners, we aim to strengthen the ability of people in developing and transitional countries to access and contribute information, ideas and knowledge. In particular we seek to:

● Improve access to scientific and scholarly information ● Catalyse and support local publication and information exchange ● Strengthen local capacities to manage and use information and knowledge ● Foster in-country, regional and international cooperation and networking ● Advise local organisations and agencies on ways to utilise information and publishing to achieve development goals.

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