

## Review and Highlights 2006

Enabling worldwide access to information and knowledge

### 2006 Key Achievements

- 887 institutions registered for e-resource access with over 1 million full-text research papers downloaded via IP
- African Journals OnLine: 264 titles available (including 73 that are available full text online, and 18 that are Open Access); Vietnam Journals OnLine: 14 journals, 11 issues, 125 articles; Nepal Journals OnLine: 23 journals, 34 issues, 417 articles
- 761 librarians and researchers from 345 organisations attended 42 training events in 14 countries; at least 340 people from 104 institutions attended local follow up workshops
- Workshop materials downloaded from the INASP website were used by at least 76 individuals to train at least 2359 others
- 14 publishing-related workshops were supported with over 200 participants



Group work at the INASP/ODI Symposium  
November 2006

### INASP Coordination

The founding Director of INASP, Carol Priestley, stepped down from this role at the end of June to take on a new position within the organisation as Head of Special Projects. Anne Luetcke was recruited as the Interim Executive Director of INASP, with the goal of appointing a new Executive Director in 2007. Anne began a period of internal reshaping so as to provide the staff, systems and strategic direction that were needed to take the organisation forward into its next phase.

In addition to the appointment of a new Executive Director, 2007 looks as though it will be a year full of change and development for INASP. The organisation will complete a move to a new office and the first funding phase of the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI) will be coming to a close at the end of the year. With this in mind, work will continue on a funding proposal for PERI's second phase, reflecting how INASP's core competencies can help meet the demand from stakeholders.

### INASP Stakeholder Meeting and Symposium

As a needs-led organisation, INASP regularly asks its key stakeholders for input into its strategy and programmes. A stakeholders meeting was held in November 2006 involving representatives from INASP's primary stakeholder communities: researchers, librarians, publishers, journal editors, and ICT professionals. The group reviewed INASP activities to date and considered what had worked well and should be continued or developed further, and what had worked less well and therefore should be modified or stopped. They also thought about the current key topics in INASP's sphere of work in order to feed into the strategy for the next few years of INASP's work.

The biennial INASP symposium was held jointly with the Overseas Development Institute and focused on the area of Research Policy, particularly looking at evidence-based policy making. Around 90 people took part in the event, from a variety of different countries. The key note speakers were Dr Syeda Tanveer Kausar Naim of COMSTECH in Pakistan and Duncan Green, Head of Research at Oxfam GB. Presentations came from Argentina, Bangladesh, Cuba, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, and the UK.

## Information Delivery

During 2006, 25 new publishers and aggregators joined PERI in order to provide their electronic resources to developing country institutions at vastly reduced subscription rates. This has significantly increased the choice and range of scientific, technical, medical and humanities information available to countries. The addition of databases has also strengthened the choice of information resources.

Côte d'Ivoire, Lesotho and Madagascar became active members of PERI and resource selections have been made by these countries.

A new area of training was developed and rolled out to five countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The workshops focussed on sustainability in this area of work with sessions on understanding publisher licences and negotiating for realistic subscription rates. The training was and will be continually evaluated in order that it meets the needs of the participants.

Sarah Durrant, Head of Information Delivery, left INASP in 2006 in order to return to full-time education. Lucy Barton was appointed to take on this role and joined INASP in September. She has ten years experience of sales and marketing within a variety of publishing environments and has worked closely with library communities in previous positions.

I am very [excited] about this opportunity [to participate in PERI] as are my colleagues. Finding relevant databases for humanitarian international work is always difficult. Finding your group by chance through a Google search made my day. I will definitely spread the word.

*Researcher, Rwanda, August 2006*

## Enhancing ICT Skills

This year was one of growth and expansion in the area of ICT training. An increase in staff in 2005 provided real opportunities for further development and consolidation of current practices during 2006, as well as greater specialisation of skills in key areas.

There was also an increase in local training capacity with 12 people facilitating or co-facilitating a travelling PERI workshop for the first time in 2006.

Training materials requested by partners on the subject of monitoring and evaluation of electronic resources were developed and several workshops using these materials were held. There are now over 75 PERI workshop units available for free via a Creative Commons licence on the INASP website. During 2006 there were 3,234 individual registrations to download these materials.

The main focus for 2007 will be to ensure local ownership and management of activities following on from initial workshops.



Licensing and Negotiation Skills workshop, Uganda



E-resources workshop, Sri Lanka

## Strengthening National Research Publication

Many journals produced in developing countries remain invisible to the global research community. The aim of a Journals OnLine (JOL) service is to increase participation of journals from developing and emerging countries within the global research and academic community. African Journals OnLine (AJOL) has continued to develop throughout 2006 and has become well-established with its new management in South Africa. New JOLs were set up for Vietnam and Nepal, and initial workshops have been held in these countries. Some content has been loaded and the aim is that the websites will be officially launched during 2007.

Discussions took place with CrossRef and the JOL developers, PKP, so that by the end of the year both JOLs had also been accepted as members of CrossRef. This means that all articles are assigned Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) as part of the JOL system and these can be exported to the CrossRef database to enable linking with references around the world. Discussions have also been initiated with a Vietnamese librarian regarding a translated version of the Vietnamese JOL.

The initiators of a programme called AuthorAID that seeks to help researchers in developing and emerging countries to communicate their work more effectively, decided to work with INASP to develop the concept into a full proposal. Work on this will continue in 2007.

As well as workshops facilitated by INASP staff, support was also given for publishing training in Latin America through the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO) and Latindex. These workshops took place in Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua. INASP also contributed a chapter to a book entitled 'Edición electrónica, bibliotecas virtuales y portales para las ciencias sociales en América Latina y El Caribe', ('Electronic publishing, virtual libraries and portals for the social sciences in Latin America and the Caribbean') produced to support members of the CLACSO network.

## Research and Development

The main focus during 2006 was the continued research into the appropriateness of the Electronic Library Information Navigator (ELIN) system as a suitable single search interface for accessing e-resources from low bandwidth environments.

Another key activity was the authoring and publication of the extensive and much demanded bandwidth management handbook 'How to Accelerate Your Internet: A practical guide to Bandwidth Management and Optimisation using Open Source Software'. This was made available for free download online and there were 6,210 downloads in the first two months of publication (November and December 2006).

In order to share experiences between countries, two digital library case studies were published: 'Accessing Electronic Information: A study of Pakistan's Digital Library' and 'Building a Digital Library at the University of Zimbabwe'.

There will be continued support of ELIN@PERI applications during 2007 to gain further understanding of how ELIN in particular, and single search interfaces in general, can aid access to information within INASP partner countries.

## Bandwidth Management and Optimisation (BMO)

The aim of this programme is to develop institutional capacities, within targeted African universities, to effectively manage and optimise bandwidth.

During 2006, there were 21 workshops with over 350 participants, covering a variety of topics such as BMO policy development, network traffic monitoring and analysis, and web caching.

INASP also undertook a number of activities during this period aimed at raising the profile of the BMO programme, and the importance of BMO policies and activities within educational and research institutions.

[The INASP newsletter] has topical issues that will be very educative and helpful in the performance of my duties as the automation librarian.

*Henrietta Otokunfor, Automation Librarian, University of Port Harcourt Library, Nigeria*

Curriculum development workshop, Tanzania



Bandwidth Management and Optimisation workshop, Nepal

## Library Development Programme

This programme concentrated efforts in the area of Library and Information Science (LIS) curriculum development. The aim of this project is to work with LIS schools to develop and update curricula in view of the developments in digital libraries. This involves reviewing existing curricula, identifying areas where new courses need to be developed, identifying areas where LIS staff need to acquire new knowledge and skills in order to provide new or updated courses, and then providing opportunities for this skill enhancement to take place.

Another focus for the programme was on Information Literacy (IL), in conjunction with UNESCO's Information for All Programme (IFAP). Workshops took place in Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan in order to introduce participants to concepts of IL and to collaboratively develop strategies for the implementation of IL programmes within participants' organisations.

INASP attended the SCECSAL conference and presented a paper entitled "Beacons of the Information Society: Information Literacy Training and Transition in the South Caucasus" at the SCANUL-ECS conference in Tanzania.

## Special Projects

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation selected INASP to administer their 2007 Access To Learning Award (ATLA). INASP was responsible for publicising the Award through its wide network of contacts, and will be involved in the initial review of applications received.

The foundation also approached INASP to undertake research in Asia and Latin America to gain a deeper understanding of the situation of public access to information through ICT.



PERI Sensitisation workshop, Honduras

## Staff

<sup>1</sup> - Joined in 2006   <sup>2</sup> - Left in 2006

<sup>3</sup> - Changed role during 2006

Lucy Barton<sup>1</sup>: Head of Information Delivery

Martin Belcher: Head of ICT Training

Manuela Bianco: Instructional Design Officer

Vanessa Butt<sup>2</sup>: Administrative Assistant

Jeanette Cowley<sup>2</sup>: Finance Officer

Sioux Cumming: Programme Officer, Publishing Support

Sarah Durrant<sup>2</sup>: Head of Information Delivery

Sara Gwynn<sup>3</sup>: PERI Coordinator → Director of Programmes

Chris Hagar<sup>1</sup>: Head of Library Development

Anne Luetcke<sup>1</sup>: Interim Executive Director

Gwyneth Morgan: Training Associate

Anne Powell: Programme Officer, Information Delivery

Carol Priestley<sup>3</sup>: Director → Head of Special Projects

Rebecca Priestley<sup>1</sup>: Programme and Events Officer

Diana Rosenberg: Adviser

Trish Sheehan: Training Administrator

Pippa Smart: Head of Publishing Support

Egbert de Smet: Programme Manager, ICT Training

Nicki Sutherland<sup>1</sup>: Director of Finance and Admin

Pru Watts-Russell<sup>2</sup>: Programme Officer

Gemma Woodburn<sup>1</sup>: Administrative Assistant

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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 emerging countries. Established in 1992, in cooperation with ICSU, UNESCO, TWAS and AAAS, it was formalised as an ICSU Interdisciplinary Body in 2005. 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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