

INASP Review and Highlights 2005

Enabling Worldwide Access to Information and Knowledge

Established in 1992, INASP is an international development organisation working towards a world in which all people are able to access and contribute information, ideas and knowledge necessary to drive sustainable and equitable development. Our mission is to enable worldwide access to information and knowledge with particular emphasis on the needs of developing and transitional countries. We work with partners and networks around the world 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; advise local organisations and funding agencies on ways to utilise information and publishing to achieve development goals. This short document describes some of our key activities in 2005. More information is available by contacting us at the address on the final page.

Optimising Internet bandwidth

During the year, INASP training activities on bandwidth management and optimisation (BMO) began to accelerate. Following from the 'programme initiation, planning and collaborative design workshop' in April, two pilot workshops – one on 'network traffic monitoring and analysis', the other on 'policy development' – were run in Zambia. Content development began for workshops on 'open source tools and solutions' and 'web caching and other open source technical solutions'. Briefing packs on bandwidth optimisation were also developed – targeted to executive and senior managers and ICT managers.

The BMO programme aims to sensitise and train staff of research and academic institutions how to make more effective use of their costly Internet connections. Using modules developed through a collaborative materials development process, workshops will be run in Bolivia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

INASP also worked with Lund University on a low bandwidth version of their Electronic Library Information Navigator (ELIN). During 2005, four workshops were run to accompany the installation of the application in Pakistan, Rwanda, and Uganda.

More information: www.inasp.info/training/bandwidth/
www.inasp.info/peri/elin/

Revitalising libraries and library and information schools

Recognising the important role that libraries can play in facilitating access to information, INASP has long supported professional development and networking activities for librarians, especially in Africa.

As the impact and reach of the Internet has grown, we can see greater attention being given to the design and establishment of electronic, virtual or digital libraries (and the challenges like bandwidth optimisation they need to overcome). In 2005, most of our efforts in this area coalesced around work on the digital library in Africa.

The results of our 2004 study were published as a research report and as an InfoBrief. Discussions were held with librarians at several meetings and events around the world. A multi-year proposal was also developed to assist digital library development in Africa, Asia and Latin America – including specific attention to the curricula of library and information schools and how they can be updated.

We continued our support for regional associations of libraries in Africa, this year supporting the meeting of the Standing Conference of African University Libraries Western Area in Senegal. We also published a book with the Standing Conference of East, Central and Southern African Librarians: *User Information Literacy: case studies from university library programmes in the SCANUL-ECS region*.

More information: www.inasp.info/lsp/

Accessing research information

Extending developing country access to international and local research literature is a central goal of the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI). Services like African Journals OnLine have been further developed within PERI to make research findings from developing countries more visible and accessible to the worldwide community. We also assisted researchers and their libraries in 18 countries gain access to international scholarly information.

In 2005, we expanded the choice of international content available to countries by making a further 17 publisher services available through PERI. Over 20,000 full text journals plus many leading major reference works, reports and e-books were available by the end of 2005 as a consequence.

A major aim this year was to build on this access by exploring and promoting more effective use of resources – which also entailed obtaining more data on information users. To this end, we developed a series of PERI 'Access Support Packs' to assist researchers and librarians in fully exploiting the information resources available. We also improved PERI 'help' pages supporting registration, usernames, passwords, IP addresses, URLs, file downloading and opening, etc. Greater attention was also given to in-country marketing and promotion.

To prepare consortia for negotiations with international publishers, we developed and piloted a training course on 'Licensing and Negotiation Skills'. This will be further developed and delivered to consortia personnel in at least five countries during 2006.

Statistics kept by INASP show that researchers in the 18 countries together carried out 1,120,927 searches and downloaded over 794,000 full text articles (roughly 47% increase on 2004). This is partly attributable to a greater number of countries in PERI; more significant are the growing information capabilities of the institutions. 62% of downloads were from 400 registered institutions in Asia (an average of 1220 per institution); 25% of downloads were from Africa where 252 institutions averaged 812 downloads each; 12% were from 91 institutions in Latin America, averaging 1000 downloads each; and less than 2% were from the NIS (where PERI ceased activities during 2005) and where 38 registered institutions averaged 278 full text downloads.

Following discussions in 2004, we joined forces with other initiatives working in the 'journal access' sector. We undertook joint workshops in Ghana with eIFL and SIST, we co-presented with AGORA and HINARI, we ran training events with FAO and the WHO, and we are working on a joint web interface

which will serve as a gateway to all access programmes.

More information: www.inasp.info/peri/electronic.html

Information management training

Developing and delivering information and ICT training workshops are a key part of the PERI programme. A travelling methodology is used in which local resource persons co-facilitate and then facilitate a series of workshops in several countries.

In 2005, as part of PERI, we delivered 42 workshops in 13 countries, involving 671 people from 266 institutions. A key element in the success of these workshops has been the increase in local capacity with ten local resource persons facilitating or co-facilitating a travelling workshop for the first time.

New in 2005 were 'sector workshops' in health and agriculture that delved deeper into information resources management in these disciplines, a workshop on 'Licensing and Negotiation Skills' for library consortia wishing to build relations with publishers, and a workshop entitled 'Working Together to Support Research: Optimising the use of e-resources' that aims to improve and increase the use made of e-resources by researchers and improve the cooperation between librarians and researchers.

Beyond the actual delivery of these workshops, over 75 modules are also made available via a Creative Commons licence that encourages them to be re-used. In 2005, we recorded 1,886 downloads from our web site in this area.

More information: www.inasp.info/training/

Publishing scholarly information

Supporting publishers in developing countries to publish and disseminate their own research information is a critical aspect of our activities.

A major result during 2005 was the successful handing over of African Journals OnLine (AJOL) to African management. After an extensive tender process throughout 2004 and 2005, a suitable organisation was identified and the programme transferred to the newly formed non-profit organisation located in South Africa. Throughout this transfer the service continued to be available, and by the end of the year hosted 230 journals.

The AJOL model has proved to be of great interest to our partners and during the year we started to plan for an Asian Journals OnLine programme. In Latin America we worked with CLACSO, supporting the setting up of a journal publishing portal for member organisations and providing workshops for

librarians and editors on uploading and managing online publications.

Increasing the visibility and quality of publication requires development of skills and new working methodologies, and in response to this we organised strategic journal publishing workshops in Croatia, Ghana, Sri Lanka, and Uganda. We also supported a workshop on 'Improving the Quality of Library and Information Science Journals in West Africa' and one for University Presses in East Africa, and supported study tours to attend the Council of Science Editors annual conference in the USA, and the London Book Fair in the UK.

We continued to provide advice, and published several resources for editors and publishers on our web site. We co-published a book entitled *A Practical Guide to Bookselling* with CTA and, for UNESCO, we carried out a survey of opinions and understanding of Open Access and compiled a directory of information resources on this topic, available on CD and on the UNESCO web site.

To help ourselves develop better programmes, we undertook comprehensive evaluation of our African Journals full text online support, producing a report and feeding this into our 2006 planning.

More information: www.inasp.info/peri/jourpub.shtml
www.inasp.info/psi/

Sector information exchange

Since its inception, INASP has actively supported and facilitated information exchange and networking among information professionals and others working in development. In 2005, we continued to maintain the INASP database that has been built up over the years – and shared with the world through our print, online and CD directories of information resources in areas like health and rural development.

We also maintained and extended our health networking activities, adding a series of health information training activities in developing countries. In rural development, we also organised some national workshops and contributed to the 2005 World Congress of the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists.

In mid 2005, the Global Forum for Health Research decided to support the HIF-net discussion and information exchange platform. As part of the agreement, HIF-net will be used by the Global Forum as a tool to engage its partners and members discussing ways to close the 90/10 health gap.

A 'first' during 2005 was the organisation of a national health information training workshop in Tanzania. Co-organised by WHO Tanzania, AHILA, and INASP, this was also a first collaboration with

the International Network for Online Resources and Materials (INFORM) at Uppsala University with whom INASP is now collaborating in the delivery of a series of health information training events.

In agriculture and rural development, we organised rural sector workshops with partners in Tanzania and Ghana. We also collaborated with FAO in several activities and events – including a joint session at the science pre-meeting of the WSIS in Tunis and in an expert consultation in Rome in October.

As part of wider efforts to foster communication and collaboration across major international information access initiatives, we joined up with FAO (AGORA) and WHO (HINARI) in joint posters and stands; we also collaborated in joint activities with eIFL, the ACU, the SIST project of the French government, and others active in this area. Work began on a joint web site to introduce all the various initiatives.

More information: www.inasp.info/health/
www.inasp.info/rural/

Publications in 2005

Three issues of the INASP Newsletter were published. Other reports and articles published were:

- INASP. *INASP Strategic Framework 2005-2010*.
- INASP. *INASP Review and Highlights 2004*.
- INASP. *PERI Review 2001-2004. InfoBrief 4*.
- INASP. *Towards the Digital Library in Africa. InfoBrief 5*.
- INASP. *Journal Access Programmes in African University Libraries. InfoBrief 6*.
- Kiondo, E. and J. Msuya. *User Information Literacy: case studies from university library programmes in the SCANUL-ECS region*. Co-published with SCANUL-ECS.
- Orimalade, O. and B. Impey. *A Practical Guide to Bookselling*. Co-published with CTA.
- Rosenberg, D. *Towards the Digital Library: Findings of an investigation to establish the current status of university libraries in Africa*.
- Smart, P. *African Journals Online Programme (AJOPP) Programme Report*.

More information: <http://www.inasp.info/pubs>

Organisation and governance

In April 2005, the Board of Trustees approved the strategic framework that was developed in 2003 and 2004. Covering the years 2005-2010, it sets out the organisation's vision and mission, five areas of activity, and planned activities for the programme areas. The full document and a summary are on the INASP web site.

The Board met four times; the annual meeting in November was held together with the International Advisory Panel. During 2005, we were pleased to welcome two new Board members: Ms Ling Thompson, formerly of the Royal Society, and Professor John Feather, Professor of Library and Information Studies at Loughborough University. Dr Gagik Gurzadyan (Armenia) joined the International Advisory Board.

There were a number of staff changes during the year: Sara Gwynn was appointed coordinator of PERI; we were pleased to welcome Manuela Bianco (Instructional Design Officer), Vanessa Butt (Administrative Assistant, part time), Ali Coles, (Administrative Officer), Jeanette Cowley (Finance Officer), Chris Hagar (Head of Library Development), Trish Sheehan (Training Events Administrator), Egbert de Smet (Programme Manager, Training), and Nicki Sutherland (Director, Finance and Administration); Christopher Follett retired, and Peter Ballantyne, Acuarela Gutierrez and Sue Wright left.

INASP funders

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- Association of Commonwealth Universities
- Atlantic Philanthropies
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Department for International Development (DfID), UK
- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN
- Gibbs Trust
- Global Forum for Health Research
- Health Communications Exchange
- INTAS
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- Morel Trust
- National Academy of Sciences, US
- Norad (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation) of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)
- Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA)
- UNESCO
- VLIR-OUS (Flemish InterUniversity Council-University Development Cooperation)

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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