

ITOCA (Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa) is Africa's leading librarians training organization based in Africa. **ITOCA** is a capacity building organization aimed at enhancing information and communications technology (ICT) skills for African librarians, information specialists, scientists, researchers and students in Sub-Saharan Africa. Formerly, TEEAL Africa Office, **ITOCA** was established in Feb. 1999 as a marketing and support office for Cornell University's Albert R. Mann Library TEEAL programme for Africa. The organization, which has professionals in 3 countries (Nigeria, Uganda, and Zimbabwe) and liaison contacts in 35 African countries, has trained over 1,000 information professionals, in 33 Sub-Sahara Africa countries in the last seven years. **ITOCA**, with backstopping from the TEEAL and AGORA projects at Mann Library (Cornell University) and FAO, and the HINARI project at WHO, has a mandate to carry out outreach and training activities that promote the successful adoption and use of these three programs throughout Africa.

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TEEAL News

LanTEEAL Released

In direct response to the needs of our users, we are happy to announce LAN (Local Area Network) version of TEEAL called LanTEEAL. LanTEEAL allows multiple access to full content by clients connected to a network via a local server. With LanTEEAL, just a click on the link and you get a full article with no internet or compact disc hassles. LanTEEAL gives you instant access to over 2 million pages of literature from 114 journal titles. This system is delivered on a portable external 300 gigabyte hard disk. The external hard disk can easily be connected to the server via a standard USB port

LanTEEAL Costs

LanTEEAL costs \$3,500 USD. This price includes the 1993-3003 literature plus the installation software, external hard drive and shipping by air. Annual updates are available for \$500-1,000 USD. (Subscribers to the compact disc version of TEEAL should contact us for discounted prices)

2003 Annual Update Out

The 2003 update is now out. If you haven't made your order you can contact TEEAL Africa or send an email to TEEAL@cornell.edu.

American Phytopathological Association (APS) Journals added to TEEAL

The 2003 updates come with three new journal titles from APS covering the years 1997-2003. The added titles are:

- Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions
- Phytopathology
- Plant Disease

Outreach and Training

Capacity building and outreach are critical components of these initiatives that aim at ensuring that participating organizations can access and use these initiatives effectively. The training programmes have a 'train the trainer' approach which facilitates the cascading effect of skills learned as those trained are expected to go back to their institutions and train others. Through collaborative networks the training programmes have been made a reality by organizations that have traditionally supported capacity building in agricultural and health information in developing countries.

Training

The TEEAL Africa Office based in Harare under the multisectoral approach programme has to-date conducted training in Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. A total of 154 participants have so far been trained covering a diverse catchment from librarians, information managers, researchers to lecturers. These participants represent over 140 institutions drawn from these countries. Each training session has seen a marked increase in the number of institutions registering with AGORA and HINARI.

From the first workshop held in Harare, the modules have been modified and some added to meet the expectations of the participants. A module like Introduction to Computer Viruses was added at the request of participants.

These training programmes have received high level support from the hosting institutions and participants are full of praise for the training they received.

Forthcoming Outreach and Training

The TEEAL Africa Office Team will be on the road again to do more training and countries targeted for the second quarter of 2005 are: Malawi, Ethiopia, Mozambique. These workshops mark the start of AGORA/ HINARI Cross-Disciplinary Training in Agriculture and Health. To achieve the maximum impact possible, the primary approach taken will be to focus on training trainers: individuals who by virtue of their positions or advocacy for strengthened capacity building will be able to play an energetic role in ensuring that users in their institutions are made aware of AGORA and HINARI and taught to use these programs.

The Outreach trips for the first quarter will see visits to the following countries: Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and Congo Brazzaville

AGORA Training Video Released

The AGORA Training Video is now available on CD. Released in September 2004 the video aims at making AGORA training easier. The Video has five modules :

- Welcome to AGORA
- How to use AGORA
- How to use CAB Abstracts
- Navigating Publishers websites
- AGORA conditions of use

Each of the above five modules is a live presentation, incorporating live video instructions, screen shots and PowerPoint presentations. The Video simplifies the whole process of navigating the AGORA homepage, browsing journals and retrieval of the full-text articles. The technical requirements for the Video are just a web browser like Internet Explorer and RealGold Player (version 9) which can be downloaded from the CD.

The Video is an effective information literacy tool. It covers all the fourteen AGORA modules found on the Mann library site.

More Institutions Register for AGORA

Since its launch in October 2003, AGORA usage continues to grow exponentially. Researchers and students in 69 low-income eligible countries are now having access to the most recent, high quality and relevant literature in agriculture, contained in the over 700 full-text journals. Access to the up-to-date journals is an indispensable ingredient in the process of agricultural research and for the intellectual vitality of our scholars.

By the beginning of 2004 over 197 institutions in 47 countries had registered for AGORA. By the end of 2004, over 350 institutions in 53 countries had registered for AGORA. As of June 2005 more than 500 institutions are using AGORA in 56 countries and 60% are in Sub Saharan Africa. The over 3 000 hits a month on the AGORA website are a clear testimony of its high usage. TEEAL Africa Office's Outreach and Training programmes are contributing immensely in publicizing AGORA in Africa .

If your institution is not registered visit the AGORA Website and register today. Our registration team works round the clock to make sure your registration application is processed at the shortest possible time.

When registering for AGORA please make sure that you give all the requested information. Filling in all the requested information will expedite your registration process.

HINARI News

HINARI Training CD Released

The HINARI Training CD which was released in October

You can contact TEEAL Africa for more information on the forthcoming Outreach and Training programmes .

Focus on users

Tanzania's DRD TEEAL's biggest single consumer in Africa

Tanzania has a well developed research network in agriculture and related sciences established under the Department of Research and Development (DRD), Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. Eighteen specialized research centres dotted across the entire country are divided into seven country zones and each zone has an Information Centre manned by Information Liaison Officer who facilitates documentation of research output and information dissemination in the zone.

DRD has invested in information databases and ICT including computer network with widespread Internet infrastructure across almost all the 18 research stations to serve the 348 scientists under DRD according to Dr. Jeremiah M. Haki, Director of the DRD. DRD boasts of nine operational TEEAL systems giving access to full-text up-to-date journal literature to most of the researchers at the research stations.

In a speech read on his behalf the Honorable Charles Kenya (MP), Minister of Agriculture and Food Security during the closing ceremony of the AGORA/TEEAL Training Workshop in Tanzania had this to say about TEEAL and AGORA Projects "I appreciate your recognition of the complexity of the problems facing research in agriculture and related disciplines. I am not suggesting that ready access to information through the systems you had access to in this workshop (TEEAL/ AGORA) will provide a panacea...but I submit that these resources, if utilized properly, will play a significant role in increasing the quality and effectiveness of agricultural research, education and training [in Tanzania]".

Helpful Tips

Using the Browse Mode in TEEAL

In one of the surveys carried by TEEAL Africa an interviewee expressed that they did not like the Browse function because they did not know how to use it. Below is a brief explanation on how to use the Browse mode in TEEAL:

The Browse feature is one of the three modes of operation in TEEAL, others are Document and Citation List. This feature, which pulls up a 2-frame window, is used for browsing through the contents of the journals and then moving to Image View or Adobe Reader to view the full-text. The left hand frame with the list of journals is the contents frame, while the right hand frame is the document frame and contains the bibliographic citations. There are 3 options for browsing the journals:

Browsing the Articles - Click on the Book Icon on the left of the journal you wish to browse to expand it. Again click on the Book Icon on the left of the year you want and then click on the Volume and Issue of the journal. Finally, click on the article you want to view the abstract and link to full-text by inserting the correct Disk #.

To close all open Bppk icons at once- click your mouse anywhere in the contents frame and then press the number '1' key. Similarly, press '2' to open all to the Year level, and so on. Try it! You can also close all the Book icons by right clicking your mouse, selecting 'Expand To Level' and choosing the Journal level. (Remember, you must be in the left-hand frame for the above tips to work).

2004 in time for the Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa 9 the Congress in Malawi would not have been released at a better time. The individual modules were developed through the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) funded workshops in Africa and Asia where librarians and information managers from 16 developing countries field tested the material contained in the CD. The training CD was used and distributed at the pre-conference workshop for continuing education for AHILA members. The CD was an instant hit at the conference as most participants wanted a copy to take to their institutions for training purposes.

The CD is a complete package which comprises the following five modules:

- Internet Concepts
- The HINARI Website
- Publishers' Resources
- Pubmed
- Managing References

These modules can either be viewed as HTML or PowerPoint files and are accompanied by workbooks that contain exercises. The exercises can be printed and completed using live HINARI site.

The CD also has software resources which are Freeware and can be downloaded to assist in using and completing the modules.

To get your copy, you can contact [TEEAL Africa Office](#) or [Barbara Aronson](#).

Feedback

In our endeavour to provide to you useful information, we would greatly appreciate if you tell us your views and comments.

Your feedback and views of the e-newsletter are very important to us. For your view and comments, [click here](#).

TEEAL

The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL) a project of Cornell University's (www.cornell.edu) Albert R. Mann Library is a full-text and bibliographic CD-ROM library of over 140 of the world's most important scientific journals in the field of agriculture. It is available well below cost to over 100 low-income food deficit countries around the world.

AGORA

Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA) is an FAO-led initiative in partnership with major science publishers, Cornell University and the World Health Organization (WHO) among others to provide free access over the Internet to current journals in agriculture and related sciences to public institutions in eligible developing countries. www.aginternetwork.org

HINARI

Health Inter Network Access to research Initiative (HINARI) is a WHO-led initiative that provides free or very low cost online access to almost 2500 major journals in biomedical and related social sciences to nonprofit institutions in developing countries such as teaching hospitals, government offices, universities, research institutes and professional schools. www.healthinternetwork.org

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TEEAL Africa Office 11 Churchill Avenue, Alexandra Park
Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: 263-4-744611 Fax 263-4-777152**

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