

ITOCA e-Newsletter Issue 4 - May 2006

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TEEAL News

E-newsletter subscriber base continues to grow.

The ITOCA e-newsletter since its launch last year has seen a tremendous increase in the total number of subscribers. At the time of distributing this issue the subscriber base stood at around 2000. The e-newsletter circulates to a wide audience including among others, librarians, IT specialists, researchers, practitioners, editors, lecturers and students. The newsletter apart from being a communication tool for online resources to share their experiences is also used to update users about new developments on TEEAL, AGORA and HINARI. If you have anything you would like to share with the community please feel free to send your story to itoca@itoca.org

Call for papers - IAALD Africa Chapter PreConference – AWARDS

Congratulations to Ms. Zanele Hadebe (University of Zimbabwe) and Dr. Sivukile Mlambo (Chinhoyi University of Technology) whose papers were accepted for presentation at the pre-conference workshop on May 21, 2006. Both speakers will have their travel costs to the workshop paid for by ITOCA. We acknowledge and express our gratitude to all those who submitted their abstracts and papers. The response was overwhelming and encouraging for our programmes.

AGORA/ HINARI News

HINARI registrations hit 2000 mark!

Described by WHO Director-General Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland as "perhaps the biggest step ever taken towards reducing the health information gap between rich and poor countries," the HINARI

"After the AGORA/HINARI workshop I became a better trainer"

By Alison Annet Kinengyere
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The impact of the workshop was two-fold: As a trainer, I became better equipped with more training skills and confidence. I'm now able to exhaust all the features in HINARI/AGORA and ensure maximum utilization of the resources available. The University community has gained quite a lot from the skills that I acquired.

The subsequent training sessions conducted were better attended, and from the evaluation reports, trainees gained more skills than ever before. The evaluation also indicates that the trainers are very good.

I am part of the team of trainers of the university cross-cutting course: Information Management and Competency piloted at Makerere in September 2005 and is being run under Sida/SAREC program for Postgraduate students and researchers. The course content has a component on electronic resources that Makerere University has access to. The topics that I cover include: searching specific databases (AGORA/HINARI/PUB MED), using the ELIN system, and Reference Management using Endnote.

I conducted a 2 week training session in the Medical school at the beginning of the academic year (October 2005) where about 150 students, researchers and medical doctors were trained.

I conducted two other sessions at the Institute of Public Health (IPH) with the help of Dr. Stefan (who also attended the workshop) and 20 post graduate students

program now has over 2000 institutions taking advantage of the largest collection of the biomedical and health literature. The program's popularity is growing and each month, more institutions are registering. Those already registered have expressed great appreciation for the program.

Outreach and training are big components of the program in making sure that as many institutions as possible not only know about the program but are equipped on how to fully utilise the resources. A series of training workshops are ongoing and commenting on a recent workshop in Mali, Dr Timothy Herrick a medical doctor and professor in nursing school felt that it was "a very good workshop, well tailored to the participants' needs".

OUTREACH AND TRAINING

First IAALD Africa Chapter Conference

The first International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists will be held in Kenya from 21-26th May 2006 under the theme "Managing Agricultural Information for Sustainable Food Security and Improved Livelihoods in Africa"

The conference is expected to bring together professionals from all over the world to the historic conference. For more information you can visit www.iaald-africa.org

Meanwhile the AGORA/TEEAL team will hold a one day Pre-Conference workshop on 21st May 2006 titled "Training for AGORA and TEEAL in the Larger Context of Online Research Competencies". Presenters at the workshop will include Mary Ochs, Director for TEEAL and AGORA Programs based at Mann Library, Cornell University,

Dr Justin Chisenga, Information Specialist with FAO Regional Office for Africa and Gracian Chimwaza, Director of ITOCA-Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa.

During the same week on 25th May 2006 there will be an AGORA focus group meeting under the topic "Experiences with Access and Use of Science & Technology Online Resources in Africa: Focus on AGORA" This focus group discussion focussing on AGORA will hope to among other things bring out: problems users are facing in using AGORA, issues of copyright in the context of AGORA and suggestions on how to improve the portal.

were trained on how to access high-quality literature using HINARI and Pub Med. Apart from formal sessions, I also train users on individual basis as they come to use the library.

Ms. Julia Royall of the US National Library of Medicine and myself also conducted a training session for the Medical School staff soon after the HINARI/AGORA workshop. We covered HINARI and Pub Med. We were also able to go through a new application known as Pub Med on Tap (now renamed Medline on Tap-MDoT), which was introduced to the Medical School.

Since attending the AGORA/HINARI workshop we have reached out to over 250 users making the Training of Trainer (ToT) concept of the workshops a reality

Helpful Tips

LanTEEAL "insert disc" problem

Problem!

A number of users have experienced an "error" when they try to retrieve LanTEEAL full text articles from a client machine where they are asked to "insert disc".

This is a small installation problem that is easy to fix.

In newer Windows programs like Windows XP, when you go to "Map a Network Drive" you are presented with the Z drive by default. If you map using this drive, this problem will occur when you try to retrieve full text articles.

Solution!

When mapping a client machine on LanTEEAL, always use drive D or G or a letter that is closer to the beginning of the alphabet and avoid using the end of the alphabet.

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](#).

Interested librarians, information specialists and researchers are welcome to apply to attend the meetings at itoca@itoca.org
For more information visit

http://www.iaald-africa.org/agora2_en.html

ITOCA holds inaugural workshops in Portuguese and French

The start of the 2006 year marked a new chapter in the on-going AGORA-HINARI Training of Trainer (ToT) workshops - as first courses in Portuguese and French were held at Universidade de Sao Tomas in Maputo, Mozambique and Université Cheik Anta Diop (UCAD) in Dakar, Senegal respectively.

These workshops conducted by ITOCA were a culmination of great cooperation by several international organisations (Cornell University, Michigan State University and WHO) taking part in the programme, and the preparatory work included putting together AGORA and HINARI training materials in French and Portuguese which are now freely available to users online. In Maputo a total of 40 participants attended the workshop and 50 attended the half-day sensitization seminar. UCAD was the host of the AGORA/HINARI Senegal French workshop and 30 participants took part in the course. .

The Maputo workshop apart from being the first workshop to have the biggest number of female participants in the history of the TOT courses, was also unique in that Flatiel Vilanculos (OMS), Isabel Siteo and Carla Do Vale (IIAM) who had been trainees participants at a previous workshop in Ethiopia facilitated the Maputo workshop. It is hoped that the pool of trained trainers in Africa will help spread the use of AGORA and HINARI in their institutions and beyond.

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.who.int/hinari

**This is a product of ITOCA- Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa
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