

**EADI Information Management Working Group  
Annual Report  
October 2002**

The Information Management Working Group serves as a platform for reflection, discussion and action on development information across Europe. It is the only European meeting place for information professionals with a strong interest in international co-operation and development research. For the past 26 years, the working group has organised annual meetings in close collaboration with its members. New members are always welcome!

**Activities**

During the year we have been engaged in the following activities:

- The ELAND group was hosted for its meeting in January at the European Commission in Brussels, and following a brainstorming and management meeting for the project made a presentation to staff of DG Development. The project has developed a multilingual interface: English French, German and Spanish, and is working on common current awareness and document delivery options.
- 16th November 2001 June Stephen attended the EADI Executive Committee meeting in Prague where she had to put forward the justification for this Working Group to the EADI Sub-Committee on Working Groups, which was successful.
- In the lead up to the EADI Triennial Congress, Sept 2002, June Stephen was involved, from April 2002, in organizing speakers for the Knowledge Management plenary session held on Sat. 21 Sept. 2002.
- 19-21 September 2002 at the EADI Triennial Congress in Ljubljana, Slovenia, the Information Management Working Group met for its 27th year running, and held three Working Group sessions around the general topic of Evaluation of Information Services.

This year, the 27th meeting of the Information Management Working Group was held during the Triennial Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We succeeded in holding 3 sessions of presentations and hands-on skills development while we used the 4th session to hold our Working Group business meeting.

Our sessions:

1. Thursday afternoon, Byron Mook gave a presentation on "Evaluating Information Programmes: Best Practice or Smart Practice?", followed by a specific case study. This presentation is on the conference web site at: <http://www.eadi.org/wg/report-2002-info.html> (with links to powerpoint presentation and case study. The full "Evaluating information: A Letter to a Project Manager" on which this presentation was based is found at: <http://www.bellanet.org/leap/impact/>
2. Friday morning Chris Addison - hands-on computer session on searching the web and experimenting with different search engines and search strategies. Alan Stanley from ELDIS (Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University) also gave a brief presentation on the work currently underway at ELDIS on the evaluation of web sites. Watch the ELDIS web site for more information about the outcome of this evaluation towards the end of 2002 or early 2003.
3. Friday evening Pippa Smart - INASP -spoke on "The Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information: an integrated response to needs". For more information on this specific INASP programme see: <http://www.inasp.info/peri/index.html>. A second presentation during this session was on a specific software package called Knowledge Linker, given by Matyas Torok.
4. Lastly we held an Information Management Working Group Business Meeting, where some members gave an update of recent activities within their organisations. Then we elected a new convener and finally we began discussing our Working Group meeting

plans for Sept 2003. Our next meeting will be held in Dublin from 10-12 September 2003.

### **Project Work**

One of the ongoing projects of this working group is the EI@nd project, the European Library Network for Development. This is a valuable resource of reference material for researchers and information professionals which allows multi-lingual searching of the nine library collections involved in this initiative. To visit the database go to: <http://www.eadi.org/eland>

The core group of participants in this project continued to develop the database. Three additional members have been invited to join this group

- Christian Michelsen Institute, Norway;
- Development Studies Library, University College Dublin, Ireland; and
- REGARD-CNRS Bordeaux, France.

### **Budget and Finance**

The cost for the meeting this year was covered by the EADI General conference fundraising activities and sponsors.

The costs of the annual Working Group meetings are normally covered in full by the participants, although there is the very important exception of travel and accommodation of the occasional participation of speakers from the South. (e.g. the Bergen meeting 2000 saw a speaker coming from South Africa financed through a grant from the Norwegian Foreign Ministry). It should be noted that speakers to our Annual Meetings are expected to pay for their own travel and accommodation costs.

### **Publications**

Some of the papers presented at our Information Management Working Group Meeting, entitled "Value and Quality of Development Information", held in Bordeaux, France in Sept. 2001 have been published during this year in the journal Information Development.

See bibliographic list of papers at end of this document.

### **Convenors**

We are happy to report that the Working Group now has 3 convenors. June Stephen (Information Services Manager, Oxfam GB), who was elected in Bergen in 2000 will continue as a convener until Sept 2003. Danielle Bouhajib - Responsable du Centre international francophone de Documentation et d'Information (CIFDI) of the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (INTIF) based in Bordeaux, France, joined as a convener in 2001 and she will continue as a convener. This year in Ljubljana, Chris Addison was elected to join as the third convener. This rolling involvement helps new convenors develop their skills and learn from those who have some acquired experience.

### **Members**

We had 27 Working Group members participating in the recent Triennial Conference held in Sept 2002 representing 12 countries across Europe.

This Working Group has operated a policy of inclusion through the years. No formal membership list has been maintained, but there has always been a critical mass of 'regulars' (about 45) with a proper membership, and it is the feeling that the Working Group activities and potential growth of the group, and EADI in the longer run, benefit from this policy.

Papers from 2001 Bordeaux meeting which have been published in Information Development :

Certain, E. 2002, "Access to Health Information in Africa: starting at country level with the Blue Trunk Library project", Information Development, Vol. 18, No. 3, pp. 171-175.

Gallwey, M. 2002, "Quality Control in Information Services for Development" Information Development, Vol. 18, No. 3, pp. 167-169.

Lindberg-Hansen, S.E. 2002, "The Quality of Information Development: the 2001 Meeting of the EADI Information Management Working Group", Information Development, Vol. 18, No. 1, pp. 35-40.

[Report prepared by June Stephen, Danielle Bouhajeb and Chris Addison convenors of the Information Management Working Group, October 2002.]