Promoting information literacy as a cooperative project between five Nordic countries

Teodora Oker-Blom*, Anne-Cathrine Munthe, Heli Myllys*. The project is a good example of cooperation between five countries. Its aim is to reach common benefits and synergy by sharing experiences and best practices between six libraries in veterinary medicine and adjacent subject areas in finding new ways to increase integration of information literacy (1) in education and in the cooperation between teachers and librarians.

The directors of the Viikki Science Library in Finland, the Library of the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, the Library of the Agricultural University in Norway, the Library of the Swedish Agricultural University, the Library of the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Denmark and the Library of the Hvanneryr Agricultural University in Iceland are the generators and the guardians of the project. They form the Information Management Group of the NOVA University.

The NOVA University is a cooperative network of the six universities of veterinary medicine, agriculture and forestry in the five Nordic countries mentioned above. These universities are in a process of renewing and restructuring their exams in accordance with requirements of the internationalisation and interoperability of higher education in Europe. This offers an opportunity for the libraries to cooperate with university departments in a more systematic way in linking information literacy more closely and coherently to the subjects taught in their curriculum.

The strategic objectives of the project are:

* To promote the quality of university education by finding and describing means to increase the integration of information literacy in the curriculum
* To find ways to strengthen the cooperation between teachers and librarians in the teaching information literacy
* To report the current status of information literacy as part of higher education in the NOVA countries and possibly in the Baltic countries
* To find and promote examples of best practice in integrating and teaching information literacy in the NOVA universities and how the awareness of information literacy issues is addressed
* To produce common information material on this topic for open distribution in each NOVA University
* To plan and arrange a half-day seminar on information literacy for teachers of the NOVA University in connection with another NOVA meeting, preferably on pedagogic and networking issues.

The NOVA University is financing this project. The planning process, the contents of the common information material and the programme of the seminar with examples from veterinary medicine will be described in the poster. This could be a model for similar cooperation between countries.

Bluetongue entomological surveillance in East European and Balkan countries: collection and display of geographical data

Within the project “Cooperation for the implementation of a bluetongue surveillance network in the Balkan area” a web site was developed to provide East European Veterinary Services with an effective tool for data management, analysis and exchange of information on bluetongue, an infectious, arthropod-borne disease of ruminants.

The site was designed and implemented by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Molise “Giuseppe Caporale”, 64100 Teramo, Italy in collaboration with the Joint Research Center of the European Commission (Ispra, Italy).

Following new needs of veterinary services and the evolution of the disease, the site was structurally modified using different GIS technologies for the system optimization.

Furthermore, geographical data and relevant attributes were organized in a sole Information System (IS) integrated with a relational geographic database and a new function allowing to retrieve information on the spread of the vector causing the disease.

The Geographic Information System is based on ESRI products. In particular, an ArcSde was used to connect to Oracle 8.i database while Java and VB script procedures were applied to prepare Asp and Html pages in ArcIms. A multi-user access was implemented, by activating different working sessions, in order to allow a simultaneous geographical data query and map display to different users.
Features in the maps displayed may correspond to a polygon (representing the administrative boundaries in which the event of interest occurred) or to a point (farms where data relevant to the event of interest were collected).

The querying system allows one to select one or more polygons or points present on the map and to retrieve by the spatial query all the relevant information on the epidemiological status in alphanumerical form; at the same time the Arcims server shows on the map the selected territory or farms. By linking to the reference database, the alphanumerical database of any country, present in the table shown, can be accessed (Administrative Boundaries) and new data can be entered directly online.

Horácio Francisco Zimba , Suzana Pinheiro Machado Mueller. The international scientific visibility: the case of the research in veterinary medicine in Mozambique (A visibilidade científica internacional: o caso da pesquisa na área de medicina veterinária em Moçambique)
Veterinary Library, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Moçambique; Universidade de Brasília, Brazil.

A survey was conducted on the scientific visibility of Mozambican researchers in the area of Veterinary Medicine. Visibility is described as having one’s papers readily and widely accessible and being cited by others.

The main source to identify Mozambican authors who have published abroad is the ISI Web of Science, and this source also provided information on citations received.

The period examined for citations was 1993 to 2002. The study makes use of Schott’s conception of central and peripheral countries, itself based on Shils, to perceive Mozambique’s place in relation to other countries.

Results identified five Mozambican authors who qualified for the study, and who published a total of 19 papers, which received 63 citations. All of those papers were written in collaboration with foreign authors, which makes it difficult to attribute visibility of those papers solely to the Mozambican authors.

The study raises the question about scientific policies for developing countries, considering that all kinds of partnership with developed countries may contribute to international visibility, but, at the same time other issues should be considered such as national interests and accessibility to texts published in international periodicals that are not always available within the country.