

Annual Report of Activities 2009  
EADI Information Management Working Group  
October 2009

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 33 years, the working group has organised annual meetings in close collaboration with its members. New members are always welcome!

#### 1. Members

The members of the Working Group are mainly drawn from the EADI members. In recent years, the nature of group has evolved with more communication specialists joining with information management specialists and librarians, to form a solid and interwoven group. As a result of informal networking and interaction over the years, the members comprise a core group of around 50 people who attend the annual workshops regularly, and have been directly involved in IMWG project activities. A larger group participates in workshops on a more occasional basis, and efforts are made for each Workshop to reach out to local constituencies and networks and draw in additional participants.

#### 2. Activities

During 2009 we engaged in the following activities:

##### 2.1 Conference

2009's workshop team was "Evolving in a Changing Knowledge Climate"

The workshop formed a new common ground for a continuation of IMWG as network for Librarians, information and communication specialists and communication professionals.

The format of Open Spaces and Peer Assist worked to the benefit of all. Participants unanimously evaluated this year's workshop as extremely positive

Reports, blog, twitter, blips can be found at: <http://imwg2009.blogspot.com/>

A Business Meeting of the Working Group was held as part of the Annual Conference

The meeting in 2010 will be organised in close collaboration with Euforic. They will celebrate their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

##### 2.2 Discussion group

IMWG manages an online discussion group on DGroups currently consisting of around 80 participants. It is an informal space used by members to share knowledge. Its main purpose is for:

- Creating an interactive space for professional support
- Discussing the upcoming conferences
- Discussions around projects

The administration of the Group has been taken over by Sarah Cummings, with assistance from Sally Corcoran. For more on the group see [www.dgroups/groups/imwg](http://www.dgroups/groups/imwg)

##### 2.3 Convenor meetings:

The Working Group Co-Convenors met in January 2009 in Copenhagen and held several conference calls subsequently to help plan the conference.

## 2.4 Project Work

### 2.4.1 EL@ND

ELAND is a European library collaboration and access initiative that has been championed by the IMWG since the late 1990's. A significant step forward was made in June 2008 with the launch of a completely redeveloped ELAND website, integrated within the main EADI website – which has also been recently redesigned (see [www.eadi.org/eland](http://www.eadi.org/eland)). The functionality of this site has been simplified and improved.

The libraries that can be accessed through EL@ND are:

- British Library for Development Studies
- CIDOB Foundation
- Chr. Michelsen Institute
- ELDIS
- European Centre for Development Policy Management
- Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies Geneva
- International Labour Organization, Bureau of Library and Information Services
- Capacity Building International
- Institute of Social Studies
- Österreichische Forschungsförderung für Entwicklung
- REGARDS - CNRS
- Institute of Development Studies Dublin

In addition, it is possible to access profiles of 65 libraries in the EADI Network and information on open access policies is made available here.

The project is now coordinated by the EADI Secretariat. The IMWG Business Meeting acts as a governance group, with representatives from contributing organisations the primary stakeholders.

### 2.4.2 IKM Emergent

The project has been operational for just over a year. The overall focus of the programme is on the understanding, handling and use of multiple knowledges within development organisations. Its objective is to stimulate thought and innovation and provide illustrations, rather than rigid solutions. There are 3 working groups looking at:

- Power relations and the barriers to the use of local knowledge in the South
- Tools for handling and communicating knowledge – now and for the future
- Organisational arrangements through which knowledge is managed in development organisations

There is a recent newsletter on the project website at [www.ikmemergent.net](http://www.ikmemergent.net). The project came out of the IMWG group, and is open to new collaborators (contact the project coordinator, Mike Powell [mike@ikmemergent.net](mailto:mike@ikmemergent.net)). As a part of this programme a workshop will be organised to confront EADI-IMWG librarians with the digital natives (generation Y, 20 years old ...) to see how we should repackage our offering.

### 2.4.3 Open Access Declaration

The IMWG has discussed Open Access archiving and publishing at both of its last two workshops. In 2007 it was agreed that the group would champion the Open Access philosophy and promote practical action in this direction within EADI member institutes. A draft declaration on Open Access was presented for initial consideration to the EADI Directors' meeting in October 2007, and raised again at the Directors' meeting at the 2008 Conference. Following the Conference 2008 session on 'Interrogating Open Access' – which was designed to raise awareness of the issue among EADI members - the

intention of the IMWG is to suggest that EADI adopts the Berlin Declaration at the October 2009 EADI Directors' Meeting. Anja Møller Rasmussen (NIAS) will do a small presentation on Open Access initiatives and journal ranking at the 2009 Director meeting in Copenhagen.

#### 2.4.4.Focuss.Info

Focuss.Info is a collaborative platform supported by more than 40 global, national and regional institutions and more than 30 individuals who are all promoting the newest Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills in the domain of global development research and studies.

It first started as a platform where people collaboratively saved their favourite e-resources in social bookmark platform such as Delicious.com and CiteULike.org. This meant that not only librarians, but also individual practitioners, students and researchers within the global development domain saved their valuable e-resources on the Internet. Consequently, Focuss.Info indexed these collections of e-resources in its own customised search engine and, as a result, valuable information in global development studies and researches is better visible and accessible.

The number of users (both people who tag resources to be included and people who use the search engine) is still increasing. Michel Wesseling requests all members to reinforce the initiative in your institution. In case of any questions please contact the Focuss.Info coordinator (Richard Lalleman) who is also prepared to conduct workshops.

#### 3. Convenors

At the annual conference, **Geoff Barnard** (IDS) stepped down from the IMWG Convenor Group. For the coming year, the Convenor Group will consist of **Laurel Dryden** (ILO), **Anja Møller Rasmussen** (NIAS), **Alan Stanley** (IDS) and **Michel Wesseling** (ISS).