

REPORT TO CDNL 2005

Standing Committee for National and University Libraries in Eastern, Central and Southern African (SCANUL ECS) Report

Introduction

SCANUL-ECS is an organization of National and University Libraries in Eastern, Central and Southern region whose main objective is to promote and enhance cooperation among national and university libraries in this region. Its specific objective includes the need to;

- (i) Support and develop national and university library services in the region
- (ii) Promote interchange, contact and cooperation among national and university libraries in the region
- (iii) To collect, coordinate and disseminate information on library activities
- (iv) Encourage increased contact among members and the international library community
- (v) To initiate and implement regional projects and resource sharing
- (vi) Promote the participation of the information sector in the major socio economic activities in the region

Strategies and activities of SCANUL-ECS

The main strategy of SCANUL ECS is networking among its members. The activities that have been undertaken by the regional body include the following;

(i) Sharing experiences

The regional body holds a conference every two years to discuss issues of common interest to its members. The last conference was held in 2004 in Kampala, Uganda and the main theme of the conference was; Information literacy a continued challenge for national and university libraries in the region. After the conference members resolved among other things to develop a framework for Information literacy in the region and to share experiences among members. Members were requested to write information literacy case studies. A total of 15 case studies have been presented for publishing. INASP will facilitate the publication of these case studies.

(ii) Lobbying and advocacy programme

This is another activity of SCANUL ECS. A team of two members have been requested to work out a lobbying and advocacy for library development in the region.

(iii) Directory of SCANUL_ECS members

The directory of members is in the process of being compiled. This will facilitate networking among members of the organization.

(iv) SCANUL_ECS Newsletter

A SCANUL ECS Newsletter is published to facilitate communication among its members. This is published twice per year.

(v) SCANUL ECS Conference 2006

SCANUL ECS Executive Committee in planning for the next standing conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Members are debating the theme of next conference and several ideas have been collected. A number of tentative themes have been floated for discussion and soon the executive will decide on the theme.

Conclusion

The organization is striving to network national and university libraries in the region and in the past ten years it has made significant contribution towards the development of national and university libraries in the region. One of the most significant contribution has been to encourage establishment of national library consortia to facilitate resource sharing. In addition, the sharing of experience of information literacy programmes will go a long way to the establishment of innovative user training among members. A framework for Information Literacy Programmes in the region is being developed.

Address (please print):
Telephone and fax details: