Information literacy for scientific organizations: progress by international co-operation

*Created to support a pecha kucha presentation @ the annual European Conference on Information Literacy = ECIL September 2017, in Saint-Malo, France*


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Introduction
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Introduction

• This presents an overview of activities during recent years by the author and numerous colleagues to stimulate progress in information literacy in scientific organizations, including universities, mainly by stimulating international co-operation.
Objectives

Since a few years, we have been involved in a series of activities that aim

- to stimulate interest and progress in information literacy in scientific organizations, including universities
Objectives

Since a few years, we have been involved in a series of activities that aim

- to bring together experts from widely different countries at various levels of development
Objectives

Since a few years, we have been involved in a series of activities that aim

• to confront these experts with each other’s views,
  » problems,
  » challenges,
  » hopes &
  » expectations
Objectives

Since a few years, we have been involved in a series of activities that aim

• to exchange experience and didactic approaches among various organizations at an international scale
Methodology & Outcomes

- International Training Programs of a few months have been organized in relatively well developed universities in Belgium for young information professionals from developing countries in
  - Africa
  - Asia
  - Latin America
Methodology & Outcomes

• International Training Programs of a few months have been organized in relatively well developed universities in Belgium for young information professionals from developing countries in
  » Africa
  » Asia
  » Latin America.

• 18 programs have been running until 2014.
As a follow-up, 2 workshops of a few weeks have been organized at the end of 2014, on closely related topics:

- 1 workshop on discovery of scientific information &
- 1 workshop on information literacy didactics.
Methodology & Outcomes

The participants to those workshops were

- experts from relatively developed countries,
- & selected, enthusiastic, successful former participants to the training programs,

who have evolved to become local experts.
Methodology & Outcomes

• 1 result of that workshop on information literacy is a series of identified challenges & corresponding recommendations.
• To reach a wider audience, these have been presented at conferences & workshops in
  » The Philippines,
  » India,
  » Lithuania,
  » Cuba,
& have been published in open access.
Methodology & Outcomes

Furthermore, the workshops mentioned have inspired and stimulated former participants who work in developing countries, to organize similar workshops, with contributions by the organizers of those earlier activities:

• 1 workshop was held in the Philippines in 2013-04
• 1 workshop was held in Pune, India in 2015-12
• ...

Methodology & Outcomes
Furthermore, the workshops mentioned have inspired and stimulated former participants who work in developing countries, to organize similar workshops, with contributions by the organizers of those earlier activities:

- 1 workshop was held in the Philippines in 2013-04
- 1 workshop was held in Pune, India in 2015-12
- 1 workshop is planned in Pune, India in 2017-12
- 1 workshop is planned in the Philippines in 2018-03
Conclusions
1 of 2

• Clearly we deal not with simply 1 project and its outcomes, but with a series of organically growing activities.
• This is a successful consequence of the approach known as “teaching the teachers”.
• Also the phrase “snowball effect” is applicable here in a positive way.
Conclusions
2 of 2

Relatively small investments have yielded visible, constructive outcomes & have created an enthusiastic group of experts who organize further activities in the area of information literacy didactics.
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Suggestions
Comments
are welcome
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