

# The scientific and technical information (Sti) Network In Burkina Faso

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## Abstract

The Scientific and Technical Information abbreviated "STI" means all information related to the research sector, education and industry. It plays an important role in the economic and social development. Therefore we are witnessing the phenomenon of explosive documentary that is to say the dramatic increase in the material world in recent years. This explosion documentary is due to the rapid development of science and technological innovation, the increasing number of scholars and researchers who are the main source of knowledge and information production. Faced with this mass of information, a form of organization is necessary if we want to make it accessible to the public. According to the study report the identification of national information resources to integrate the device STIS (Scientific and Technical Information System) done in November 2006 in Burkina Faso, it was apparent that there is a notable lack of access to the 'scientific information nationally and internationally, lack a strong political dynamic resource centers that are deficient in Information Technology and Communication (ICT) and computer skills. In addition, some researchers are reluctant to release the results of their research. However, a number of existing information and databases are also available. But they are scattered and poorly disseminated. Knowing that the network documentation is the new challenge from librarians, faced with demand growing more and more specialized information and lack of cooperation framework between the document structures in Burkina Faso, it was necessary to pool information resources and develop a strategy for collaboration between documentation centers providers STI. Thus the national networks have been created as Burkina Network Information Scientifique et Technique (REBIST) and the Network Information and Documentation on the Environment in Burkina Faso (RIDEB). Moreover, an International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) supports the research sector in Burkina Faso through its programme "PERI" by strengthening the capacity of production, access and dissemination of information and knowledge.

## Résumé

L'Information scientifique et technique, en abrégé « IST » désigne l'ensemble des informations liées au secteur de la recherche, de l'enseignement et de l'industrie. Elle joue un rôle important dans le développement économique et social. C'est pourquoi nous assistons au phénomène de l'explosion documentaire, c'est-à-dire l'accroissement spectaculaire des documents dans le monde au cours de ces dernières années. Cette explosion documentaire est due au développement rapide de la science et de l'innovation technologique, au nombre toujours croissant des savants et des chercheurs qui constituent la source principale de connaissances et de production d'informations. Devant cette masse d'informations, une forme d'organisation devient nécessaire si on veut la rendre accessible au public. Selon le rapport d'étude d'identification des ressources informationnelles nationales à intégrer au dispositif SIST (Système d'Information Scientifique et Technique) fait en Novembre 2006 au Burkina Faso, il est ressorti qu'il ya un déficit notable d'accès à l'information scientifique nationale et internationale, l'absence d'une politique forte de dynamisation des centres de documentation qui sont déficitaires en Technologie de l'Information et de la Communication (TIC) et en compétences informatiques. En outre, certains chercheurs sont réticents à la diffusion des résultats de leurs travaux de recherche. Pourtant, un certain nombre d'informations existent et des bases de données sont également disponibles. Seulement elles sont disséminées et mal diffusées. Sachant que la documentation en réseau étant le nouveau défi lancé par les documentalistes, face à la demande de plus en plus croissante d'information spécialisée et au manque d'un cadre de collaboration entre les structures documentaires au Burkina Faso, il s'avérait nécessaire de mettre en commun les ressources d'information et de mettre en place une stratégie de collaboration entre les centres de documentation fournisseurs d'IST. C'est ainsi que des réseaux nationaux ont été créés comme le Réseau Burkinabè de l'Information Scientifique et Technique

(REBIST) et le Réseau d'information et de Documentation sur l'Environnement au Burkina Faso (RIDEB). Par ailleurs, un Réseau International pour la disponibilité des Publications Scientifiques (INASP) soutient le secteur de la recherche au Burkina Faso à travers son programme « PERI » par le renforcement des capacités, de la production, l'accès et la diffusion d'informations et des connaissances.

## Introduction

The role of the Scientific and Technical Information (STI) in the economic and social development is well documented. Therefore we are witnessing the phenomenon of explosive documentary that is to say the dramatic increase in the world in these recent years. This documentary explosion is due to the rapid development of science and of technological innovation, the increasing number of scholars and researchers who are the main source of knowledge and of the production of information. The Report of the Study on the identifying of national information resources to be integrated within the SIST (Scientific and Technical Information System) in November 2006 in Burkina Faso shows that there is a noticeable lack of access to scientific information nationally and internationally, a lack of a strong political revival resource centres that are deficient in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and in computer skills. Furthermore, some researchers complain about the lack of access to information published internationally, others are reluctant to release the results of their research. In addition, the national publications are unsold by lack of buyers. Yet, there is a lot of information but it is scattered and poorly distributed, databases exist in Winisis but internally, no disseminated electronic documents. The most common reason is a lack of skills or availability of computer structure or lack of the Internet. Thus the following recommendations were made: to inform researchers on the scientific opportunities and the sharing of professional knowledge (visibility and international recognition of the Burkina Faso research), select and upload documents from research, to place an internal policy of numbering the publications of the researchers, strengthen research training in the use of the SIST platform, research on the Internet, further training of librarians and computer technology to scan and put online electronic resources within the existing institutes and updating websites.

## The Documentary Networks in Burkina Faso

It was found that users are becoming increasingly impatient with the traditional methods of provision of services of libraries and documentation centers and less satisfied with the services rendered. In front of the growing demand more and more specialized information and in front of the lack of cooperation framework between the documents structures in Burkina Faso, it was necessary to pool resources and spread information to establish a strategy of collaboration between documentation centers providers of STIs in Burkina Faso. They are urged to undertake the work of digitization of the gray literature produced by students, researchers, teachers and practitioners and make it available on the network. All this information will be channelled and put online to make them easily accessible. To achieve this goal, librarians and information managers must be specialized in literature in the scanning, creation, management and dissemination of electronic documents. Thus the national networks have been created as Burkina Network of Scientific and Technical Information (REBIST) and the Network for Information and Documentation on the Environment in Burkina Faso (RIDEB). An International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) also supports the sector of Research in Burkina Faso through the PERI program through capacity building, production, access and dissemination of information and knowledge.

### **Rebist (Burkina Network of Scientific and Technical Information)**

On March 25, 2004 has been set up by the resource centers of educational institutions and research in Burkina Faso, Burkinabe Network of Scientific and Technical Information (REBIST) in order to provide users with facilities and services network members, more opportunities for access to information. Its mission is to promote the development of information resources and documentation centers and member services and strengthening collaborative relationships between professionals. The Rebist currently has 15 institutional members and covers the fields of education and research. It has the

following objectives: establish a common database, responding to information needs of member institutions in their field of expertise, disseminating information and documentation in the areas of intervention of member centers, establishing the loan system Inter-library, contributing to improved management and organization member centers, foster a better visibility of the profession by the creation of a website, CD-ROM catalogs and bibliographic and cooperate with networks nationally, regionally and internationally.

### **RIDEB (Network Information and Documentation on Environment in Burkina Faso)**

The RIDEB was in 2001 With support from the Project for Institutional Support to the Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (PAI-SP/CONEDD), funded by the Kingdom of Belgium and performed by the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC). This project has among its aims the improvement of accessibility and management of the environmental documentation in Burkina Faso. The RIDEB is a network of document structures and has been recognized by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization in Burkina Faso in August 2003. Originally composed of 6 centers pioneers of documentation, RIDEB currently has 24 resource centers working on a common methodology in order to provide better information to people working in the wider environment. Its primary mission is to make environmental information accessible to all. RIDEB's vision is to enhance the holdings and production of environmental information and the management profession background information, develop a spirit of openness and exchanges between members, federating structures custodians Documentation and environmental information, develop professional knowledge of members, develop environmental awareness within the network and level of development actors, raise awareness and educate users and potential partners in information systems. Policy makers, development actors, teachers, students, researchers, NGOs, associations, firms, consultants and environmental experts are its target audience.

As instruments, RIDEB uses an operations manual, a Plan of classification, a Database "FOCAL", the Thesaurus "AGROVOC" of FAO, a website under construction. The Rideb is a network of expertise in the following areas : capacity building in information science documentary support, advice and technical organization and management information systems literature, study and implementation of documentary information systems (documentation center, archives and libraries), organization of seminars, workshops, round tables, open days, conferences, monitoring and evaluation of information systems literature.

### **INASP : International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)**

INASP was established in 1992 by the International Council for Science (ICSU). It has been recognized in 2004 as a British Organization caricative based in Oxford. INASP works with partners, associates and networks in over hundred countries.

### **Eligibility countries**

INASP uses the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) and the world Bank Gross National Income (GNI) to identify eligible countries. The partnerships between participating countries and INASP work towards activities being led, implemented and sustained by the countries themselves. This involves a significant, long term commitment of expertise, time and money from both sides. As it is not possible to work with all eligible countries in this depth, they are divided into two groups :

1. *Partner countries* : INASP and the country commit to making equitable and appropriate staff capacity and funding available to support research communication activities , according to the country's specific needs, plans and policies. Partnerships are professional collaborations between Country Coordinating teams and INASP formalised through jointly agreed Memoranda of Understanding, rolling 3-5 years "road maps" and annual agreements.

2. *Network countries* : INASP commits the time and funds to enable access to resources via country specific web pages. Additionally, if a Country Coordination team is in place and fixed, external IP addresses can be provided and the country may benefit from INASP negotiated free subscriptions for e-resources. If a network country's involvement adds value to partner countries or INASP's wider network, they may also be involved in multi-country or regional in initiatives such as research networks,

professional associations and Journals Online services or training, consultancy, global meetings, peer exchanges, case studies and small grants. Decisions on involving network countries in specific activities are dealt with on a case by case basis. When capacity allows, network countries may transition to partner countries. Decisions are based on an understanding and assessment of key background information. Countries eligibility will change as their HDI and GNI changes. These are reviewed by INASP each November. If the review shows that a country has moved up into a category that is no longer eligible, the network country coordinator will be alerted and collaboration will be phased out by December of the following year. When it is a partner country, the coordinator will be alerted and collaboration will be phased out by December two years later.

### **Shares of INASP for underdeveloped countries**

INASP runs several measures for underdeveloped countries through its Program PERI (Program for the Enhancement of Research Information). It is a program for strengthening research and information that supports the sector Search by capacity building, production, access and dissemination of information and knowledge. One component of this program is to negotiate for each country at a cost indexed to GNP, with content owners and publishers access to the largest possible number of resources. INASP supports the development and improvement of ICT skills and implementation through training. INASP offers researchers access to international scientific literature based on the electronic distribution, developing digital services, provide access to electronic resources and training to better use. INASP provides support to improve the ability to edit, improve sustainable access to information and awareness World. INASP conducts lobbying with policy makers to use information on information retrieval. It supports researchers from developing countries for effective communication of their work and more visible. INASP can provide material and provide training on the management of bandwidth by capacity building and also provides advice to the publication of online journals. The list of resources provided by INASP provides information and links to additional PERI program. Online resources are open access and accessible by all researchers in developing countries and emerging countries. There is also a discussion forum that focuses on the importance of access to information for development.

### **What support INASP provides teams of National Coordination Network (RCN)?**

INASP saves institutions with fixed IP addresses and external resources (a guide for institutions and CNR), allows their participation in discussions of virtual group discussions "SurveyMonkey" download training materials from the site INASP, downloading a magazine or a document. INASP contributes to the promotion of resources by their visibility on the Web (a web page with country-specific information on resources available in this country may be visible link to the resource directory, information about the library or consortium or other significant national information on the country and provided by the CNR). Countries can participate in a discussion forum trilingual (English, French and Spanish) virtual exchange of ideas and experiences. Moreover, when a partner country is being added value it can receive small grants for activities including CNR. Applications for activities are considered on a case by case basis.

## **Conclusion**

The information technology and communication have become major issues of development and the electronic library is approaching us with giant strides and we can not ignore. What we must do is to allocate some funds to embrace and remember. So tanks digital texts represent a new facet of librarianship. Digitization is the 2nd revolution faced by libraries, a generation after the management of cataloging, digitization projects and on-line theses and dissertations at African universities and the results of research are experiencing a substantial development in recent years. Sign of dynamic scientific institutions and the quality of their researchers, theses and dissertations are a series of works whose development is of particular importance for universities. As custodians of theses and dissertations, academic libraries are able to exercise their skills in digital Coordination with IT departments of universities. Therefore, under the Project STIS, Polytechnic University has embarked on an operation of scanning and placing online of her theses and dissertations. This will in partnership with other agencies

and within the LMD (License- Master-Doctorate), the actual implementation of a National Network of STIs in Burkina Faso.

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