



IFLA KM Section Workshop

Knowledge Sharing Strategies & Initiatives

Friday August 8, 2008

Université Laval, Quebec City

Registration required – Please email Jane Dysart, jane@dysartjones.com, with your contact info.

No cost. Buy your own lunch with colleagues in the university cafeteria.

Start networking with your colleagues over breakfast.

Enjoy an interactive morning discussing social tools and knowledge sharing with KM thought leader, Dave Pollard, VP, Knowledge Development, CICA, author of the "How to Save the World" weblog (<http://blogs.salon.com/0002007/>), and former CKO, Ernst & Young Canada. Pollard shares success stories of how organizations have introduced Weblogs, wikis, instant messaging, desktop videoconferencing, just-in-time canvassing, RSS aggregators, “know-who” directories, and other social networking methods and tools to their budget-conscious organizations; the practical approaches used; and the secrets of their success. Pollard looks at tools that improve work productivity, decision-making and innovation; and tools that increase capacity, understanding of risk, as well as connectivity, collaboration and knowledge transfer. He focuses on social networking tools: people connectors that find and strengthen relationships, social publishing and information sharing tools that publish, subscribe, discuss and link what you know, collaboration and communication allowing people to connect and work together more powerfully, and other interesting leading edge tools. Join Pollard and colleagues in an interactive discussion about the tools and their use in libraries and knowledge organizations.

The afternoon focuses on international knowledge sharing initiatives. Frank Tulus, Senior Program Officer, IDRC and global partners lead the discussion about the Joint Gates Foundation/IDRC global research project that is investigating the social and economic impact of public access to information and communication technologies. Good knowledge of why people use various computer and information services and the usage rates of these services has been acquired over the last several years. Little is known, though, about the actual connection of use to benefits, especially in transitioning and developing countries, and the magnitude of the social and economic benefits from this use. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has invested in a number of public access to information and communication technology (ICT) initiatives through its global libraries program. IDRC has explored the use of telecentres in many developing countries. Researchers are undertaking longitudinal and comparative research on the impact of different models of public access (libraries, telecentres, cyber cafés, shared

access mobiles, etc.). The research looks at both positive and negative impacts in areas such as employment and income, education level, civic engagement, government transparency, democracy, culture and language preservation, and public health. The idea is to inform future investment and advance overall understanding of public access to ICT. As funders and interested stakeholders across the world, we need hard evidence to help us design and implement better programs and to help partner governments and other local players understand the value of continued investments and how they can make a difference in people's lives. Hear about this large-scale research study covering every region of the world over a five-year period and the preliminary research results looking at the social and economic impacts of these programs. A methodology for measuring impact will also be shared.

Khaled Fourati, Program Officer, IDRC ACACIA Initiative (Communities and the Information Society in Africa), and global partners discuss the second initiative which focuses on access to knowledge in Southern African universities and open approaches to research in the Internet age. Southern African universities face several constraints to access published knowledge for research and teaching whether in print or digital forms. Removing these constraints is essential for the effective participation of universities in the knowledge economy and for the development of research centres in Africa. It explores approaches to open access for research and how they can facilitate the availability of academic and other relevant research publications to the benefit of students and researchers. The project is a collaboration between the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA) and the LINK Centre looks at new approaches to knowledge production and dissemination in the Internet age, elucidates insights on the meaning of open access for scientific collaboration, and investigates the value of creating a SARUA regional open access network based on an "Open Knowledge Charter".

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