



University of Malawi

KAMUZU COLLEGE OF NURSING

TO: Professional Programmes Director **DATE:** 30th August'10

FROM: Chimwemwe J Mandalasi

RE: **REPORT ON WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION
CONGRESS: 76TH IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND
ASSEMBLY FROM 10TH – 15TH AUGUST, 2010 IN
GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN**



This is the international organization for library and information, association, institutions and librarians in the user communities they serve throughout the world. The conference was held in Gothenburg, Sweden and was attended by 3328 delegates from 128 different countries, which I was privileged to be amongst them. The aim of the conference was to:-

- Advance further accessibility, protection and preservation of documentary cultural heritage.
- Encourage widespread understanding of the value and importance of high quality library and information services in the public, private and voluntary sectors.
- Promote libraries access knowledge and information to the user.
- Support library and information profession.
- Drives high standards in library and information services and professional practices.

The theme for the congress was “Open Access to Knowledge-Promoting Sustainable Progress”. Open access is access to materials mainly scholarly publications via the

internet in such a way that the material is free for all to read and use or reuse. These materials should be accessible to all, even visually impaired or others with reading difficulties. They should also be accessible to everyone no matter who you are or with financial constraints. Open access providers' removes price barriers like subscription, licensing fees and permission barriers such as copyright and licensing restriction. Open access literature are literature free available on the public internet, permitted to any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself.

Access to knowledge opens the world of imagination and creativity, thus progress for one individual becomes progress to society. Knowledge is a critical factor influencing all spheres of life and access to knowledge is critical equal growth of society. Librarians are providers of information and have important role to play in the creation of new knowledge. They serve a wide spectrum of information seekers. There are new demands and new learners because of technology development and generation.

There were lot of sessions, exhibition and library visits which were taking place but I only attended the following session, SC I education and training, SC I Classification and Indexing, Division Leadership Forum: LF II-IV Support of the Profession, Newcomers Session, Statistics and Evaluation, Management of Library Association, Library Theory and Research, Management and Marketing Education and Training, Statistics and Evaluation, LIS Developing Countries SIG, BM Gates ATLA- award programme, Bill and Mellinda Gates Foundation, Academic and Research Libraries with Management and Marketing, Education and Training, Academic and Research Libraries, Africa, General Assembly, Acquisition and Collection Development and the Closing Session. I visited all the exhibition and Majorna library visit. It wasn't like "all work and no play" because I had to refresh my brain by visiting the night sport and the dance evening at the city library and Brew house consecutively. There I didn't only have fun but made several connections and bid farewell to friends I made during the conference.



CONCLUSION

The knowledge I have learnt will help me to assist library users to have free access to information and provide knowledge accessible for all including the visually impaired.

It will help me to deliver high quality library and information services.

It will help me how to find open access literature to better meet our clients' needs.

I have learnt Marketing principles and practices which are valuable for marketing library and information organization. I have learnt new models of cataloguing books and non book media that meet challenges of changing information infrastructure through Danish National Bibliography.

I have also learnt how to inspire library user of today taking into consideration that generation is moving fast. I have changed the old traditional way of searching information to new traditional formats through digital environment.

I'll be able to help clients to access literature through open access publisher' and open access websites that will meet educational, informational, and recreational needs

I have learnt how to store, protect, process, transmit and retrieve information in such a way that further knowledge building and better balance between copyright and freedom of information are observed.

I have learnt how to provide bibliographic services and public domain where user can contribute and share content produced and owned by public services.

I have learnt how to advocate the library by running campaign, introducing reading club, produce books or brochures about libraries so that clients know what the library offer.

The knowledge I have gained will improve my services in assisting user to access information easily, fast and sufficiently.

The knowledge I have learnt will help KCN library as well as other libraries in Malawi to develop both economically and socially.

There are so many challenges which can hinder me from accomplishing what I have learnt at conference like insufficient budget which the library. The Local Area Network in the library does not work properly. Internet connection is very slow. Inadequate

computers and there are poor qualities of computers in the library. Sometimes patrons are more attuned to the library than library staff. There are inadequate ICT skills on the part of librarians and users. It is also difficult to preserve electronic information for future when existing electronic storage media have a short life. It is expensive to refresh the files so that they continue to be accessible with changing technology.

RECOMMENDATION

I feel management should increase financial assistant which it gives to the library. The Local Area Network needs to be improved for the library to operate its services sufficiently. We should have better and faster internet connection. The number of computers should be increased. Librarians should be technologically literate and aware. Continuing education and training is very important for your professionals in libraries like me. We should have archive web sites to capture and preserve selected web sites.



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