Working together beyond borders – capacity building in information literacy education at three university libraries of Namibia, Tampere and Helsinki

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Aim and structure of our presentation

To present:

- The project of these three university libraries
- IL education in a nutshell in the three university libraries
- What we have done so far
- The benefits of the project
- Future plans and tips for other university libraries interested in similar projects
Menete Shatona
Why these three universities?

• Namibia and Finland have a long history of cooperation

• the idea was born by Elise Pirttiniemi and Ellen Namhila several years ago

• personal contacts and knowledge on the other universities was a great asset
# Key figures of the universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Namibia</th>
<th>Tampere</th>
<th>Helsinki</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Founded</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>1640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of students</td>
<td>16770</td>
<td>15700</td>
<td>36500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of staff</td>
<td>1642</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>8600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of library staff</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of campus libraries</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Background of the project between three university libraries

- HEI ICI (Higher Education Institutions Institutional Cooperation Instrument)
- Project funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- Current funding period: May 2011-December 2012
- The wiki contains all the project documents

https://wiki.helsinki.fi/display/namibiahanke/Namibia+Project
Aim of the project to enhance capacity building

a) Content development for Information Literacy (IL) instruction;
b) Pedagogical skills to impart IL skills to students and academic staff;
c) Modern practices for providing access to electronic resources of information;
d) Methods of marketing library products and services to students and staff;
e) Joint quality improvement and benchmarking and;
f) Strategic planning skills;
g) Expertise in collection development and management;
h) Research and academic writing and publishing articles in peer-reviewed journals
Logical Framework Approach (LFA)

One of the lessons learned during the planning process: LFA was a useful planning tool to define

- overall objective
- specific objectives
- expected results
- activities
- objectively verifiable indicators of achievement
- sources and means of verification
- assumptions
IL education in a nutshell in the three university libraries (UTA)

University of Tampere:

• IL education is included in the curriculum for all students
• Students in various disciplines have equal access to IL education in different phases of their studies.
• The subject librarians planning the IL education have attended university pedagogy training
IL education in a nutshell in the three university libraries (HY)

• IL teaching offered for all students

• courses and methods vary by faculty and major

• IL teaching is accommodated to the needs of the disciplines and teaching methods used in the faculties
IL education in a nutshell in the three university libraries (UNAM)

- IL taught by Subject Librarians
- IL is not compulsory/ not integrated in other courses
- Students are taught on a “willingness” basis
- No assessment/ evaluation/ feedback
IL Challenges at UNAM

• No structured content / no uniformity

• Pedagogic Skills - students are taught according to individual Subject Librarians competencies

• Interactive online tutorials for distance students
Working methods

• seminars in Namibia for the whole library staff

• study visits in Finland

• writing articles together
What we have done so far:
The working seminars

- The first seminar in October 2011 in Windhoek, Namibia, covering various themes
- The second seminar in April 2012 in Windhoek, Namibia with emphasis on marketing, competency management and Information Literacy:
  https://wiki.helsinki.fi/display/namibiahanke/The+Seminar+Programme+in+Namibia+in+April+2012
What we have done so far: the visitors from Namibia to Finland

• All together 13 visitors
• Some of the visitors have specialized in IL issues, such as
  • sharing teaching materials, sharing best practices in IL education, questions, discussions, shadowing IL classes, attending international guest lectures
What we have done so far: the book to be published

- Three peer-reviewed IL related articles to be published by the end of 2012 in a book:
  Crossing the Distance: Collaboration between Finnish and Namibian University Libraries. Edited by Mirja Iivonen, Päivi Helminen, Outi Sisättö, Joseph Ndinoshiho

- Articles written in cooperation between the staff members at UTA, HY and UNAM libraries

- The aim is to develop and support the academic writing skills of the library staff, as well as encourage them to publish in peer-reviewed publications
IL related articles in the book

Working titles:

- Janika Asplund, Jacobina Mwiiyale, Siegfriede Karsten, Saija Tapio. University pedagogy training improves information literacy education

- Päivi Helminen, Mbenae Katjihingua. Information Literacy in Higher Education: Case University of Helsinki and University of Namibia.

- C. N.Nakanduungile, G.Shilongo, N.S.T. Uugwanga, Tiina Heino. Information need, seeking behavior of school of nursing and public health of the University of Namibia.

- Kati Syvälahti, Mbenae Katjihingua. Information needs and seeking behaviour of Law faculty at the University of Namibia.
What we have done so far:

Attending the IFLA meeting

- Attending the main conference (8 people)
- Attending the satellite conference at Tampere
- Presenting posters and presentations at the meetings
- ALSO 2 people from the upper management at University of Namibia are coming to Helsinki
  - meeting Helsinki University upper management
International cooperation – the benefits what we have accomplished

Cooperation:

• opens up new perspectives and gives ideas for alternative ways to do things
• supports learning about different and unique cultures, helps with international customers
• improves motivation and inspiration to develop one's own work.
• provides an opportunity to network with academic staff who work with similar development projects.
Feedback from the seminar participants

"Overall, it was a good seminar and the network will help me to grow professionally."

What are the three most important things you learned?

For example:

1. How to give report on presentation
2. How report/present a research paper
3. Group work discussion

- problem based learning, the application of constructive alignment in teaching information literacy in Finland and marketing strategy

- I learnt that marketing is not cast in stone, the way we teach IL is not so much different from the counterparts teaching methods, networking and collaboration is the key to personal growth in any discipline.
The future of the Project

• The current funding period will end 2012.

• The future depends on whether the project continues to have funding.

• A small-scale cooperation and information sharing will continue even if the funding would cease.
Tips for anybody interested in similar projects

- Social media tools are practical in any international communication, e.g. Google docs
- Clearly defined goals and specified goals
- Engaging the university leadership in the project is critical
- Working together in smaller groups is useful
- Takes time, but pays off
Pictures from the April seminar in Windhoek, Namibia
Pictures from the April seminar in Windhoek

The seminar had active working methods such as gallery walk and other kinds of group work.
Pictures from the April seminar in Windhoek
Cooperation and discussions
Cooperation and discussions
Cooperation and discussions
Thank you!

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Please, find more information in the conference article!