

## **The North-South-South Library Information Studies Network / summary**

The North-South-South Library and Information Studies Network has been an extensive co-operation between University of Namibia, University of the Western Cape - the Republic of South Africa, University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar- Senegal, Tumaini University Dar es Salaam College and the School of Library Archives and Documentation Studies – Tanzania, and Finnish partners Oulu University, Åbo Akademi University and the coordinator Turku University of Applied Sciences.

NSS LIS Network has been a close alliance and especially for southern partners who executed successful intensive course and three Dissemination events in different African countries. In Tanzania, the most important outcome has been the established collaboration between two Network members. In addition, the Network wants to express the satisfaction of the fact that it has been able to build a bridge between French-speaking and English-speaking Africa which has been a long and demanding process. Especially, the NSS LIS network is proud of the impact the cooperation has generated in French-speaking Senegal. Their students and staff have learned to perform in English and they have taken English as compulsory part of all HEI programmes. The NSS LIS cooperation is one of the most important inspirer to this development.

The NSS LIS Network has been a collective platform for Finnish LIS educators to operate side by side. Especially for the Turku University of Applied Sciences the Network has been an important and a visible international operator. The cooperation has connected TUAS to the highly interesting and diverse Africa and the Network has offered opportunities for TUAS students and teaching staff members to visit the continent. The multicultural and multilingual Africa is an example that variety of different backgrounds among students and teaching staff can be a strength for a higher education institution.

The progressive and intensive collaboration was well planned and conducted so in total 96 % of the activities were executed. There were some challenges in meeting all anticipated student exchanges as planned but on a positive note, the south-south cooperation was proven to be very effective, active and fruitful. This might be the result of organizing the teacher exchanges so that several participants were invited to the Finnish universities at the same time which enhanced networking, knowledge sharing, mutual learning and improved personal relationships. However, mobility was beneficial to both arriving attendees and receiving institutions.

The Intensive Course was organized and hosted jointly by two Tanzanian partners in June 2014. The course included various lectures and field works which supported the overall theme Research information literacy; how to get research information distributed and understood by people outside research- or library professions. Participants of the course were teachers and students from all partner institutions, in total over 60 attendees. The course was a life-changing experience for the students and for everybody involved.

Three Dissemination activities were short workshops and seminars for outside stakeholders, mainly those involved in information literacy and benefitting from understanding research literacy. The first Dissemination Event was held in Tanzania adjacent to the Intensive Course since the intention was to disseminate the results of the course. Participants in the event included students, teachers, library professionals and members of Tanzania Library Service Board. The discussion about the theme, further education in the branch and fast IT development was active and rewarding. The second Dissemination Event was held in the Library of the

University of Namibia in May 2015 and it was a successful reflection of the first event. The third Dissemination event was held in Senegal in November 2015 where the Network added a new, fresh subject of distance learning to the discussion. This last event of the project was well arranged with large numbers of professionals discussing the experiences and challenges of distance learning. The NSS LIS Network II project ended with pride.