



## **Developing Information Literacy: a Participatory Workshop**

### **Introduction**

The first [IAALD Africa conference](#) was held in Nairobi Kenya from 21<sup>st</sup> May -27<sup>th</sup> May 2006. On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2006, a [workshop](#) was organized by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, Unit 6.03.00: Information Services and Knowledge Organizations with the theme Developing Information Literacy.

### **Participation**

A total of 11 participants attended the workshop which was held in the Samburu room of the Intercontinental Hotel. Presentations were made by Margaret Sraku-Lartey of Ghana and Sheila Mbiru of Kenya, while Mrs. Elizabeth Dodsworth of CABI was the facilitator.

### **Workshop Content**

The first part of the workshop was a presentation on the seven pillars of information literacy and it was presented by Margaret Sraku-Lartey, while the second part was on GFIS as a gateway for forestry information. This was presented by Sheila Mbiru.

The presentations were interspersed with discussions and contributions by participants. Many shared their own problems and frustrations especially when it came to the issue of preservation of institutional knowledge. It was evident that many of the issues that had been discussed could be addressed if institutions and organizations were able to come out with their information strategies. Other areas that were of major concern to participants were issues of organizing and communicating information especially when it came to citation, copyright and plagiarism. Participants were of the opinion that many people were either unaware of the rules governing the fair use of information and what constitutes plagiarism or did not really care about the consequences. It was observed by one participant that the component of the IUFRO workshop should have formed a core part of the IAALD-Africa conference judging by the fact that many discussions were held on the same issues that we were discussing.

Below is the content of the presentations.

#### **1. What is information literacy and why does it matter?**

Recognizing the need for information  
The Seven Pillars of Information Literacy model

#### **2. Plugging the information gap**

Developing information management strategies  
Choosing appropriate resources  
Constraints affecting accessibility

#### **3. Constructing strategies for locating information**

Developing electronic document management systems to match needs  
Devising an integrated approach to managing disparate resources

#### **4. Locating and accessing information**

Developing appropriate searching techniques  
Using web-based sources

Keeping up-to-date

**5. Comparing and evaluating information**

Assessing quality and reliability

Peer review and new scholarly publishing patterns

**6. Organizing and communicating information**

Citation, copyright and plagiarism

Constructing a personal bibliographic system

Building electronic communities and networks

**7. Synthesizing information and creating new knowledge**

Using and contributing to compendia and gateways

**Conclusions**

It was recommended that more effort should be made to educate information managers on some of these issues and if possible a workshop be organized to discuss this in detail.