



REPORT ON MAIN ACTIVITIES - 2006 (Report included in the 2006 FOTIM Annual Report)

Chairperson: Dudu Nkosi

Director: Gwenda Thomas (first quarter only)

Launched in 1996, GAELIC remains the largest FOTIM project. During 2006 GAELIC focused on strategic planning and establishing Focus Groups which strive to promote sharing of skills and knowledge in specific areas of strategic importance to the higher education libraries and the consortium.

1. GAELIC GOVERNING BOARD (GGB)

The GAELIC Governing Board (GGB) regulates and manages GAELIC, its projects, focus groups and finances, and reports on a regular basis to FOTIM. Each member of FOTIM nominates a Director/University Librarian (or other senior official) as a member of the GAELIC Governing Board.

In 2006, the Board was chaired by Dudu Nkosi, the Library Director of the North-West University: Mafikeng Campus. Rachel More of the University of Limpopo was chair-elect.

With the restructuring of FOTIM in 2005, the GAELIC constitution was revised to ensure continuity of the strategic direction identified for GAELIC. The revised constitution was approved by the FOTIM Board in March 2006.

The Board approved the application of the University of Botswana Library to become a member of GAELIC. Membership will commence in 2007. The other external member is the University of Namibia Library.

2. GAELIC SURVEY WORKSHOP

GAELIC Governing Board representatives met on 15 March 2006 to debate and discuss the recommendations of the 2005 survey and align proposed actions with FOTIM and GAELIC objectives. A number of proposed interventions and priorities were identified at the workshop, and it was decided to approach the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for funds to conduct a thorough investigation of the Innopac/Millennium system at GAELIC institutions.

3. ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION PROPOSAL

A proposal to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for a planning grant was prepared by Dianne Man and Lettie Erasmus and approved by FOTIM in August 2006. The grant will enable GAELIC to investigate the impact of different software models in libraries within GAELIC. The outcome will make specific recommendations on how to address problem areas with regard to the challenges identified in the GAELIC 2005 survey. The proposal was submitted to the Mellon Foundation in September 2006.

4. GAELIC FOCUS GROUPS

4.1 CATALOGUING FOCUS GROUP

Focus Group Leader – Welna van Eeden

This Focus Group was established at the beginning of 2006 to develop cataloguing skills of staff in GAELIC libraries, to apply International Bibliographic Standards and for knowledge sharing. Several training sessions took place during the second half of 2006. Catalogers had the opportunity to attend the workshop organized by the LIASA Interest group for Bibliographic Standards.

The group contributed to the development of international standards through its ongoing participation with the Name Authority Cooperative Program (NACO) and the Subject Authority Cooperative Program (SACO) of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) ; peer reviews of bibliographic records; and a forum for members to share experiences and debate key matters.

The group works closely with other Focus Groups and with the LIASA Bibliographic Interest Group to avoid duplication. A joint workshop of the Cataloguing and Innovative Focus Groups was held on 19 May 2006 at the Unisa Library in Pretoria.

4.2 COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT FOCUS GROUP

Focus Group Leader – Dorette Snyman

During 2006, the Collection Development Focus Group hosted two workshops in conjunction with the South African Site Licensing Initiative (SASLI). Two highly acclaimed international speakers that were participating in the SASLI Conference (25 to 27 July) agreed to hold workshops in their areas of expertise in the regional consortia in South Africa.

- Project COUNTER: Overview, Implementation and Understanding Usage Statistics, held on 28 July at the Unisa Library, Pretoria.

Peter Shepherd, managing director of Project COUNTER in the UK gave an in depth overview of the strategy, current status, code of practice and new developments of Project Counter. This was followed by guidelines, practical advice and examples on usage statistics within individual libraries.

- From Collection Management to Information Management, held on 4 August 2006 at the Tshwane University of Technology Library, Pretoria

Arnold Hishon, Executive Director of NELINET library consortium is a well-known workshop leader on the topic of collection management within a consortium environment. His workshop covered collection management today, planning process, organizational factors affecting this, and using e-metrics in the management of library resources, specifically electronic resources.

In addition to the two workshops, the Focus Groups also held a discussion with SASLI on 8 June 2006 at the Academic Information Service, University of Pretoria. The SASLI Office and collection development issue in GAELIC was discussed with Susan Veldsman of SASLI. The GAELIC Governing Board discussed these outcomes at their November meeting, and suggested that the links between SASLI and GAELIC be formalized in a Service Level Agreement between the two bodies.

4.3 DOCUMENT SUPPLY AND LIBRARY SUPPORT SERVICES FOCUS GROUP

Focus Group Leader – Janet Zambri

This Focus Group provides a forum for Document Supply and Library Support Services and opportunities to discuss mutual problems, develop skills and participate in problem solving,

The group had two combined meetings with the LIASA Inter-Library Loans interest group. Issues such as inter institutional fining were discussed. The Focus Group Charter was also finalized this year. The group also held a very successful workshop:

- Support Services workshop, held at the University of the Witwatersrand on 15 August 2006.

96 Library Shelves and Support Services Staff from various libraries met for a day of fun, learning and networking. Shelves learned that there was more to shelving than nice straight shelves. Participants learnt that they are the foundation of an efficient library. Participants explored shelf numbers and letters, which were followed by hands on sessions. Spot prizes were given to teams as they completed the tasks. The most important session for some was the networking and sharing of tips and secrets with team leaders.

4.4 INNOVATIVE SYSTEM FOCUS GROUP

Focus Group Leader – Lettie Erasmus

The Innovative System Focus Group was extremely active during 2006. The group aims to develop skills and expertise among staff using the Innovative library system to ensure its optimal use in all GAELIC libraries.

Site coordinators met on 20 July to discuss issues and developments relating to the system. In addition, the following workshops and training sessions were held:

- Millennium www-options and new features
This workshop was held on 15 August 2006 at Tshwane University of Technology (Pretoria Campus), and included presentations by Elize van Eldik and Corrie Breitenbach of the North-West University.
- Innovative Advanced System Administration and Access Workshop

A successful training session, facilitated by an Innovative trainer, Eva Lachonius from Malmo in Sweden, was held at the Unisa Library on 6-7 November 2006. Library Systems Administrators learned to make their own system changes.

- University of Limpopo Libraries requested GAELIC to provide assistance with preparations to integrate the two Innovative systems. Three Unisa Library staff members conducted the investigation on behalf of GAELIC and presented a report to the University of Limpopo Library management on 2 November 2006.

4.5 RADIO FREQUENCY ID FOCUS GROUP

Focus Group Leader – Nonnie van Wyk

A process of information gathering has equipped this Focus Group to begin work in 2007. They will start with the formulation of a charter.

4.6 METADATA FOCUS GROUP

Focus Group Leader – Ansie Watkins

The Metadata Focus Group promotes the creation and application of metadata within the GAELIC community. Activities will start in 2007.

4.7 SHARED COLLECTION STORAGE FOCUS GROUP

Focus Group Leader – Dianne Man

A new addition to GAELIC activities, this Focus Group will investigate the feasibility of establishing a shared storage facility of physical collections for FOTIM institutions. The aim is to produce a preliminary report for the GAELIC Governing Board. The Group's activities will commence in 2007.

4.8 USER EDUCATION FOCUS GROUP

Focus Group Leader – Dr Daisy Selematsela

The group met on 30 July to discuss objectives and to draft a charter. The group intends to create a platform for GAELIC members to discuss interesting issues that will enhance the development of user education incorporating new market trends. The group will reconvene in 2007 and appoint a new leader.

4.9 VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOCUS GROUP

Focus Group Leader – Dr AJ van Vuren

This group was tasked with looking at the role of the library and information centre with regard to web based learning. Research on the topic and the identification of needs has begun, and the way forward for 2007 determined.

5. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

5.1 LIBRARY 2.0 DISCUSSION

GAELIC hosted a Library 2.0. discussion with Richard Wallis from Talis, a provider of products and services for public and academic libraries in the United Kingdom and

Ireland.. The discussion was held at the University of Pretoria on 30 October 2006. Participants were given an overview of Talis activities and of Web/Library 2.0. An overview of GAELIC, its structure, motivations, issues and ambitions was provided. The possibilities of proactive partnerships in learning and research within the changing digital environment were debated.

5.2 IUG: SA TROPHY

GAELIC was approached by the Innovative User Group: SA committee to sponsor a floating trophy to encourage participation at the annual IUG: SA conference. The University of the Witwatersrand Library was the winner of the 2006 Trophy.

5.3 STANSA TC 46 COMMITTEE

The Standards South Africa Technical Committee 46: Information and documentation, known as StanSA TC-46 or just TC 46, is a participating member of Technical Committee 46 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in Geneva.

Dr Hester Marais, the GAELIC representative on the StanSa TC 46 committee, represented South Africa on the annual ISO/TC 46 meeting in Chiang Mai in February 2006.

6. COALITION OF SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY CONSORTIA (COSALC)

The GAELIC Chair represents GAELIC and FOTIM on the COSALC Board. The COSALC Board was faced with a number of challenges in 2006. COSALC is currently undergoing a number of changes which included the appointment of a new board during the AGM in 2006. The new Chairperson of COSALC is Laila Vahed of the University of Zululand. The GAELIC chairperson, Dudu Nkosi was elected Deputy Chairperson.

7. CONCLUSION

2006 was a challenging year, but GAELIC continues to grow from strength to strength. Opportunities identified will be implemented in 2007, adding further value to FOTIM membership. The smooth operation of the activities described above would not have been possible had GAELIC not operated as a team with strong support from library staff members.

The GAELIC chairperson would like to thank all library staff members for their contribution towards making GAELIC a success and the pride of FOTIM.