



REPORT ON MAIN ACTIVITIES - 2007 (Report included in the 2007 FOTIM Annual Report)

GAELIC has had a very productive 2007 with a key focus on the development and implementation of the GAELIC Strategic Plan for 2007 – 2008.

The GAELIC Governing Board, under the leadership of Dudu Nkosi, has played a very important role by paving the way forward and providing its full support towards the different activities of this major program. A planning grant of \$ 50 000 from the Mellon Foundation has made it possible to engage on a major investigation for the integrated Millennium System for the members of GAELIC.

The sections below provide short summaries on the different activities:

1. GAELIC Strategic Planning

The strategic planning exercise which was started in 2006 was completed during the planning session held in April 2007. The GGB agreed that the GOALS of GAELIC should be :

- To support member libraries in facilitating the creation, use and management of knowledge
- To provide innovative information access and services through implementing cost-effective strategies for state-of-the-art systems and resources

For the 2007 – 2008 period the OBJECTIVES are:

- Investigate and implement a joint integrated Millennium system
- Build capacity through identification and provision of training needs and services for optimal utilization of resources
- Improve cost-efficiency through joint procurement and resource sharing

The different library Directors agreed to become the sponsors of these three major objectives and to provide the leadership to the operational teams involved in activities which will ensure that the objectives are achieved. The different Focus Groups will be encouraged to focus their work on these three objectives, thereby providing the important operational support.

For each Objective an Action Plan has been formulated which will guide the different activities over this period. In the case of the first objective GAELIC has been successful in obtaining a Planning Grant from the Mellon Foundation to the value of \$ 50 000 , which will enable the team to complete the investigation and formulate a revised plan for an integrated Millennium System.

In all three objectives good progress has been made and from the reports of the Focus Groups it is clear that the integrated approach has the potential to incorporate different teams and expertise available at the member institutions, into a cohesive network and strategy.

GAELIC celebrated 10 years of successful collaboration at a function on 3 December 2007. GGB members, Focus Group Leaders and other staff who have contributed to GAELIC were invited to share the celebration. The Board of FOTIM would like to use this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation to everyone who has been so instrumental over the ten years in making such a success of GAELIC and its achievements.

2. Focus Group Activity Reports

GAELIC Focus groups were established to move away from committee-based and agenda-driven type structures, to encourage specialist groups to meet and discuss areas of interest and to increase the levels of participation by members.

Some of the highlights of the work of the Focus Groups include:

- Focus group participation in assisting the operational teams for the three Objectives
- The Innovative Systems Focus Group has been largely involved with the GAELIC System Investigation Project and excellent progress has been made
- The Interlending and Support Services Focus Group offered a highly successful Support Services Workshop on 18 July 2007 under the theme: Your destiny is in your hands, taking control of your working future! The course content consisted of CV writing, creating a live portfolio, interview techniques, role plays and participant panel discussions. The workshop was attended by 75 participants and the feedback received was very positive.

A second Support Services Workshop was hosted on 10 September 2007 with the focus on shelvers under the theme: There is more to shelving than nice straight shelves, and was attended by 122 participants.

The Virtual Learning Environment Focus group is planning to run a survey to determine the type of VLE services/initiatives that are currently available and being planned in member institutions and also to determine specific training needs in relation to the current/ planned VLE services.

3. Other activities and engagement of GAELIC

- Membership of SANLIC and GAELIC's contribution in the restructuring and management of SANLIC
- The IGSU:SA conference took place from 15-16 November 2007 at the CSIR Conference Centre and GAELIC sponsored a roving trophy which is annually awarded to the institution for best participation in the conference.
- The GAELC office coordinated a Symposium for all Directors of Southern African sites using the Innovative System, with representatives from Innovative Interfaces Inc.

4. Final word

The above short summary only highlighted a few of all the activities GAELIC has been involved in over the past year. The importance of such a collaborative program lies in the impact it has in sharing, networking and building a team amongst the member institutions that will be geared to face the challenges in the new millennium.

It furthermore has the capacity to reduce costs, share resources and make expertise available for the important activities in capacity building.

During September 2007 it was announced that the Chair of GAELIC, Ms Dudu Nkosi, has resigned from North West University and taken up a position at UNISA. The Board would like to thank her for the valuable contributions she has made - in many cases under difficult circumstances.

The Board acknowledges the key role members of the GGB, Focus Group Leaders and their committees have played over the past year. Our sincere appreciation for a job well done!

Ms Dudu Nkosi
Chairperson