

## **Summary of Uganda Partnership meeting**

*during visit of Dr. Maria Musoke, Professor of Information Science  
and University Librarian, Makerere University, 6– 16 July 2011*



Maria Musoke visiting the Open University

*Report by*

*Shane Godbolt and Emma Stanley, August 2011*

*Visited funded by Elsevier Foundation and hosted by Phi*

### ***In Tribute to Sara Mbagu***

*Dr. Maria Musoke was due to visit the UK with her colleague Sara Mbagu, it is with great sadness that during the time of the visit we learnt the news that Sara had passed away. Sara Mbagu had contributed significantly to the current success of this project and the revitalisation of the Uganda Health Information Digest. Her loss will be deeply felt by her friends and colleagues in Uganda and the UK*

## INTRODUCTION

Partnerships in Health Information (Phi) has long supported a partnership between The Sir Albert Cook Medical Library, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda and the Kent Surrey and Sussex (KSS) Health Libraries Network led by the Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust Library and Information Service. This year Phi welcomed and hosted an exchange visit for Dr. Maria Musoke to the UK from 6<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2011. The visit was funded by the Elsevier Foundation and marked the end of the first year of the three year project on *Enhancing Access to Current Literature by Health Workers in Rural Uganda and Community Health Problem Solving*.

During this visit a meeting was held between partners from Uganda and the UK, Phi Officers and Elsevier to share an update on the progress of the project. This provided an opportunity for Maria to share an update on the project planning and to discuss planning for the forthcoming year. A second session was held to discuss increasing collaboration and communication with other organisations and networks based or working in Uganda.

Other highlights of Maria's programme included:

- Visit to the Open University where discussions took place on the MSc Development Management Scholarship Programme (in partnership with the Kulika Trust), and the Health Education Training (Heat) programme – a project to support the training of community health workers throughout Africa.
- Informative visit to meet with staff from the Centre for Evidence Based Medicine in Oxford, which opened up discussions about developing a Centre in Uganda. Achieving this could establish the first such Centre in Africa.
- A presentation with Shane Godbolt (Director, Phi) and Gracian Chimwaza (Executive Director, Information Training & Outreach Centre for Africa ITOCA) in the Technology and Access track at the CILIP Umbrella Conference, University of Hertsfordshire, Hatfield. The presentation included papers on *Enhancing value through partnership – international cooperation to improve information access & Building the capacity of librarians enhances access to electronic health information in Uganda*

*Please See APPENDIX 1 for the full visit programme.*

## UGANDA PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

Phi convened two meetings for the Uganda partners and other invited guests, including representatives from the Elsevier Foundation. The meeting was hosted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) in London. Thanks are given to Caroline Lloyd, Head of the Library & Archives Service at LSHTM and her team for their hospitality and to Richard Osborn from the London Deanery for providing lunch at the Bloomsbury Healthcare Library and the opportunity to catch up with new and old friends- Phi was delighted that Michael Carmel, Founder of Phi was able to join us all for lunch.



Above (left to right): Michael Carmel, Maria Musoke and Richard Osborn

## **FIRST UGANDA PARTNERSHIP MEETING - Elsevier Project and partnership update**

### ***Elsevier Project: Enhancing Access to Current Literature by Health Workers in Rural Uganda and Community Health Problem Solving.***

With a grant from the Elsevier Foundation, Makerere University will combine information services with targeted rural medical outreach and reporting, demonstrating how librarians in developing countries can impact rural health workers and health outcomes. Critical medical information on rural health issues (infant mortality, HIV/AIDS etc.) will be repackaged to meet the information needs of Ugandan health workers. A team of doctors, nurses and midwives will provide hands on training and treatment for specific rural health crises which will be reported in expanded issues of the triannual medical digest produced by Albert Cook Medical library. <http://www.elsevierfoundation.org/innovative-libraries/grants/>

### **The Elsevier project- where are we now and what documentation is available? Background to Partnership; UK update**

In the early stages of the partnership the focus was on document delivery via satellite. Following this Dr. Musoke and colleagues visited the UK on several occasions. The partners were able to obtain two tranches of three years funding each (2002 -05 & 2006 -09) from the British Council, Phi, the Chartered Institute of Librarians and Information Professionals (CILIP), TFPL and the BMA Humanitarian Fund for outreach projects and web development. During these projects the partnership agreed to focus on outreach activities, Training of Trainer's (ToT) skills, support in website development and hosting of exchange visits between Uganda and the UK. Dr. Maria Musoke and Rachel Cooke gave a joint presentation about the first project and its achievements at CILIP's *Health Libraries Group Conference* in Belfast in 2004; it included the nature of the relationship and the value of the partnership. A visual timeline with the website as the background marked the major milestones of the partnership since the 1990s. Please see APPENDIX 2

## **Update from Uganda**

Dr. Maria Musoke explained that Elsevier funding had been requested in order to build upon the previous partnership activity. The project aimed to increase engagement between Makerere University and the community and had been launched successfully as planned.

The *Uganda Health Information Digest* has been revived through the project. Although it would now be timely for the content to be available online, there is still a need for a print version to reach those who may not have access to any technology. The idea behind the creation of the *Digest* had always been to assist those in remote areas (especially where no technology was available), to keep abreast of developments in healthcare.

Plans for this year include a visit to Makerere University by a web developer to support the development of the website and enable the Digest to be managed online. It was also hoped that Shane Godbolt would accompany the web developer to take forward ongoing discussions on evidence based practice and to run a workshop on *Building Strong Library Associations* (developed by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions). In the forthcoming year (2012) a visit to Uganda by Dr. Martin de Saulles, University of Brighton, and another expert in web technology training was scheduled.

Dr. Musoke noted that although mobile technology had taken off in Uganda the project team needed to be well prepared whilst carrying out the outreach activities. Generally the internet signal was poor and experience to date was that the visiting team needed to carry three different modems to ensure that one of these would connect to the internet through one of the phone networks. There was some discussion around the use of handheld computers and it was suggested that if health information could be uploaded to a device regularly this could be beneficial rather than being reliant on internet connectivity. Elsevier has a project to load chips into smart phones.

## **Community outreach**

- Four health topics have been chosen covering: 1 Coughs and colds; 2 Malaria; 3 Intestinal worms and; 4 PSI. A problem solving outreach exercise had been completed in four districts. The original plan was to complete visits to nine districts by the end of the year, however due to the late start of the project this has not been possible.
- The team consisted of two health information professionals (Dr Musoke and Sara Mbaga) a medical doctor and a nurse. During the programme both the community and healthcare professionals were given demonstrations using a laptop and showing how to connect to the internet over a mobile phone network and access good quality health information. Information and healthcare professionals worked together finding relevant information to answer queries and discuss healthcare diagnosis and treatment.
- The topics raised and reports on the sessions with health workers and community members are published in the *Uganda Health Information Digest* for September to December 2010. This publication has been much appreciated as the articles are topical and relevant; and the abstracts are useful to the many health workers who do not have access to the internet.
- Dr. Musoke reported that these sessions were improving all the time due to lessons learnt. Each session addressed the community in the morning and health workers in the afternoon. The sessions had been very full and lively. For many members of the community this had been the first time they had ever engaged with a healthcare professional. Unfortunately there was no time available for the doctors to run clinic sessions as originally intended. However, in one instance the community had demanded a clinic session, rooms were made available and the practitioners stayed on to advise members of the local community on health issues of specific concern to them.

### **Uganda Health Information Digest**

The Digest had been produced three times in the past year and had been coordinated and edited by Sara Mbagi, whose input could not easily be replaced. She went beyond the call of duty and had been a great asset in making both the Digest and the current project so successful. There was discussion around how the Digest could be maintained in this interim period as it is such a core part of the project.

### **2.6 Planning and Communication**

Shane Godbolt commented that Potenza Atiogbe's previous pre-trip programme planning was meticulous and very useful and though Potenza was not able to make a visit this year Shane hoped that she would be closely involved in its planning. Meetings via Huddle, Elluminate and WebEx were also discussed. Phi's experience using a simple free tool such as Skype was useful when planning visits and programmes between partners and for updating each other on project activity.



### **SECOND UGANDA PARTNERSHIP MEETING – collaboration and looking to the future**

A number of partnerships or links exist between the UK and Uganda. This meeting brought together a number of them and other expressed their regret that they could not be present.

#### **Present**

**Phi:** Shane Godbolt (Director), Nick Naftalin (Chair) Trevor Mitchell (Asst. Hon Treasurer), Jean Shaw (Hon. Research Officer), Deborah Schofield (Senior Admin Asst) & Emma Stanley (Consultant, formerly Programmes Officer)

**Uganda Partnership:** Maria Musoke (Makerere University)

**Other invited guests:** Florence Achen-Owor (Assistant Campus Library Manager, University of East London), Richard Osborn (Strategic Library Services Development Manager, NHS London), Donna Schofield (Library Manager, University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust & Health Link with Gulu University), Hannah Wood (Librarian, LSHTM)

**Apologies:** Cath Butterfield (Programme Coordinator, Tropical Health and Education Trust), Michael Carmel (Founder of Phi), Maria Cotera (Education Advisor, African Prisons Project), Peter Minhinnett (Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) Commonwealth

Professional Fellows Coordinator) and Lenny Rhine (HINARI Trainer, Librarians Without Borders)

**Chair:** Nick Naftalin OBE, FRCOG

## **1. Welcome, introductions and sharing information**

Mr. Naftalin welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded all that the purpose of the meeting was to consider how the existing partnership and its achievements can be built on and possibly developed into a broader based model for the future. The context is the successful re-vitalisation of UG-AHILA and the strategic necessity to seek to improve collaboration & partnership across a number of other initiatives with similar aims. These might usefully share ideas & experience with a view to leveraging potential to improve the effectiveness and impact of all parties. He noted that some of us were meeting for the first time and it was a good opportunity to share and learn from each other. The meeting began with a round of introductions.

### **1.1 Hannah Wood, LSHTM Library**

Hannah provided an update on the work of the LSHTM Library, especially in relation to the newly developed distance learning courses. Distance-learning students in low and middle-income countries have become a priority for the LSHTM. She estimated that there were approximately 20 to 30 students in Uganda currently. The library is raising awareness of HINARI and other locally available resources students can use, especially resources that are freely available and can be utilised during the rest of their professional life. The library also supports researchers in its research centres, mainly in Tanzania, but also in Kenya.

### **1.2 Donna Schofield, Man-Gulu Health Link**

Donna recently visited Uganda as part of the Man-Gulu Health Link and she provided an overview on the Link and specifically on the findings of her visit. The educational partnership between Gulu University and the University Hospital of South Manchester runs a programme on trauma, communication, and acute adult illness. The aim of the programme in the longer term is that it can run in Uganda without the support of Manchester. The experience gained has been beneficial and working with Ugandan colleagues on the programme has contributed to the continuing professional development and improved skills for Manchester colleagues. The programme has looked at needs for improving infrastructure for IT connectivity and library services as well as mandatory non-clinical training. Donna visited Gulu and carried out a library/health information needs assessment during which she gained an overview of the current information services available, met with staff at the university and explored areas the Link could support in terms of capacity building for the library and its staff. She noted that it was clear from the visit that better and more infrastructure was needed.

The Gulu University library is currently for medical students and academics, but needs to broaden its user group to become a multi-disciplinary library including all staff. Donna explained that after her return from Gulu she worked with colleagues on the development of a funding proposal in order to fund a resource centre for Gulu Hospital. This bid was submitted to the British Council, but unfortunately was not successful. However other funding avenues are being sought and she noted that the development of the library aspect of the Link was still in its infancy.

### **1.3 Richard Osborn, Manager, eKAT, London Deanery**

Richard introduced himself to the group, and said he has been a long standing supporter of Phi's work, but new to the activities of the Uganda Partnership. Richard is the Strategic Library Services Development Manager for the electronic Knowledge Access Team (eKAT) at the London Deanery. eKAT is a team of Information Specialists tasked with ensuring that the NHS in London is positioned to take advantage of existing and developing electronic tools and technologies to enhance service delivery of knowledge and eLearning resources. As Potenza had commented in the morning meeting when she begins her new post at Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust she will fall within the geographic catchment area of Richard and his team but will still retain the strong links with the KSS Health Libraries Network.

#### 1.4 Florence Achen-Owor

Florence introduced herself as the Assistant Campus Library Manager, University of East London. She comes from Gulu and said that she would be very willing to support the Uganda Partnership and Phi. She had recently prepared a country profile which it was hoped could be used by Phi on the website. Florence is also a member of the International Library and Information Group (ILIG) of CILIP.

#### 1.5 NLM –training manual

A new Training manual was available, developed specifically for and by health librarians in Africa as part of an important initiative by NLM. The late Sara Mbagwa had been part of the working group for the development of the project and most of those involved were former National Library for Medicine Fellows attached to NLM for a year's programme. Some were also active members of the Association of Health Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA). Over the past two years the NLM has supported the Network of African Medical Librarians and Deans, to develop a training manual on *Finding, Organising and Using Medical Information*. The first edition has now been printed and it is the intention that the manual should be made freely available to all on the internet and be updated regularly. The online version will be available soon. Please see below for links to YouTube videos which gives a short introduction to each of the modules available.

*Finding, Organising and Using Medical Information*- introductory videos on Training Manual:

Module 1 [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=toW3cM86p\\_I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=toW3cM86p_I)

Module 2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43zuPe6W8Ec>

Module 3 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdVKU4bkkpg>

Module 4 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aloKpDWBBps>

Module 5 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QjZPBDuGi8>

Module 6 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjPnm8zFVko>

Module 6 (French version) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBTjpM4VjPg>

Module 7 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDft4TAIBBI>

Greetings from Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa

(AHILA) President <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9fviLXmXok>

Summary in Portuguese:> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LhG0yRTPU>

#### 2. Possibilities for broader based collaborative working with UG-AHILA and others

The development of the NLM training manual highlights the benefits of pooling resources and expertise and Mr Naftalin invited the group to discuss the possibilities and opportunities for expanding the existing partnership in Uganda to include others. One aspect of which could be working with UG-AHILA, for example, to enhance the coordination of health information in Uganda. He commented that the progress in Zambia, where a Zambia UK Health Workforce Alliance has been set up, had been achieved through working with government and health ministers. The Zambia Alliance is a growing network of Zambian-based and UK-based organisations who work together to promote and improve the coordination and impact of Zambia-UK joint work in health. This model might be used as a template in Uganda with a focus specifically on health information activities.

There are certainly many health information projects, however as many of them work in isolation there is a risk of duplicating activities and/or not realising their full potential. Quite often people are unaware of what others are doing. Dr. Musoke mentioned the Nile basin project (Norwegian-based) had initiated lots of health projects in Uganda. American university links e.g. the University of Tennessee and Case-Western Reserve University, Ohio have been active many years..

Some projects provide good training, but when the funding ceased the work was not carried on. Dr. Musoke praised the training style of INASP (International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications), highlighting that it is very outcome orientated, builds strength & capacity locally, has good transparency, and helps build long term plans. Also, the INASP cascading model for the rollout of training works well. They provide good quality training

material freely, leaving behind workshop templates/ training materials that can be used and built on locally.

Mr Naftalin highlighted the benefit of creating contacts in the government and wondered if this could be the role of the local chapter of UG- AHILA.

There was further discussion about the value of the *Ugandan Health Information Digest*. Was there an opportunity for this to be rolled out in other countries? Publication of *Digests* had been active in a number of countries, including Zambia, but when the funding ceased so did the publication. Uganda is the only country to have revitalised the Digest. Even the President of Uganda reads the *Digest* and has commented that it is telling him all he needs to know about health issues.

The scope of the *Digest* was discussed. It has potential to promote events and activities and also to gather and share information on health information initiatives and activities in Uganda. Both Hannah Wood and Donna Schofield were very interested in hearing about the *Digest* and would investigate whether their respective networks of students and partners were aware of it.

Dr. Musoke thanked Phi for its significant contribution to the partnership and especially Shane Godbolt for the hosting her visit to the UK and being supportive during a very difficult week. Maria presented a small gift in appreciation of their work for the partnership through Phi (see above).

## APPENDIX 1 UK Visit Programme

**Dr Maria Musoke, Professor of Information Science and University Librarian, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda 6 – 16 July 2011**

Date	Programme	Notes
July	Arrival in UK	Met at London Heathrow
Wed 6	Rest & short programme briefing	
Thurs 7	Visit to the Open University	<p><b>Leave Pinner 8.45am and drive to OU</b></p> <p><b>10.30 – 11.15</b> Meeting Senior Manager working with Health Education &amp; Training (HEAT) programme. <b>Seminar Room 4</b> NB. HEAT is an ambitious project to train and support hundreds of thousands of community health workers across Africa, with the help of the internet.</p> <p><b>11.30 – 12.30</b> Meet Research Student, Institute of Educational Technology <b>Seminar Room 4</b></p> <p><b>12.30 – 13:00</b> Meeting with Director of Open University Library Services (90 Staff) <b>Seminar Room 4</b></p> <p><b>13:00 – 13:30</b> Lunch</p> <p><b>13:30 – 14:30</b> Meet Information Literacy Unit Manager Library Services <b>Seminar Room 4</b></p> <p><b>14:30</b> - Meeting with Director , OU MSc in Development Management, Scholarship Programme <i>in partnership with</i> Kulika Trust, Uganda <b>Seminar Room 2</b></p>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Programme</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Fri 8</b>	Centre for Evidence-based Medicine Maria with friends	1pm meet with Director for lunch Meet Maria's friends in Oxford
<b>Sat 9</b>	Maria with friends	
<b>Sun 10</b>	Maria with friends/ return to Pinner	
<b>Mon 11</b>	HIFA 2015 Steering Group, BMA 12.30 – 2.30pm	Chief administrators and Steering Group members
<b>Tues 12</b>	Meeting at offices of The Lancet, Camden Town, London  CILIP Umbrella Conference, Univ. of Hatfield , Hertfordshire	To attend WHO/Lancet convened meeting on strategic collaboration across HINARI & other programmes and to speak briefly from a user perspective.  CILIP Conference dinner, Sopwell Manor, Hatfield
<b>Wed 13</b>	CILIP Umbrella Conference Day 2	Gracian Chimwaza, Maria Musoke & Shane Godbolt to speak.
<b>Thur 14</b>	HINARI meeting BMA, London	10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations
<b>Fri 15</b>	Uganda partnership meeting, London  Social Event	See draft agenda  Royal Opera House - Madam Butterfly with Shane Godbolt and Trevor Mitchell
<b>Sat 16</b>	Wrap up and departure	Shane to drive to LHR .