

Email services to diffuse HIV/AIDS information

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Introduction

Problems faced:

- Insufficiency of formal libraries
- A lack of means
- A lack of training
- A lack of motivation
- Existing libraries are remote
- High illiteracy rate of people
- No "habit" to use libraries

African AIDS Research Network

- Established Information and Documentation Center
- Enables HIV/AIDS researchers to access literature

Services offered

- Reading Room
- Document Loan
- Photocopy
- Information Researches
- Information Selective Dissemination

Products Offered

- Bibliographies
- Acquisition Lists
- Periodicals review
- Periodical catalogue
- Directory of HIV/AIDS researchers
- Documentary files and Information bulletin
- Email information service

What is the information email service?

Diffuse via email different kinds of information helpful to African researchers and other information users

Types of information

- Acquisition lists
- Bibliographies
- Periodical reviews
- Periodicals catalogue
- Directories of HIV/AIDS researchers & institutions
- Abstracts of publications
- Information related to specific aspects of HIV/AIDS
- Information related to AARN and the IDC activities

Diffusion Lists

- Email addresses of persons and/or institutions in Africa interested in HIV/AIDS
- 46 email addresses
- 13 African countries

Impact, usefulness, interaction

- Helped users in Africa access data relevant to HIV/AIDS
- Increased knowledge level
- Enabled researchers to be kept informed
- Informed users about main information sources

Impact, usefulness, interaction

- Provided users with practical information
- Helped researchers exchange experience and knowledge
- Avoided doubling of works
- Helped users know each other
- Encouraged researchers to be better involved
- Encouraged use of ICT

Conclusion

- Email information service is rapid and low cost
- Users must have knowledge about ICT
- Telecommunications limits access