

***ICTs AND THE PROVISION OF HEALTH
INFORMATION IN THE RESEARCH AND
ACADEMIC COMMUNITY IN KENYA***



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AREAS OF IMPACT

- *OVERCOMING INFORMATION POVERTY*
- *ACCESS TO GLOBAL INFORMATION AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES*
- *ENHANCED COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING*
- *DISSEMINATION AND RETRIEVAL OF LOCALLY PRODUCED HEALTH INFORMATION*

OVERCOMING INFORMATION POVERTY



- Have opened access to massive information sources which was hitherto not accessible
- Have transformed the way libraries provide information services to their users
- Can be used for resource sharing between various institutions
- Have facilitated the creation of in-house databases and computerisation of information services.

ACCESS TO GLOBAL INFORMATION AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



- Access to global information resources in health no matter their location.
- Dissemination of local information resources globally
- Access to funding and collaborative activities from colleagues globally
- Access to conferences, courses and continuing medical education opportunities

ENHANCED COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING

- Increased networking between scientists both locally and internationally
- Easier communication between scientists and their collaborators
- Easier requisition of laboratory reagents and supplies
- Better follow up of laboratory specimens to and from the country
- Organisation of seminars, workshops and conferences
- Access to health information and literature
- Reduced the cost of communication bill in health institutions

DISSEMINATION AND RETRIEVAL OF LOCALLY PRODUCED HEALTH INFORMATION



- Creation of databases
- Automation of library resources and services
- Development of Institutional Websites
- Web publishing

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO FULLY UTILIZE ICTs

- Improved Information infrastructure
- Increased ICTs access points
- Appropriate equipment
- Communication networks eg LAN

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO FULLY UTILIZE ICTs



- Enabling environment
 - Reduction of internet access costs
 - Improved telephone connections
 - Adequate technical support
 - Management Support
 - Sustainability mechanisms
 - Availability of adequate information resources

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO FULLY UTILIZE ICTs



- Training
 - Skills development for information providers
 - Training in computer literacy for end-users
 - Skills in promotion and marketing of information services and products

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO FULLY UTILIZE ICTs




- Development of local content
- Information providers to identify local information resources
- Organize and provide mechanisms for easier access to these information resources
- Repackage and disseminate relevant information to all stakeholders.

Networking and communication

- **Partners should:**
- Initiate e-mail/internet connection where none is existing
- Create institutional websites
- Develop online information services
- Participate in electronic discussion groups
- Share information on lessons learned on specific subject areas electronically
- Update the online information resources regularly

HOW CAN ITCS BE USED TO BENEFIT IN-COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PARTNERS?

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- To enhance communication and networking
 - Posting of research information and newsletters in institutional websites
 - Development of in-house databases and availing them to other users
 - Provision of literature searches for those with no ICT facilities

HOW CAN ITCS BE USED TO BENEFIT IN-COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PARTNERS?

- Creation of union databases through the use of compatible software
- Subscription of information resources through co-operative networks
- Training and capacity building

FUTURE



- Adoption of ICTs by all institutions is the way forward in information management
- For sub-Saharan Africa to benefit from the global information resources, it should develop effective mechanisms to harness local information resources
- Enhancement of resource sharing and networking.
- Training in the use of ICTs for all users.

CONCLUSION



- ICTs have enabled access to relevant information for research and teaching programs.
- To benefit from the technology adequate information infrastructure should be put in place.
- To effectively utilize the technology, it is necessary to have skilled information providers and computer literate users
- Local information resources should be appropriately organized for easier access by all users.