

information resources

Kelvin Smith writes about how to keep up to date with international publishing on a tight budget

This regular page in *Book Aid* will try to guide readers to sources of relevant information on publishing, bookselling and information issues from sources in Europe, Africa and around the world.

In this issue we will cover material that is available free of charge in both print and electronic forms to publishers, libraries and other information providers throughout Africa. Most readers probably already receive information bulletins and newsletters from organisations in Africa and elsewhere in the world. The following is a brief list of regular publications available free of charge to appropriate organisations.

African Publishing Review, published by The African Publishers Network (APNET), contains a wealth of information on the book industry in Africa, business contacts, training events and policy issues. (African Publishing Review, PO Box 2773, Harare, Zimbabwe. Fax: +263 4 705106, e-mail: apnet@mango.zw web: <http://www.africanpublishers.org>)

Bellagio Publishing Network Newsletter, published by the secretariat in Oxford, contains reports, articles, book reviews and information on publishing in Africa and other regions (e.g. Asia, Pacific, Caribbean). The Bellagio Publishing Network also publishes books on publishing that are often available free of charge to African publishers and libraries. (Bellagio Publishing Network Secretariat, 103 Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6EB, UK. Fax: +44 1865 515315, e-mail: bpn@bpnsec.demon.co.uk web: <http://www.bc.edu/bellagio>)

INASP Newsletter, published by the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications, contains articles and information of particular relevance to publishing and information technology for the scientific, medical and academic community. INASP also publishes manuals and reference works that are often distributed free of charge to relevant African organisations.

(INASP, PO Box 2564, London W5 1ZD, UK.

Fax: +44 20 8810 9795,

e-mail: inasp@inasp.info

web: www.inasp.info)

ADEA Newsletter, published in French and English versions by the Association for the Development of Education in Africa, provides details of major educational developments in Africa, and contains regular information on the activities of the Working Group on Books and Learning Materials. This working group also publishes research studies on aspects of the African book trade. (ADEA, 7-9 rue Eugène Delacroix, 75116 Paris, France, Fax: +33 1 4503 3965, e-mail: adea@iiep.unesco.org, web: <http://www.adeanet.org>)

IFLA Newsletter, published in French and English by the IFLA Regional Section for Africa, contains details of continent-wide library initiatives, meetings and training opportunities. (IFLA Regional Office for Africa, c/o Bibliothèque Universitaire, BP 2006 Dakar, Senegal.

Fax: +221 824 23 79,

e-mail: hsene@ucad.sn)

Le journal de l'agence intergouvernementale de la francophonie, published in French only, gives a wealth of information on literature, art, drama, music, dance and electronic communication from francophone countries in Africa and throughout the world. (Agence intergouvernementale de la francophonie, 13, quai André-Citroën, 75015 Paris, France.

Fax: +33 1 44 37 32 73,

e-mail: journal@francophonie.org

web: <http://agence.francophonie.org>)

Mediaforum, published by the Catholic Media Council in Aachen, contains short articles on the press, radio and TV as well as electronic media developments in Africa, Asia and Latin America. (Catholic Media Council, Anton-Kurze-Allee 2, D-52074 Aachen, Germany.

Fax: +49 241 70 13 12 33,

e-mail: cameco@cameco.org

web: <http://www.cameco.org>)

Culturelink, published by the Institute for International Relations in Zagreb, contains news of upcoming meetings, publications and other cultural events throughout the world, and the editor is always happy to receive advance information of relevant African events that can be included in its announcements. (Institute for International Relations, Lj. F. Vukotinovic 2, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia,

Fax: +385 1 482 8361,

e-mail: daniela@irmo.hr)

IBBY Newsletter, published by the International Board on Books for Young People, will help you keep in touch with an international network of people committed to providing quality books for children. The 2004 IBBY Conference in Cape Town will be the first time the organisation has held its biennial conference in Africa. IBBY would like to have more national sections in Africa. (International Board on Books for Young People,

Nonnenweg 12, Postfach, CH-4003 Basel, Switzerland. Fax: +41 61 272 27 57,

e-mail: ibby@eye.ch

web: <http://www.ibby.org>)

Spore, published by CTA in Wageningen in the Netherlands, is for people involved in agriculture and rural development, but has frequent news and information on matters relating to publishing in relevant subjects. CTA

supports publishing in ACP countries - the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries covered by the Cotonou agreement with the European Community and Member States. (CTA, Postbus 380, 6700 Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Fax: +31 317 460067,

e-mail: cta@cta.nl

web: <http://www.cta.nl>)

If you want to get information on the publishing and bookselling industries in the UK and North America, there is a way to get regular information without paying for expensive subscriptions to the main trade magazines. While they do not contain all of the information in the print copies, you can get regular e-mailings from both *The Bookseller* and *Publishers Weekly*. Subscribe to these e-mail updates free of charge by visiting their respective web sites. *TheBookseller.com Informer* is available from <http://www.bookseller.com>, and a variety of PW weekly and daily e-mail services are available from <http://www.publishersweekly.reviewsnews.com/newuser>.

Various other organisations not only have regular information mailings, but give access to downloadable files useful to publishing professionals in all countries. Nearly all national publishers and booksellers associations have some material and information that is freely available to non-members. You can visit these through links on the web site of the International Publishers Association at <http://www.ipa-uite.org>.

You might also like to visit the following US web sites to see some of the material that is available. While much of the content is specific to North America, some sites like *Book Marketing Update* at <http://www.bookmarket.com> have material that is useful to small publishers everywhere. Para Publishing at <http://www.parapublishing.com> is another organisation that send out an e-newsletter that is of value to publishers outside of the US market.

Many of the publications mentioned above are more than pleased to receive news of what is going on in your country and they may come to play a role in your own networking and advocacy activities. Make sure that you send copies of your newsletters, announcements of publications, and details of forthcoming events promoting books and reading to all the organisations that include you in their distribution lists. The exchange of information creates dialogue, and can lead to long-term mutually beneficial collaborations with publishers, booksellers, libraries and organisations across Africa and the world.

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