THE POWER OF ONE: BRIDGING THE INFORMATION GAP IN AFRICA

Paper presented at ICOLC, Barcelona

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OUTLINE

- The Power of One
- Consortia: classification and purpose
- Consortium building
- 10 Years of SA Democracy
- Consortia: SA development
- eIFL.net Africa consortium activities
- Benefits and challenges
- Possible futures
- Conclusion

CONSORTIA: CLASSIFICATION AND PURPOSE

- In existence many years – classification: subject, library type, geography, combination
- Collaboration: barrier free info access
- State-of-the-art training
- Exchange of ideas to link people, info, IT
- Initiate new services – not afford on own
- Experimentation
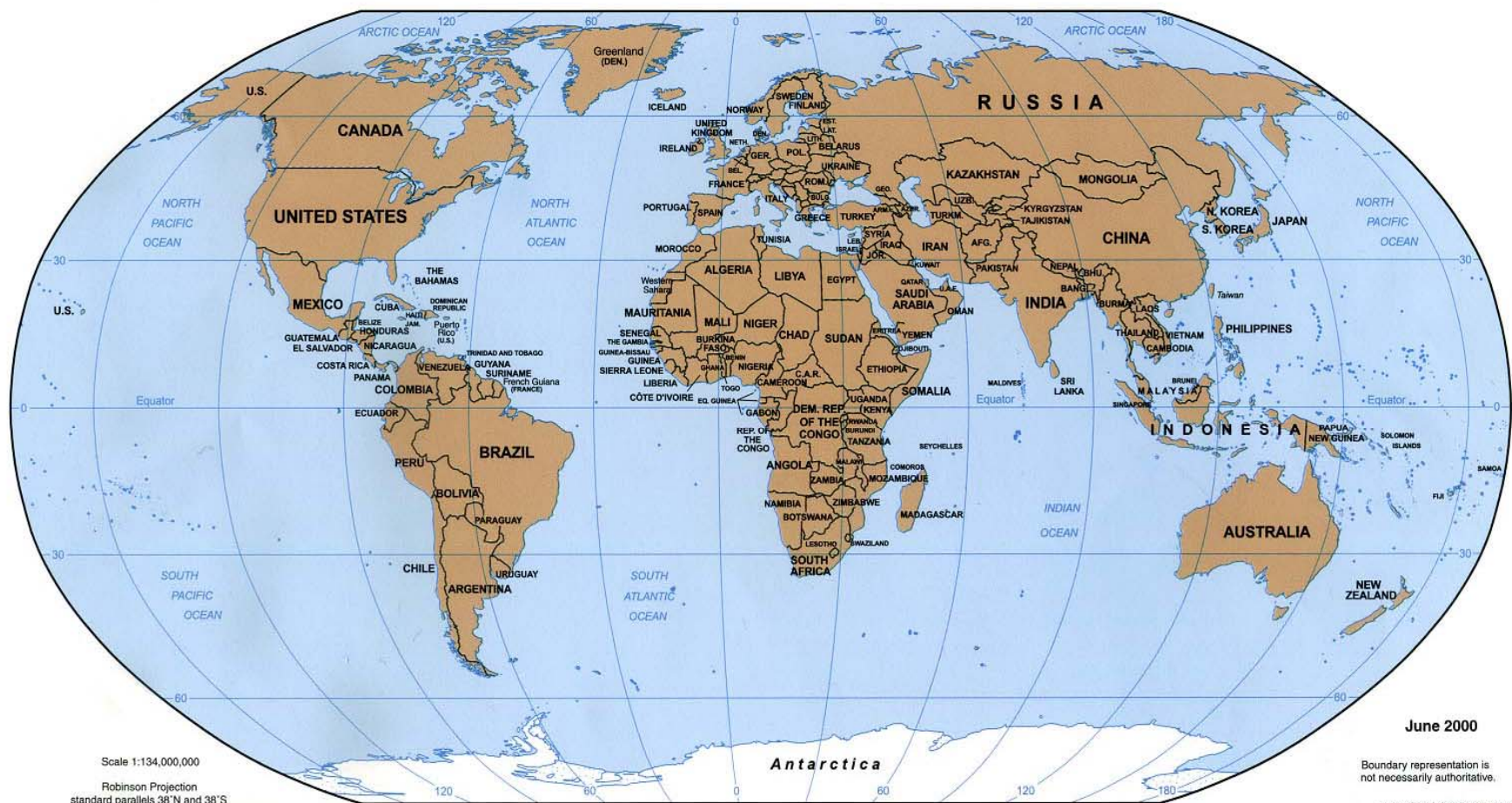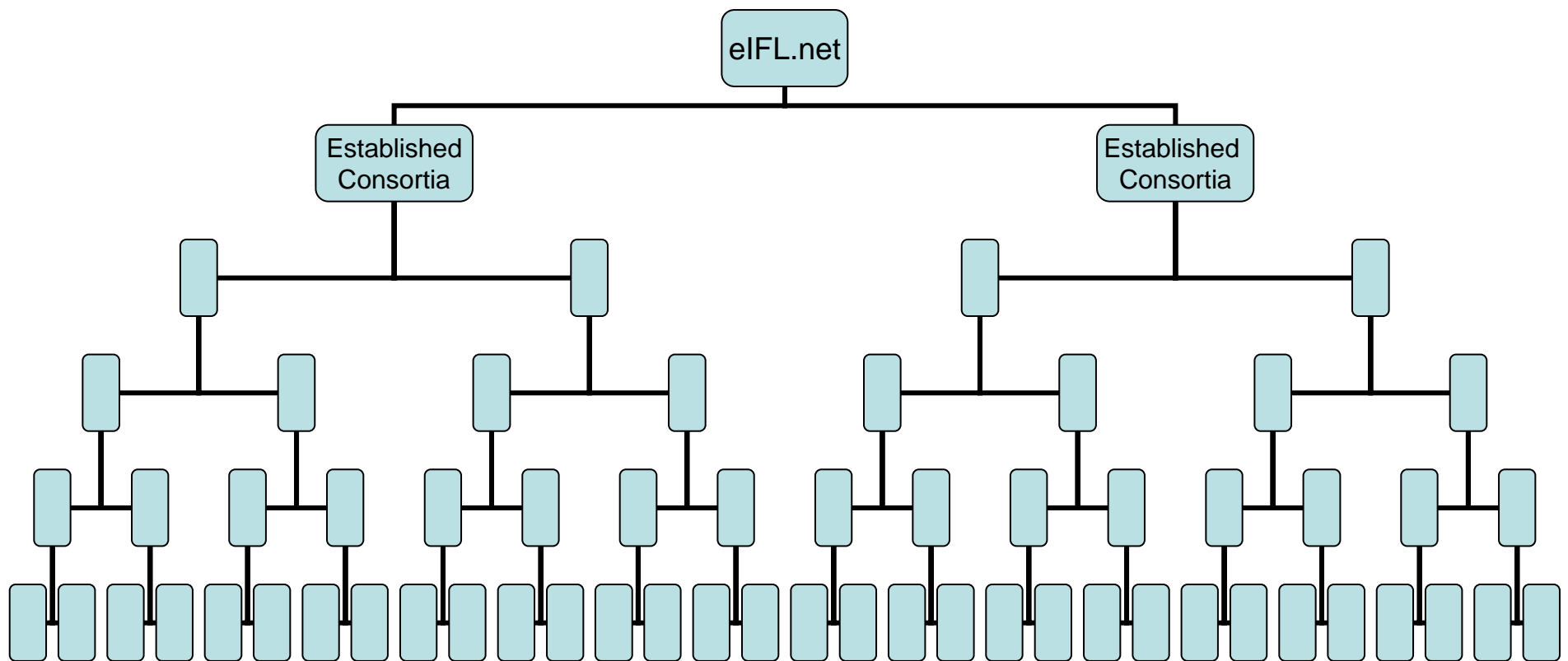- Marketing and advocacy channel
- Communication
- Buying clubs?

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DIAGRAM OF PRINCIPLE

- Start with one, this one builds two, these two build four, four build 16, etc.

LIBRARY CONSORTIUM BUILDING

- Program according to country needs in consultation with organisers
- At least two days, preferably more
- Day One: Introduction, general overview, case studies
- Day Two: Detail and workshops, process and program ahead, local responsible team
- Follow-up with organisers

LIBRARY CONSORTIUM BUILDING PROGRAM

- Principle: General theory to specifics
- Culture sensitive, culture specific
- Context/background: Opening, introductions, aim and objectives, country specific overview
- Consortium approach – general introduction
- Consortium of consortia: eIFL.net, ICOLC
- Case studies: international (as many as possible)
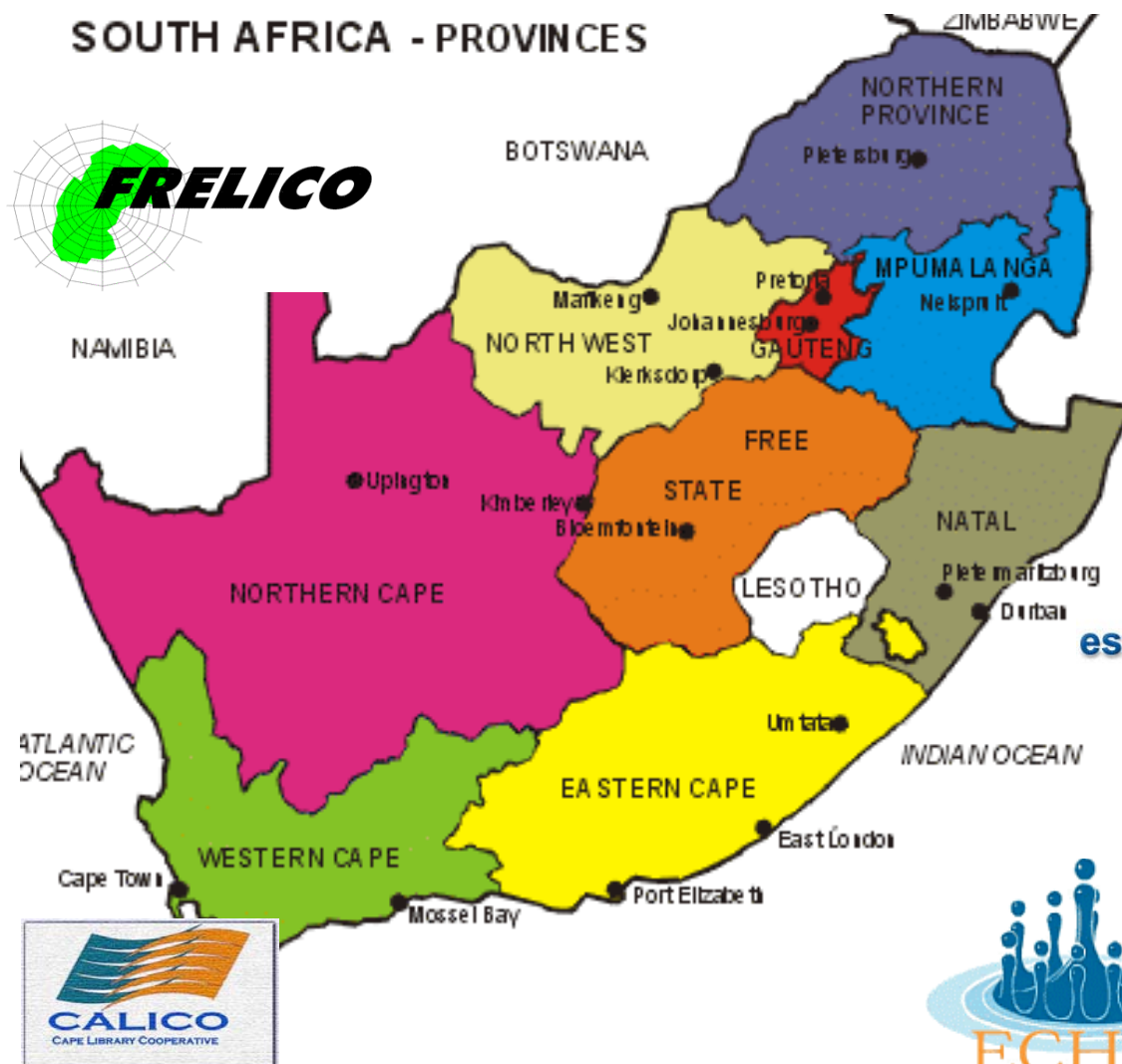 - Successes and lessons learnt

LIBRARY CONSORTIUM BUILDING PROGRAM (2)

- **Principles of licensing**
  - Model license and case studies
- **Selection and evaluation of e-resources**
  - Model and case studies
- **Marketing and advocacy (including links with other consortia, e.g. ICOLC)**
- **Sustainability**
- **Open access**
  - Overview, principles and examples
- **National digital strategy**
- **Country strategy and business plan**

TEN YEARS OF SA DEMOCRACY

Transforming environment & guiding documents

- National Ministry of Education expectations
  - Cooperation corner stone
  - Real collaborative working
  - Cooperation across LIS sector
  - Ownership to access
  - Barriers resource sharing: dialogue, resolution
  - Usage data
  - Increased capacity to use e-resources
  - Funding models

- National Research programme
- NCLIS
- NEPAD

SOUTH AFRICA - PROVINCES

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CONSORTIA: SA DEVELOPMENT

- Regional SA: SEALS informal academic forum (1989) CALICO formal (1992) and others followed; SANRIC (2003)

- National consortia - SA: Coalition of South African Library Consortia: COSALC (1999)

- Vision: enhance **access to information** and the **sharing of resources** to benefit the **clients** of library consortia in South Africa through national **cooperation**

CONSORTIA: SA DEVELOPMENT(2)

- **Objectives**
- **National level**: promoting and supporting national co-operative initiatives

- **Affordable and equitable access to information**

- National and international partnerships and agreements
- Partnership and contribution to establishment of national infra-structures
- National strategy for access to electronic information
- Local content
- Training and capacity building

CONSORTIA: SA DEVELOPMENT(3)

Consortium building

- Local, regional and international, other types joining
- Model license
- Selection and evaluation criteria
- Marketing and communication plan
- Legal status

COSALC Strategic partnerships

- NEDAC, NRF, NCLIS, NLSA, LIASA
- Publishers, vendors, service providers (eg. Sabinet Online)
- Other consortia and initiatives (SA), eIFL.net, ICOLC, INASP
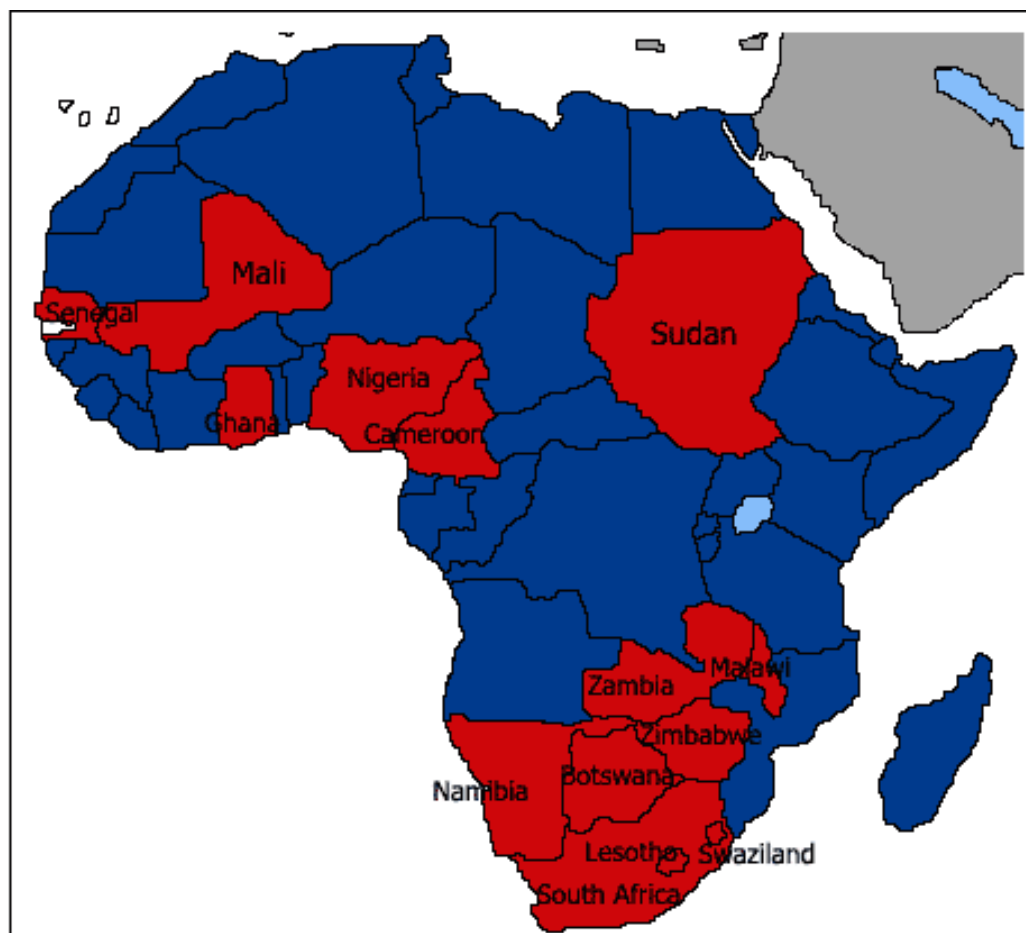- Donors, funders and sponsors

CONSORTIA DEVELOPMENT: AFRICA

- The concept: *Stokvel*
- COSALC & Consortium building directly involved: China, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Zambia,
- 2001: Survey of SA & bordering countries (1)
- 2004 Africa: 14 countries (est. or in process)
  - **Southern Africa**: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe
  - **Central and East Africa**: Cameroon, Sudan, Uganda
  - **West Africa**: Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal

eIFL.net AFRICA

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SADC SURVEY

- COSALC enquiries received from SADC countries since establishment
- eIFL Coordinators' meeting Budapest: 2000
- Sample: One institution per SADC country
- Survey divided in 2 sections
  - Consortia
  - EBSCOHost
- 66% response

SADC SURVEY (2)

- 1 academic national consortium (7 members)
- Funding equally divided
- Limiting factors: Funding; IT infrastructure; Training
- Need assistance to further develop
  - e-journal subs
  - train staff to manage projects for these facilities

SADC SURVEY (3)

- Attempts to establish: 2 Yes, 3 No
- Interested to establish: 4 Yes, 1 No
- Top 3 projects - resource sharing
- Weighted limiting factors:
  - IT Infrastructure (43)
  - Expertise in consortium building (39)
  - Funding (37)
  - Training (37)
  - Staffing (33)
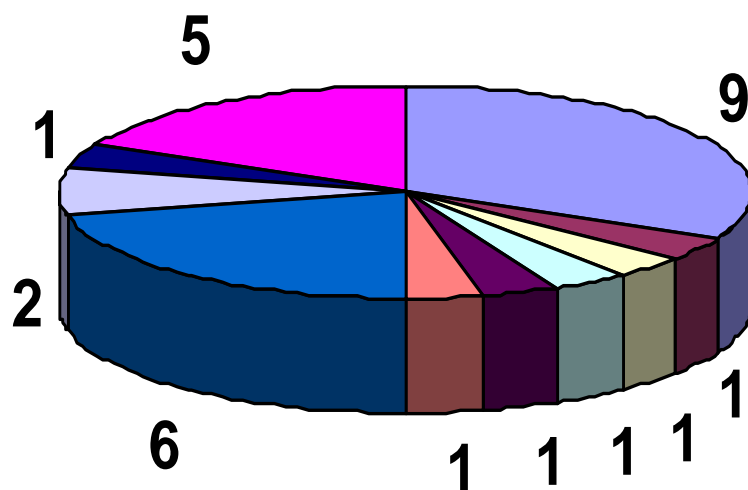 - Management (31)
  - Marketing (29)
  - Leadership (28)

SADC SURVEY (4)

- Assistance to establish: 4 Yes, 2 No
- SADC library consortium : 6 Yes
- African library consortium: 5 Yes, 1Yes but functional sub-regions
- Multi-country consortium: 5 Yes, 1Yes but first an African library consortium
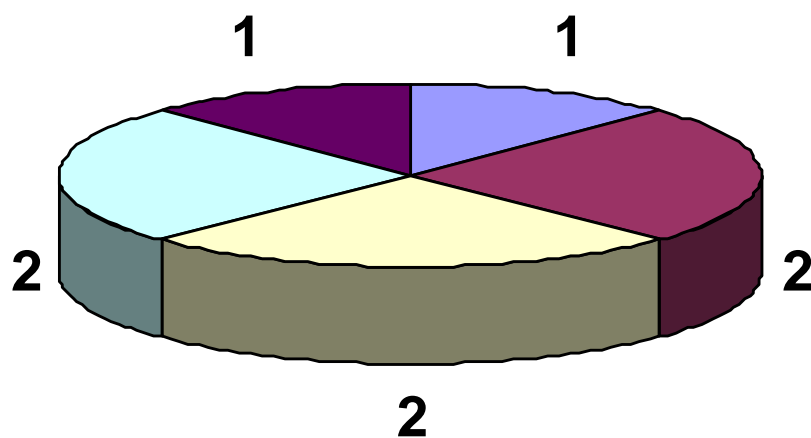
AFRICA SURVEY: 2004

- eIFL.net Africa GA, Kampala, July 2004
- Seven sections plus remarks:
- General information
- Organisational information
- Consortium building activities
- Training
- Access to information
- Funding & sustainability
- Problems / challenges

eIFL.net AFRICA CONSORTIUM ACTIVITIES

- ■ Electronic resources
- ■ Collection development
- □ ICT Facilities

- ■ Resource sharing
- ■ Local content

- ■ Various

- ■ Training in databases
- ■ Training

- ■ Workshops and Conferences
- ■ Marketing

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Consortium Activities

Legend:
- **Setting Standard**
- **Joint purchasing of Equipment**
- **No Response**
- **ILL/DD**
- **Policy Reform**

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CONSORTIA BENEFITS

- Resource sharing

- Obtaining funding: national level

- Benefits to and development of "weaker" partners

- Contribution to socio-economic development

- Cost savings

COST SAVINGS 2002

	DATABASE	MARKET VALUE	CONSORTIUM PRICING	INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATING	COST SAVINGS	PERCENTAGE SAVING
SASLI:South African Site Licensing Initiative						
LICENCE AGREEMENTS COST SAVINGS 2002						
1	ATLAS Full text	$48,110	$16,800	7	$31,310	65
2	Beilstein/Gmelin	$134,713	$53,700	12	$81,013	60
3	Compendex	$110,000	$73,600	5	$36,400	33
4	EBSCOHost	$2,065,000	$500,000	35	$1,565,000	76
5	GALE	$1,212,000	$145,385	15	$1,066,615	88
6	Inspec	$140,000	$61,500	5	$78,500	56
7	MathScinet	$87,410	$66,420	10	$20,990	24
	TOTAL	$3,797,234	$917,405		$2,879,829	
	$1=R10.00					

COST SAVINGS 2003

	DATABASE	MARKET VALUE	CONSORTIUM PRICING	INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATING	COST SAVINGS	PERCENTAGE SAVING
	SASLI:South African Site Licensing Initiative **LICENCE AGREEMENTS COST SAVINGS 2003**					
1	ATLAS Full text	$58,832	$15,904	8	$42,928	73
2	Beilstein/Gmelin	$117,678	$46,764	10	$70,914	60
3	Compendex	$204,600	$82,200	6	$122,400	60
3	EBSCOHost	$2,625,000	$500,000	35	$2,125,000	81
4	Gale	$1,659,330	$142,500	15	$1,516,830	91
5	INSPEC	$83,575	$79,735	5	$3,840	5
6	MathSciNet	$88,320	$59,661	10	$28,659	32
7	BookFind-Online	$74,349	$20,471	11	$53,878	72
8	Web of Science	$674,025	$424,854	12	$249,171	37
9	Oxford English Dictionary	$7,468	$1,868	4	$5,600	75
10	Oxford Reference Online	$4,250	$1,064	4	$3,186	75
11	Biological Abstracts	$71,620	$56,400	4	$15,220	21
13	ProQuest ST&M	$90,000	$9,810	1	$80,190	89
	TOTAL	$5,759,047	$1,441,231		$4,317,816	

$1=R8.00

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CONSORTIA: CHALLENGES

- Sustainability and funding (4)
- Participation levels of members (3)
- Capacity – volunteers
- Connectivity (incl. national infrastructure)
- Marketing and communication
- Registration process
- Focus on core business
- Building multi-sector consortium
- Skills: Negotiation, proposal writing, marketing
- e-Environment: Changing role of LIS & librarians

CONSORTIA: FUTURE

- Add value: Improve access and use of resources
- Scholarly information: Open Access
- Scholar's portals (Jerry Campbell)
  - Enhanced services (digital reference services) promote use, allow cross searching, support document delivery, areas of shared workspaces to further initiatives
- Strategic inter-consortium partnerships
  - Fewer consortia, remaining larger, more powerful
- Transition: buying clubs to innovation

CONSORTIA: FUTURE (2)

- Inter-library alliances
  - Librarian freelance alliance: partners for client libraries in spec identified need or "time-sensitive" opportunity
- Current site license: temporary state of affairs- adaptation & development
  - More flexible purchasing models
  - Combined core subs & transactional based payments
- Emergence of smaller publishers
- Multi-publisher consortium? – smaller society publishers clusters (PCG's Consortia*link*)

CONCLUSION

- Consortia have changed lives
  - Library & information workers, publishers and clients
- Consortia here to stay?
  - evolving roles
- Strategic partnerships and relationships
- Speak out!

We are all children of Africa, and none of us
is better or more important than the other.

This is what Africa would say to the world:
it could remind it what it is to be human.

'*Tears of the Giraffe*'
Alexander McCall Smith

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- COSALC
  - SASLI

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  - General Assembly
  - All Africa Assembly

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Thank you

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http://kiewiet.uovs.ac.za/lib/cosalc

http://www.eIFL.net