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Working together to achieve HIFA2015: a perspective from two HIFA 2015 supporting organisations

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Partnerships in Health Information

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Recommended Citation

Gathoni, N., Godbolt, S. (2011). Working together to achieve HIFA2015: a perspective from two HIFA 2015 supporting organisations. *AHILA Congress*.

Available at: <http://ecommons.aku.edu/libraries/25>

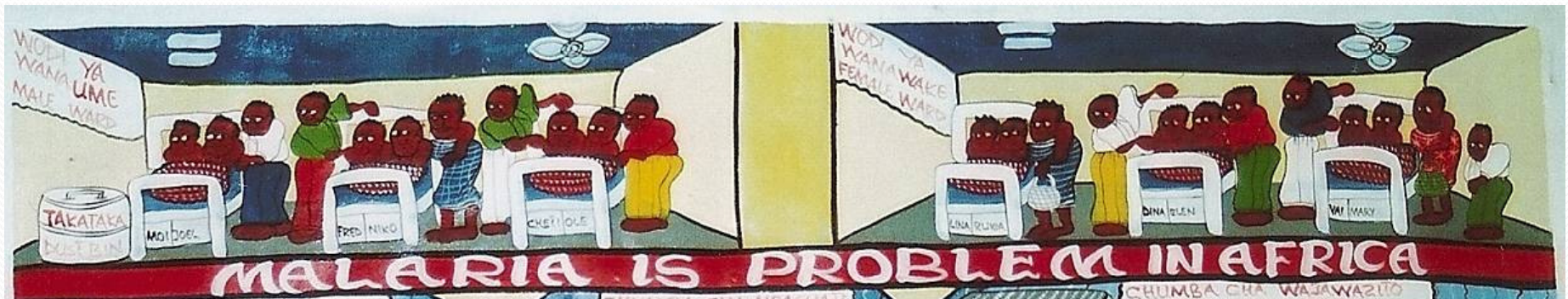


Working together to achieve HIFA2015: a perspective from two HIFA2015 Supporting Organisations

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Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA)
Shane Godbolt- Director, Partnerships in Health
Information (Phi)

Overview

- HIFA2015 an inspiration
- Why support HIFA2015
- About AHILA
- About Phi
- AHILA/PHI partnership
- Achieving HIFA2015's goals
- Future plans
- Conclusions





HIFA2015 an inspiration

AHILA & Phi proud of being the first two Supporting Organisations!

Advocacy campaign for access to health information inspires and is

- Strategic
- Collaborative
- Inclusive
- Networked
- Resourced
- Effective



HIFA2015 an inspiration

By 2015, every person worldwide will have access to an informed healthcare provider

- **Recognised the value of professional librarians**
 - Their skills in managing knowledge
 - Their special role in developing health
- **Aligned with the goals of both AHILA & Phi**
- **Inspired closer partnership of both to strengthen the framework for improving the health of the people of Africa through reliable health information**



WHY SUPPORT HIFA2015?

“People are dying for
lack of knowledge”

Pascal Mouhouelo, WHO AFRO Library, Brazzaville, Congo

Launch of HIFA2015

AHILA Congress, Mombasa, Kenya, 2006

Reasons:

- Cost of information
- Illiteracy
- Infrastructure
- Need for reliable information (EBM)

AHILA



Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa, founded in 1984. Currently 46 country members

Aims:

- Improve provision of up-to-date and relevant health information
- Encourage professional development of health librarians
- Promote resource sharing in Africa and exchange of experiences
- Promote the development and standardisation and exchange of health databases in Africa i.e African Index Medicus

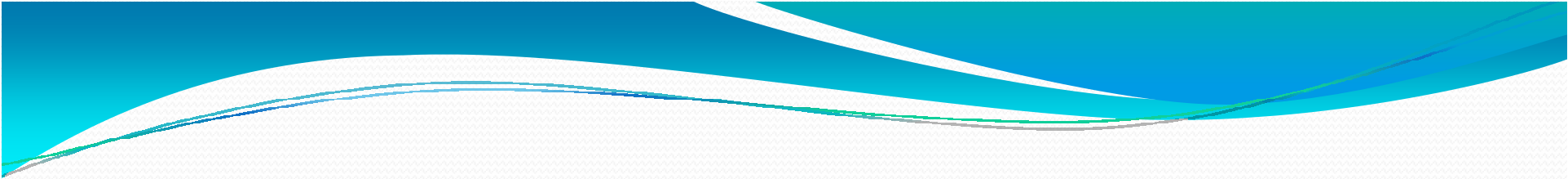


AHILA

Milestones /Achievements

- **1986** to date Biennial Congresses
- **1993** African Index Medicus (AIM)
- **2006** Provided platform for launch of HIFA2015
- **2008** Launched Strategic Planning process
- **2010** launched AHILA strategic plan 2010-2015 at AHILA 12 Congress, Burkina Faso

Achieved through collaborations with local, national and international organisations eg WHO, ITOCA, Phi, HIFA2015, NLM among others





Partnerships in Health Information

- Registered charity, founded 1992
- Aim to facilitate *north/south* partnerships
- Trustees; health professionals including clinicians, librarians, academics & other NGO colleagues
- Programmes Officer 2006 (full time grant funded post) enabled expansion of activities & alignment with government level emphasis on partnerships



Partnerships in Health Information

- Information and Communications Technologies (ICT's) are redefining the role of librarians and library service development
- Health librarians are crucial to providing access
- Sharing experience mutually beneficial



Partnerships in Health Information

Phi's objectives:

- Networking & collaborating with others to underpin good quality healthcare with reliable health information
- Facilitating health information partnerships & development projects
- Capacity building for health information professionals & librarians



AHILA / Phi Partnership

- Supports HIFA2015 advocacy campaign in practical ways
- Collaboration through sharing knowledge and expertise for mutual benefit
- Communication which is key to successful collaboration & partnership with each other & others



AHILA/ Phi partnership

Has contributed to building capacity for health librarians/health information professionals through

- Exchange visits
- Workshops and development projects supported by Phi
- Training of Trainers workshops on Public Access to Health Information (PAHI)
- Developing a broad portfolio of projects and partnership activities (funded by BMA, INASP, DelPHE, IFLA)



**KEN-AHILA members and Public Access to Health Information (PAHI) workshop facilitators.
Pilot workshop on PAHI, Kenya, 2009**



Delegates attending the Public Access to Health Information Workshop in Mozambique, March 2011



Achieving HIFA2015's Goals

- AHILA has provided a platform for advocacy and campaign for HIFA since 2006
- HIFA coordinators in countries in Africa continue to recruit members and promote HIFA agenda at country level.
- Promoting open access- the case of African Index Medicus (AIM)
- Promoting outreach activities e.g. – blue trunk library, resource centers in community areas, repackaging of information
- Training on effective use of information. Country chapters have rolled out such trainings to healthcare providers- doctors and nurses



Achieving HIFA2015's goals

Role of Health Information Professionals (HIPs)

- Information and Communications Technologies (ICT's) are redefining the role of librarians and library service development
- HIPs are trained in the essential skills of promoting information by its identification, selection, organization and dissemination
- HIPs can put knowledge into practice and respond to the rapid developments¹ (technology, information overload etc)



AHILA and Phi Future Plans

- Promote access to reliable health information for health workers in Africa by developing health library workforce/medical librarians through capacity building
- Continue to identify needs in Africa through AHILA & its local chapters including addressing:
 - Digital divide
 - Support for Open Access
 - Using community strategies to reach ALL (PAHI)



Conclusion

- We urge HIFA supporting organizations to engage actively with HIFA2015
- AHILA & Phi keen to work with others to identify sustainable models for the flow of information in Africa
- and to promote high quality research in Africa =RELEVANT to African context (*RCTs, Systematic Reviews*)



Together we can achieve this
worthy cause-Healthcare
Information For All by 2015

Availability of, access to and use
of Health Information is a basic
human right



THANK YOU

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