

Call for Participation as National Centre in the Southern African Greenstone Support Network (SAGSN)

To libraries actively engaged in digitisation and digital libraries.

Invitation

The eIFL-FOSS – Koha Foundation 2009 – 2010 SAGSN digital collection and capacity building project [1] wishes to extend the Greenstone Support Network to other countries in and beyond the Southern African Region by having additional SAGSN National Centres established and invites parties interested to apply.

Presently the Support Network has national centres at libraries in Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe but already covers and supports Greenstone digital library and collection building in a geographically much wider area through activities on the web, an email support list and by facilitating training.

A library or library related organisation setting up a SAGSN National Centre [2]:

- has a leading national position in associations, consortia, and any other networks promoting and supporting digital library activity at both policy and implementation levels;
- has the position, intention and facilities to organise Greenstone digital library and digitisation training events with trainees being drawn nationally and from neighbouring countries;
- has the position, intention and facilities to follow up and support trainees building Greenstone digital library applications or undertaking digitisation at their respective library or archive;
- commits itself institutionally to seek and maintain active SAGSN membership;
- commits itself institutionally, including contribution of staff time and costs, to cover training, support activities and participation in the SAGSN during the life of the current project and beyond;
- is exemplary in concrete and sustainable digitisation activities and Greenstone digital library implementations.

Establishing a National Centre will be met with a sufficient one time budget to cover the following start up activities by applicant:

- organise a national centre kick-off cum training week to train specialists with adequate skills in IT and library (or archiving) practice in the particulars of Greenstone FOSS [1] digital library software, practicalities of digitisation and the broader issues of planning, building, giving access to and maintaining digital collections; the training week has to be evaluated and reported on

Similar training events in the past have been documented [3] for orientation.

- apply “cascading” of Greenstone expertise and Greenstone collection building by also inviting trainees from countries either geographically close or having the same mother tongue; these one or two trainees ideally should come from organisations potentially able to continue the cascading and establish their own National Centre and thereby extend the Support Network activities
- realise a first few operational Greenstone digital collections at the national centre that serve concrete needs of end user groups but also serve as examples to guide and inspire realisation of Greenstone collections at libraries or archives invited to the kick-off training; national centre Greenstone collections should be realised within the 2009 – mid 2010 project period but preferably also some of those at trainees’ home institutions
- set up follow-up and support activities as national centre; to begin with should Greenstone implementation by trainees be actively followed up to keep momentum; these first follow-up activities have to be reported on

All start up activities can be assisted by both the present National Centres and by the Support Network at large.

Selection criteria and application procedure

Selection criteria: applicant should fit the “Terms of Reference for SAGSN National Centres” as quoted earlier [2]; proposed planning and budgeting meets the demands formulated under Start Up Activities.

Application procedure: applicant should write a short motivation, give proof (briefly) how the organisation fits the Terms of Reference for SAGSN National Centres and provide planning and budgeting for the Start Up Activities as outlined. Timely discussion is encouraged.

Closing date for the Call is June 9th 2009.

Agreed applications are formalised with a contract between eIFL and the institution applying.

All correspondence is with the project’s Regional Coordinator Amos Kujenga at amos.kujenga [at sign] eifl.net who also has all further information. A copy should be sent to the Project Coordinator Repke de Vries at repke.devries [at sign] eifl.net

References:

[1] Project outline and information on Greenstone and the SAGSN Support Network:

<http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/services/eifl-foss/greenstone>

[2] Download of the “Terms of Reference for SAGSN National Centres” as quoted:

<http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/services/eifl-foss/greenstone/project-2009-2010>

[3] Previous workshop programs and evaluations can be downloaded here:

<http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/services/eifl-foss/greenstone/training-events>