

INASP and the PERI Project

The International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) aims to improve worldwide access to information and knowledge through a commitment to capacity building. INASP's three immediate objectives are:

- to map, support and strengthen existing activities promoting access to and dissemination of scientific and scholarly information and knowledge;
- to identify, encourage and support new initiatives that will increase local publication and general access to high quality scientific and scholarly materials;
- to promote in-country capacity building in information production, access and dissemination.
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INASP's PERI Project (<http://www.inasp.info/peri/index.html>)

Denmark initiated the PERI-programme in 2000 through support to INASP. Over the next five years, all researchers with internet connections in up to 40 countries will get online access to over 6000 journals, and abstracts from another 20,000 titles - from *African Development Review* to the *Veterinary Journal*. Publishers have agreed country-wide access licences at very heavily reduced rates. At the same time, INASP is helping journals published in developing countries to go online and providing the opportunity for a range of 'Internet' training to help ensure that the information available is utilised to its fullest potential.

The programme is developed and implemented by in-country country coordinators or teams of country coordinators, who work closely with researchers and librarians to ensure that PERI meets research needs and priorities in their countries. INASP responds to the plans, which they put forward in line with funding and resources available.