

Knowledge Transfer through Internship: The EASLIS Experience in Strengthening the Governance Decentralisation Programme in Uganda

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community about the library and information science profession, the balancing of theory with practice in the delivery of EASLIS programmes, and improved professional confidence and abilities of its students and graduates. The paper is concluded with various recommendations addressed to the University and local governments for improving the benefits of the programme.

Abstract

Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda has attempted over many years to integrate knowledge transfer programmes into its higher education programmes through various strategies, including internship and fieldwork studies. The internship programmes have gained popularity, especially through the interventions from the Innovations at Makerere Committee of the University that supported a number of academic units to enhance the decentralisation of the internship to the local governments in Uganda. The East African School of Library and Information Science (EASLIS) has implemented knowledge transfer of information management practices through its internship programme since 2006. This paper highlights the activities undertaken by EASLIS students during the internship and the perceptions of the field supervisors on the performance of students in terms of the students' competences and performances, benefits to local governments, challenges being faced, and aspects requiring improvement. This internship programme has brought about significant changes, including improved perceptions in the

Introduction

The Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda has attempted over many years to shift from the traditional instruction-dominated paradigm toward paradigms that enable its students to acquire both traditional and generalist, as well as practical skills so that its graduates can compete in the dynamic knowledge-driven economies of the world (Makerere University, 2008). The University philosophy is founded on the following three pillars: Learner centeredness, research driven university and knowledge transfer partnerships and networking to meet the needs of its local community, the university began in 2001 to implement decentralised service delivery through its innovation committee nicknamed I@MAK.COM, supported by World Bank and the Rockefeller Foundation (Makerere University, I@MAK.COM, 2008). The innovation focuses on enhancing service delivery that directly affects the lives of the poor, good governance and transparency, among others. In the spirit of the innovation, the East African School of Library and Information Science (EASLIS) has also pledged to promote knowledge transfer of information management practices through various strategies, including internship for