

Opening access to research in Africa

Blackwell Publishing is delighted to announce a major step forward in ongoing efforts to open access to current primary research literature in the developing world.

Blackwell Publishing, working closely with 500 learned societies and the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), will provide reduced rate online access to 600 leading peer-reviewed journals in, initially, six countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The funding is provided by partnerships between INASP, development programs such as ENRECA (Danida) and Sida:SAREC and the universities, so that access to the journal content is free for the participating libraries and researchers.

Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda will all

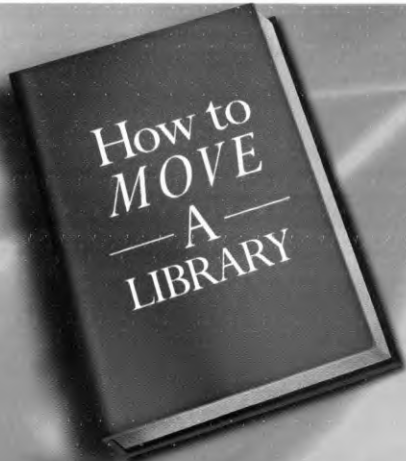
benefit in the first instance. Researchers, students, lecturers, librarians and medical professionals within non-commercial organisations in these countries will have online access to Blackwell Publishing's journals. Many of these are published on behalf of scholarly societies and include key titles in medicine, science, technology, social science and the humanities.

This initiative recognises the vital role that information and knowledge play in development. Individuals will be able to read and contribute to the advancement of research and use the knowledge gained to find local solutions to health, housing, education and employment issues.

As Bob Campbell, president of Blackwell Publishing has said, 'We hope that researchers and profession-

als within these African nations will truly benefit from access to the papers within the journals we publish. In many cases these journals are published on behalf of societies; we should also acknowledge their support of this initiative. We're delighted to be working with INASP on this and look forward to expanding journal readership in the region in the near future.'

This marks the completion of the first phase of the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI), a four-component program coordinated by INASP aimed at supporting production, access and dissemination of international and national and regional research within and between developing and transitional countries. More information can be found at <http://www.inasp.org.uk> ■



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