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Anton Mangstl: A Tribute

Antoinette Paris Greider

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Thank you to Robert Portegies-Zwart for providing much of the information in this article.

At the end of March, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) says goodbye to one of its leaders in information management, Dr. Anton Mangstl, Director of the Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension (OEK) and past IAALD Board member. Dr. Mangstl moved FAO's information function from one of a traditional library and indexing services to one of information management and document availability. He has moved information management beyond libraries with labor intensive processes to providing access to housed documents by taking FAO's documents directly to the user while reducing the labor required to provide the access and service.

Dr. Mangstl arrived at the FAO in 1996 to become Director of the Library and Documentation Systems Division (GIL) which was comprised of the David Lubin Memorial Library and the AGRIS/CARIS Information System. Dr. Mangstl soon went to work and in 1998 the World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT) was born. Although WAICENT had been in incubation for a number of years, it was under Dr. Mangstl's leadership that FAOSTAT, FAOINFO, and FAOSIS came together and became interactive and complementary. It was also a paradigm shift for FAO from paper to electronic distribution and distributed versus centralized storage of materials.

With this paradigm shift came a new name for the Division and GIL became the Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building Division (KCE) with a new focus. Dr. Mangstl encouraged the organization to learn from, and give a voice to, the agricultural community regarding a wide range of issues affecting food security and agricultural production. Under his leadership the Division led the multi-agency Information Management Resource Kit e-learning initiative (IMARK) and the public/private partnership initiative on Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA), a project that enables institutions in the poorest countries to access leading food and agriculture journals for little or no cost. Dr. Mangstl was responsible for overseeing the successful launch of FAO's strategic program on "Bridging the Rural Digital Divide" which lead to the development of the global e-Agriculture Community of Expertise (e-agriculture.org). He served on the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and on the Strategy Council for the Global Alliance for ICT and Development.

Anton Mangstl



In 2010, KCE became OEK — Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension furthering transforming FAO into a Knowledge Organization through the OEK services. The products and services include products for information and knowledge sharing, e-learning and knowledge networking, multi-lingual cross-media publishing, communication for development, copyright protection and preservation of FAO intellectual property. The Virtual Extension, Research and Communication Network strengthened linkages among rural institutions and farmers, while the Technologies for Agriculture (TECA) platform facilitated the exchange of proven agriculture technologies for small holders. His final initiative has been CIARD (Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development).

OEK hosts the Secretariats of two bodies that have long-standing relations with FAO: the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), and the Independent Science and Partnership Council, of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), providing excellent opportunities to strengthen FAO's partnership with these organizations.

Additional partnerships continue through IMARK and

Comparison of FAO Information Management in 1996 and 2011

**Information Management
in FAO — 1996****LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION
SYSTEMS DIVISION (GIL)**

- David Lubin Memorial Library
- AGRIS/CARIS Information System

have facilitated adoption of e-learning techniques by FAO's technical program in food security, food safety, right to food, impact assessment, and plant genetic resources. The Office has partnered with other UN agencies, universities and training centers to include FAO's e-learning courses as part of certified training and university programs.

Dr. Mangstl's roots are in the academic community. He received his M.Sc. and PhD in Agronomy from Technische Universität in Munich, Germany and later served as Deputy Head to the Agronomy and Informatics Department of the same university. In 1989, he became the Director of ZADI (Centre for Agricultural Documentation and Information), in Bonn, Germany prior to becoming Director of GIL. In 2001, Dr. Mangstl was awarded Honorary Professor by the National Agriculture University of Ukraine.

This article chronicles a career of many achievements of an innovative information professional but I cannot leave with out saying something about Anton Mangstl as a person. I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Mangstl personally since I began my tenure on the IAALD Board in 1990. While IAALD was still mired in the organization's past accomplishments, Dr. Mangstl could see what the organization needed to do. He was the "documentalist" part of IAALD that could see we needed to move away from passive delivery of information to active delivery of information. He believed in the profession and worked to make it better. He was one of the architects of the IAALD New Technologies Symposiums that were held in Washington, DC, and Bonn, Germany. It was here that many of us had a glimpse of what the future held in information management. In

**Information Management
in FAO — 2011****OFFICE OF KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE,
RESEARCH AND EXTENSION (OEK)**

- **Branches**
 - Knowledge and Capacity for Development Branch (OEKC)
 - Knowledge Management and Library Services Branch (OEKM)
 - Publishing Policy and Support Branch (OEKP)
 - Research and Extension Branch (OEKR)
- **Hosted Secretariats**
 - Secretariat of the The Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)
 - Secretariat of the Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC) to the CGIAR



2000, Dr. Mangstl made a trip to my library at the University of Kentucky and we spent a Friday visiting the libraries on campus and then a delightful Saturday exploring the rural areas of Kentucky. He was a wonderful guest and my then fiancé and I enjoyed our time with him.

It has been an honor for me to put together this article on Anton Mangstl. He has been an ardent supporter of IAALD and its mission. He has moved the information profession away from document storage to direct document delivery in an open environment. He has also been a good friend to both IAALD and me over the years. We wish him and his lovely wife Sophie well on this new adventure in their life.

Sources Consulted:

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SELECTED INFORMATION INITIATIVES Developed During Anton Mangstl's Leadership

Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA) – <http://www.aginternetwork.org/en/>



Bridging the Rural Digital Divide – <http://www.fao.org/rdd>

CIARD – <http://222.ciard.net>

e-agriculture – <http://www.e-agriculture.org>

BRIDGING THE RURAL DIGITAL DIVIDE

Information Management Resource Kit (IMARK) – <http://www.imarkgroup.org/>

Research4life – <http://www.research4life.org>



Interested in Learning More about Repositories?

Check out the IMARK e-learning module described below in English, French and Spanish.

English:

The newest Information Management Resource Kit (IMARK) e-learning module entitled *Digital Libraries, Repositories and Documents*, offers learners the essentials for creating and managing their own digital libraries and repositories. It covers all the relevant processes for planning and resourcing, and considers the latest technologies and trends for digital data management and preservation. Relevant issues concerning the legal framework for copyright and intellectual property rights are also covered.

The module is offered online and on CD-ROM free of charge, and is currently available in English only. The Spanish version will be published in June 2011 and the French at a later date. For more information please visit the IMARK website: www.imarkgroup.org This module was developed by FAO, with support from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), in the context of better "Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development" (CIARD) (www.ciard.net), which is a unique global partnership in support of research communication in agriculture.

Française:

Le dernier module d'apprentissage électronique du Kit de ressources pour la gestion de l'information (IMARK) est intitulé: *Bibliothèques, archives et documents numériques*. Il expose les principes qui permettent de créer et de gérer des bibliothèques et référentiels numériques. Il explique tous les processus utiles à la planification et à la gestion des ressources, et présente les dernières technologies et tendances en matière de gestion et de préservation de données numériques. Les questions pertinentes concernant le cadre juridique du copyright et des droits d'auteurs sont également présentées.

Le module est disponible gratuitement en ligne et sur cédérom. Il est pour le moment disponible uniquement en anglais. La version espagnole sera publiée en juin 2011 et la version française à une date ultérieure.

Pour plus d'informations, veuillez consulter le site web d'IMARK: www.imarkgroup.org

Ce module a été développé par la FAO, avec le soutien du Département du développement international du Royaume-Uni (DFID) et de International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), dans le cadre de l'initiative "Cohérence de l'information sur la recherche agricole pour le développement" (CIARD) (www.ciard.net), qui est un partenariat mondial unique à l'appui de la communication de la recherche dans l'agriculture.

Espanole:

El nuevo módulo de *e-learning* (aprendizaje electrónico) denominado *Bibliotecas, repositorios y documentos digitales*, brinda los elementos esenciales para aprender a crear repositorios y bibliotecas digitales. Dicho módulo forma parte del Repertorio de Recursos para la Gestión de la Información (IMARK, por sus siglas en inglés), el cual abarca todos los procesos relevantes para la planificación y asignación de recursos, considerando a la vez lo más reciente en tecnologías y tendencias para la gestión de los datos digitales y su conservación. Cubre además los aspectos más relevantes relacionados con el marco jurídico del derecho de autor y sobre la propiedad intelectual.

El módulo se ofrece en línea y en CD-ROM de forma gratuita y actualmente está disponible en idioma inglés. A partir de junio 2011, también se ofrecerá en español. Para obtener más información, visite el sitio web del IMARK: www.imarkgroup.org

Este módulo fue desarrollado por la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO), con el apoyo del Departamento Británico para el Desarrollo Internacional (DFID), la Red Internacional para la Disponibilidad de Publicaciones Científicas (INASP), en el contexto de mejorar "la coherencia en la información para la investigación agraria para el desarrollo" (CIARD) (www.ciard.net), una asociación mundial única que apoya la comunicación de la ciencia e investigación en la agricultura.