The Digital Divide and world information flows

Map of Internet traffic, http://blog.betterplace.org/en/category/digital-divide/

Overview

- What is the "digital divide"?
- Dimensions of the digital divide
- World information flows: N-S
- World information flows: S-N & S-S

What is the "digital divide"?

- "Information gap"
  - Information rich & information poor
  - Information "haves and "have-nots"
- Digital divide
  - Hot topic, cooling down?
  - Attention shift: from "digital" to… A2K?
  - Knowledge ecology? (see www.keionline.org)
  - Question: How does the digital divide touch us?

Definitions

American Library Association:

Differences due to geography, race, economic status, gender and physical inability

*	in access to information through the Internet, and other information technologies and services

*	in the skills, knowledge and abilities to use information, the Internet and other technologies

American (domestic) perspective
Emphasis on technology
Several dimensions

Poor

Rural
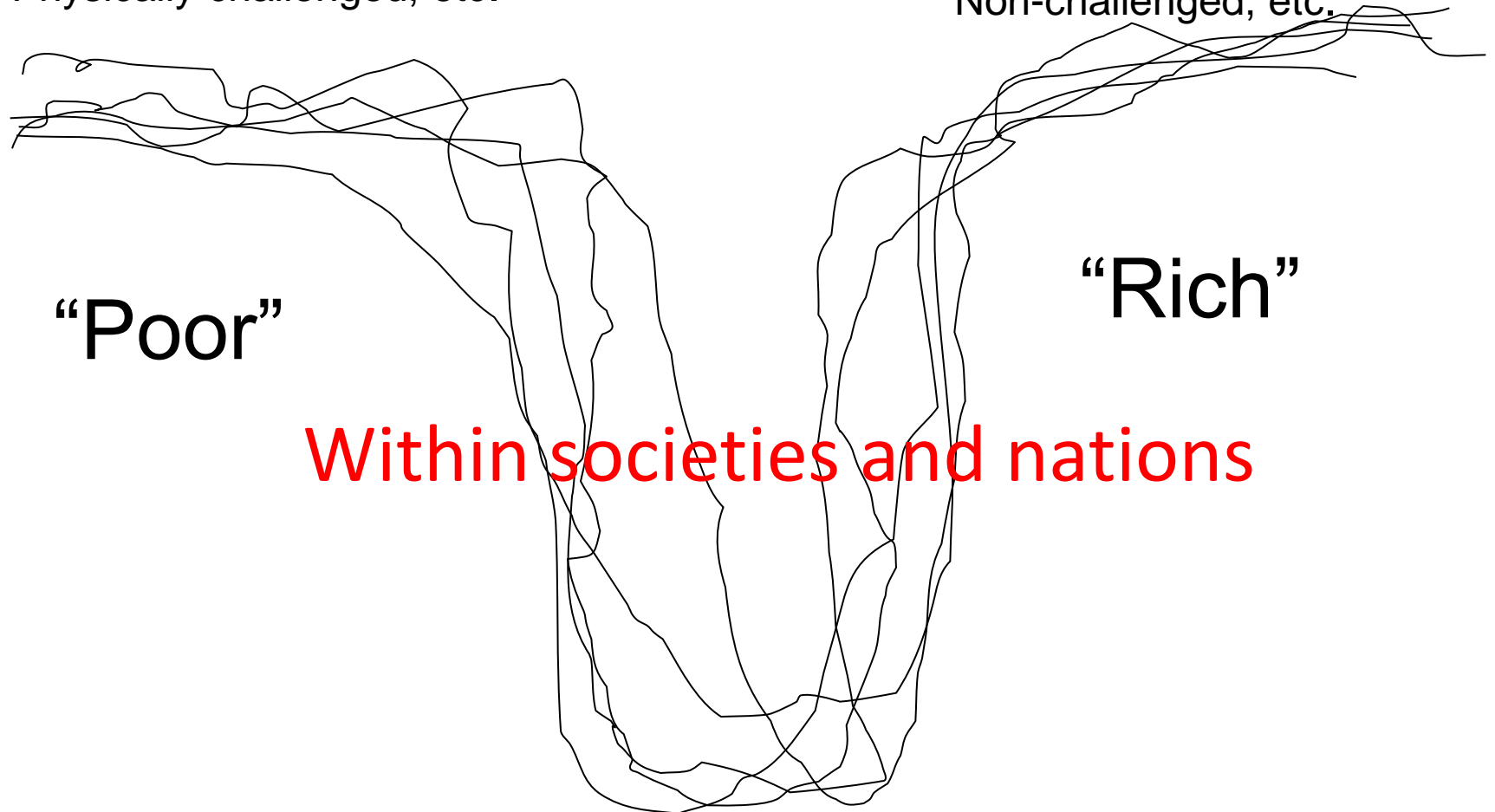
Black

Women, children

Physically challenged, etc.

Well-off

Urban

White

Men, adults

Non-challenged, etc.

"Poor"

"Rich"

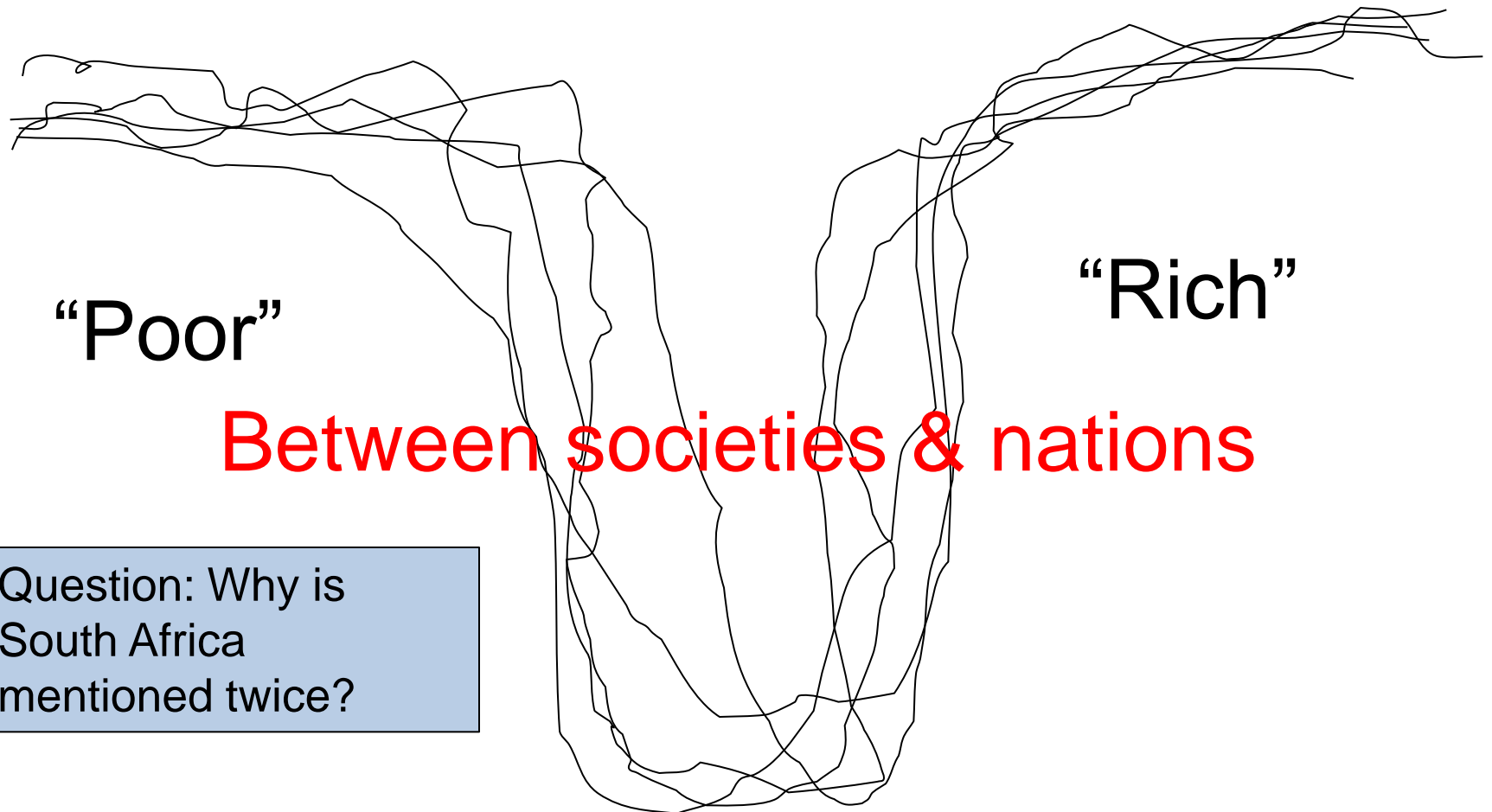Within societies and nations

Lesotho

Cambodia

Nicaragua

South Africa, etc.

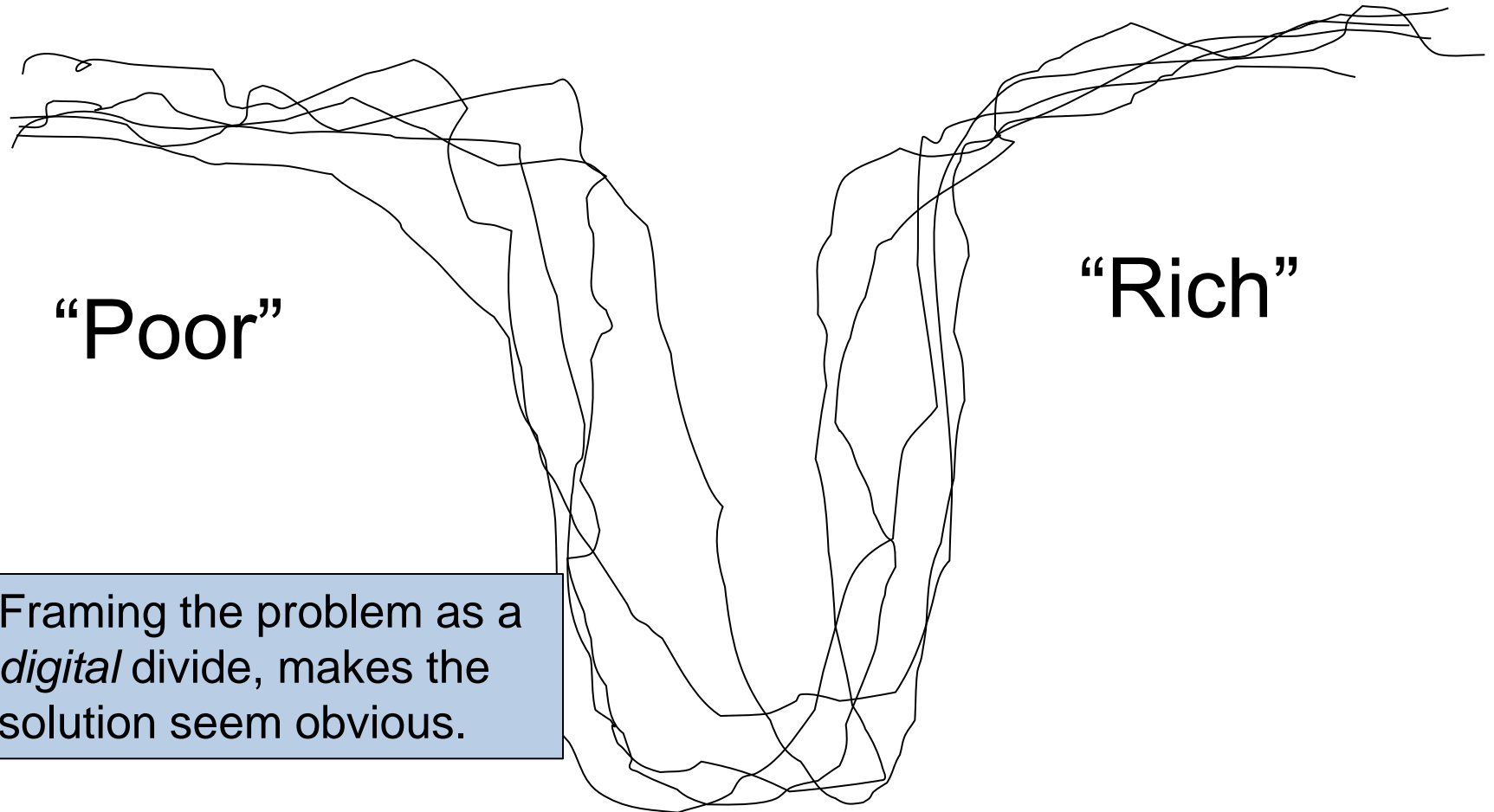USA

UK

Australia

South Africa, etc.

"Poor"

"Rich"

Between societies & nations

Question: Why is
South Africa
mentioned twice?

The Solution?
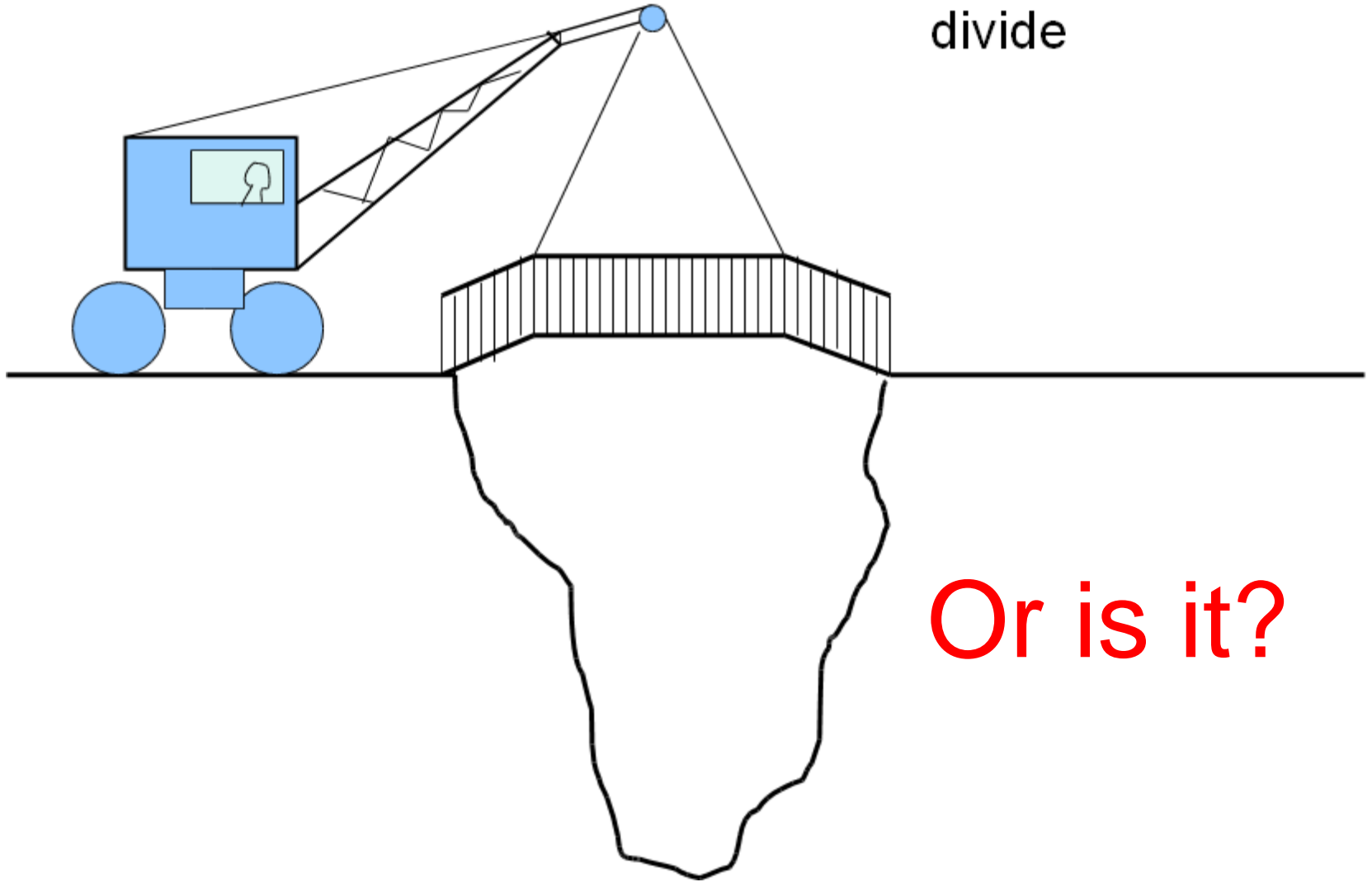
Money*Workstations*Modems*
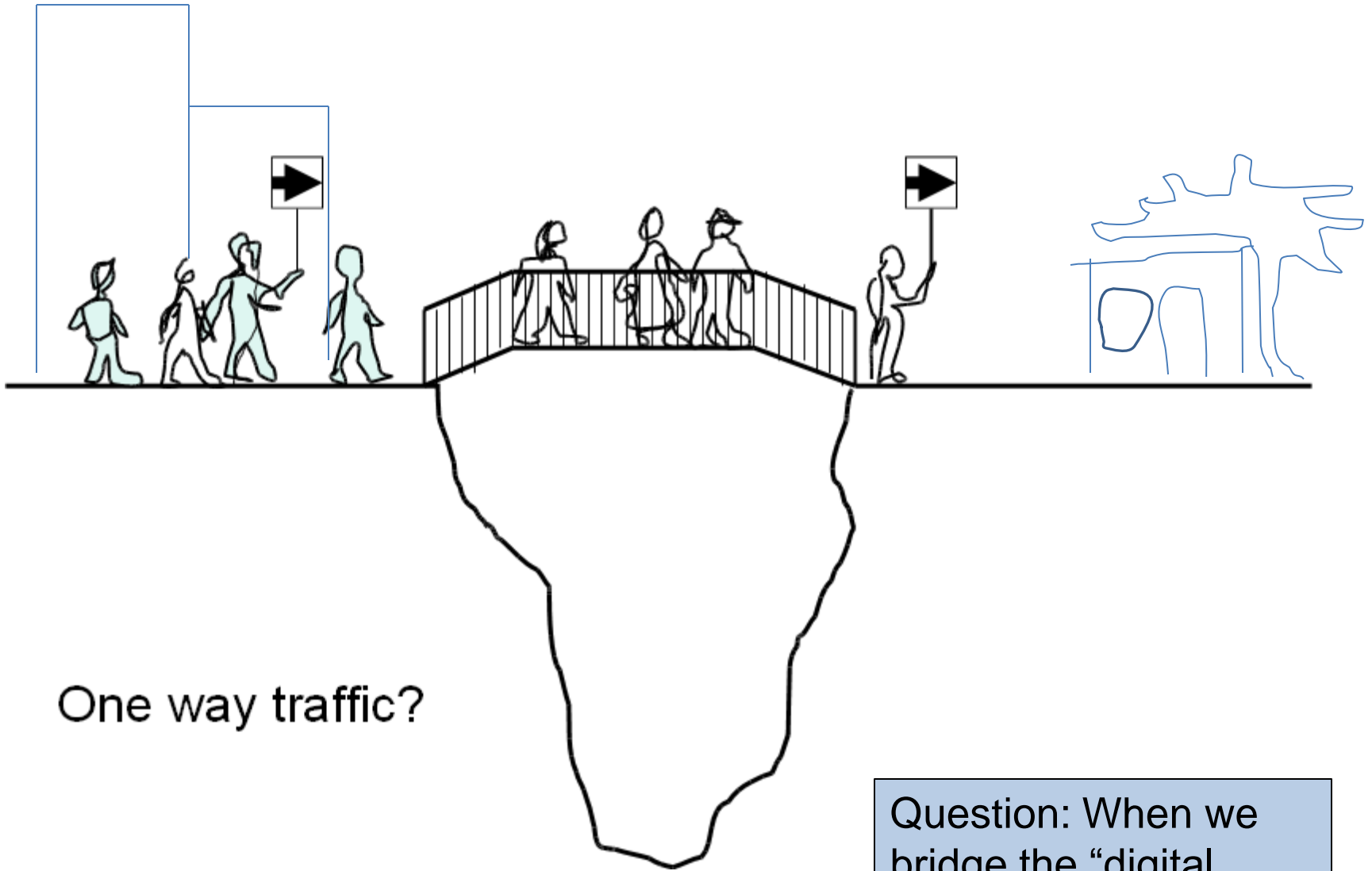Connectivity*Software*Hardware

"Poor"

"Rich"

Framing the problem as a *digital* divide, makes the solution seem obvious.

The Solution!

Bridging the digital divide

Or is it?

One way traffic?

Question: When we bridge the "digital divide", which way will the information flow?

Dimensions

Not just technology -- Rao (2000): the 8 Cs of success in the Internet economy

- Connectivity
- Content
- Community
- Commerce

- Capacity
- Culture
- Cooperation
- Capital

Rao, M. (2000) Struggling with the digital divide: Internet infrastructure, content and culture. Is a progressive Internet environment enough to close the gap between north and south? *E-OTI: On the Internet* (October), available at: www.isoc.org/oti/printversions/1000rao.html. Summarized by Paul (2002) and expanded slightly in Lor, P.J. (2003) National libraries and the digital divide. *Mousaion* 21(2):62-78.

Critique of the concept

- Mark Warschauer "Reconceptualizing the digital divide" *First Monday* 7(7), July 2002
- http://firstmonday.org/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/967/888
- Three vignettes
  - "Hole in the Wall"
  - Ennis (Irish village)
  - Computer lab (Egypt)

Digital divide?

Flawed concept
Reality more complex
but
Useful for raising
awareness

Image W3C:
http://www.w3.org/2006/11/mwiparis_digi
taldivide/all.htm#%284%29
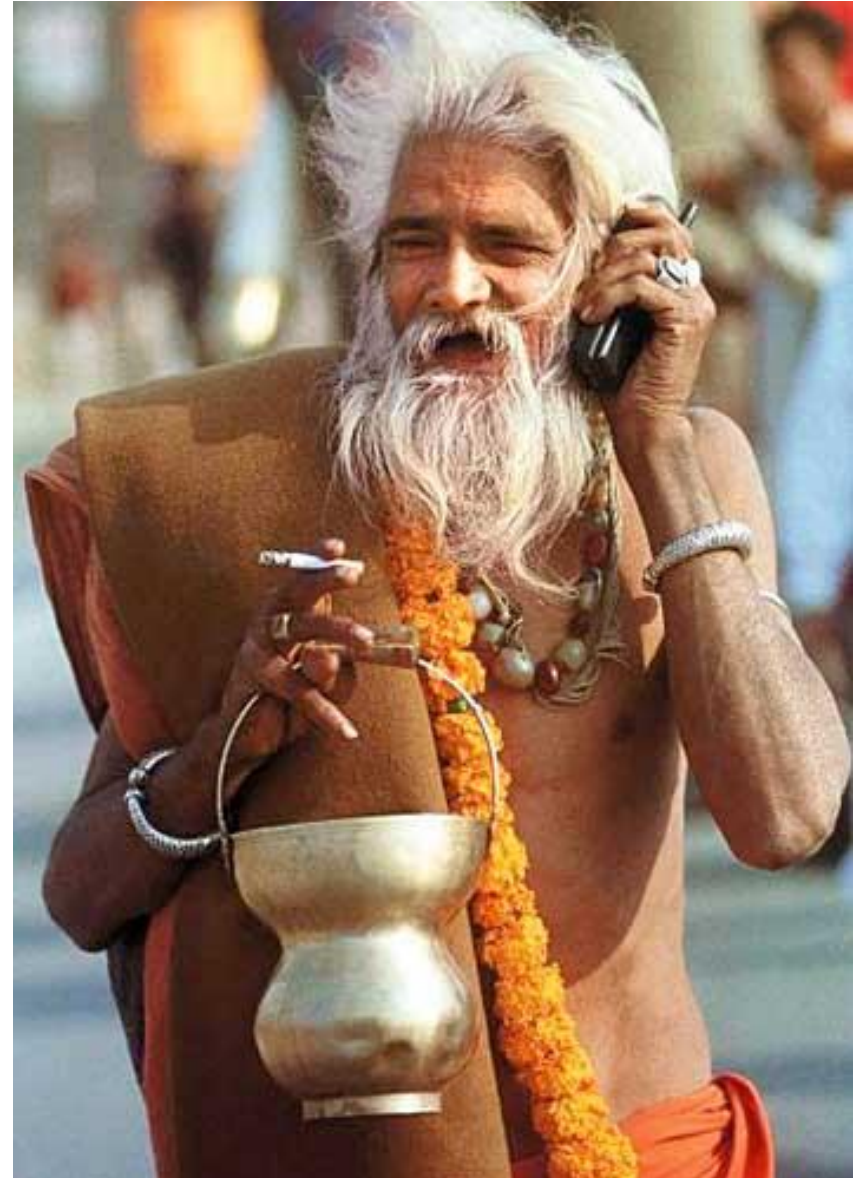
North-South information flows

Image: Nasa, http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/image/earth_1_apollo17_big.gif
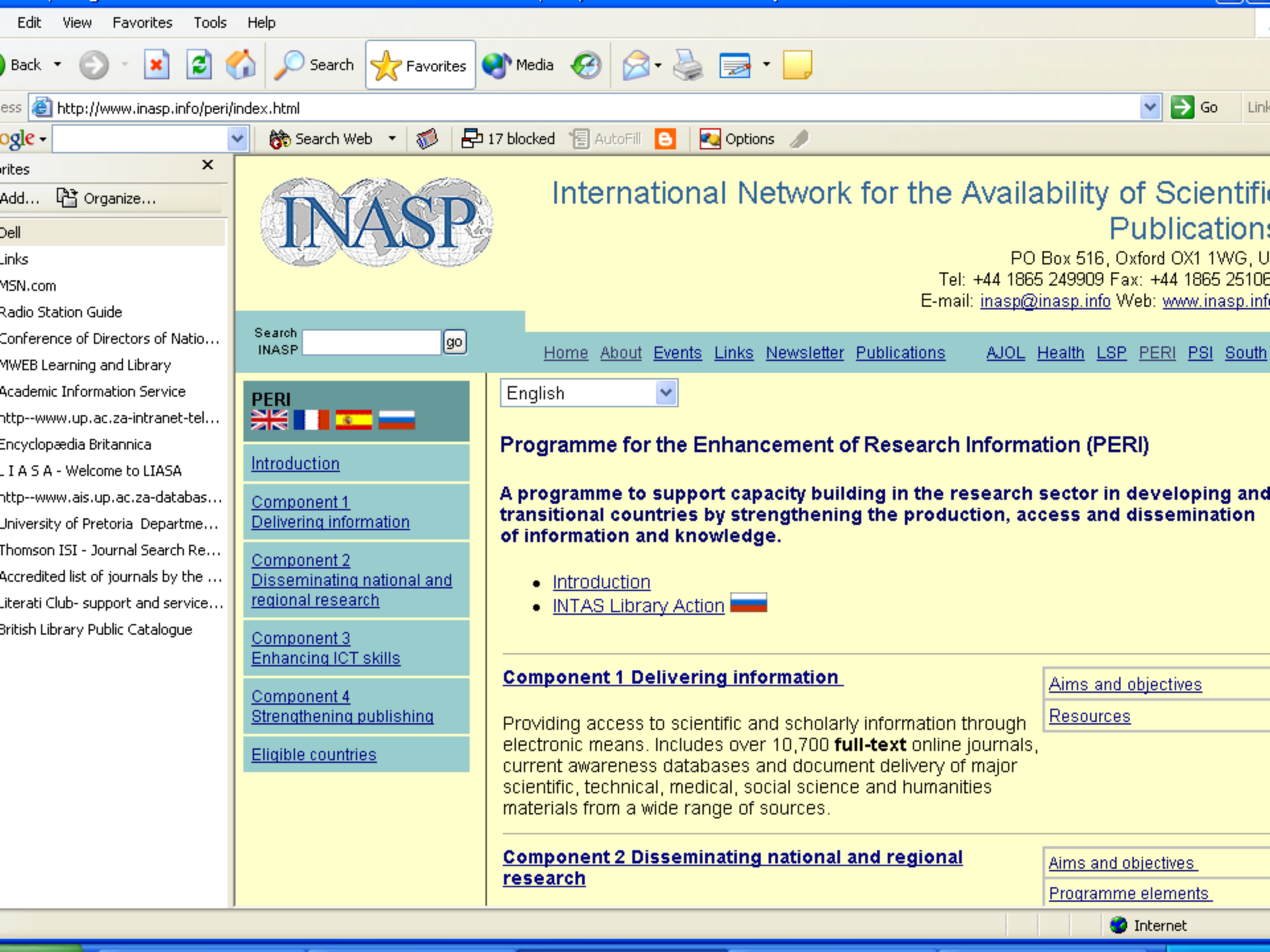
North-South information flows

- Information as a resource for development
- Cost of information
- Aid: North-South flow to help "under-developed" countries
  - FDI, Governmental & non-governmental aid
  - Unintended consequences

North-South Flows

- Some aspects to consider
  - Barriers experienced by scholars in the South
  - Globalization and IPRs
  - Attempts to overcome barriers
  - Unintended consequences
  - Potential of the Open Access movement

Attempts to overcome barriers

- Schemes to assist in gaining access to literature
  - INASP
    - INASP: International Network for Access to Scientific Publications
    - PERii: Programme for Enhancement of Research Information
    - http://www.inasp.info/file/5f65fc90178603388828814 02dc594e4/perii.html

INASP

International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications

PO Box 516, Oxford OX1 1WG, U
Tel: +44 1865 249909 Fax: +44 1865 25106
E-mail: inasp@inasp.info Web: www.inasp.inf

Search INASP   [   ]   go

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PERI

English ▼

Introduction

Component 1
Delivering information

Component 2
Disseminating national and regional research

Component 3
Enhancing ICT skills

Component 4
Strengthening publishing

Eligible countries

Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI)

A programme to support capacity building in the research sector in developing and transitional countries by strengthening the production, access and dissemination of information and knowledge.

- Introduction
- INTAS Library Action

Component 1 Delivering information

Providing access to scientific and scholarly information through electronic means. Includes over 10,700 **full-text** online journals, current awareness databases and document delivery of major scientific, technical, medical, social science and humanities materials from a wide range of sources.
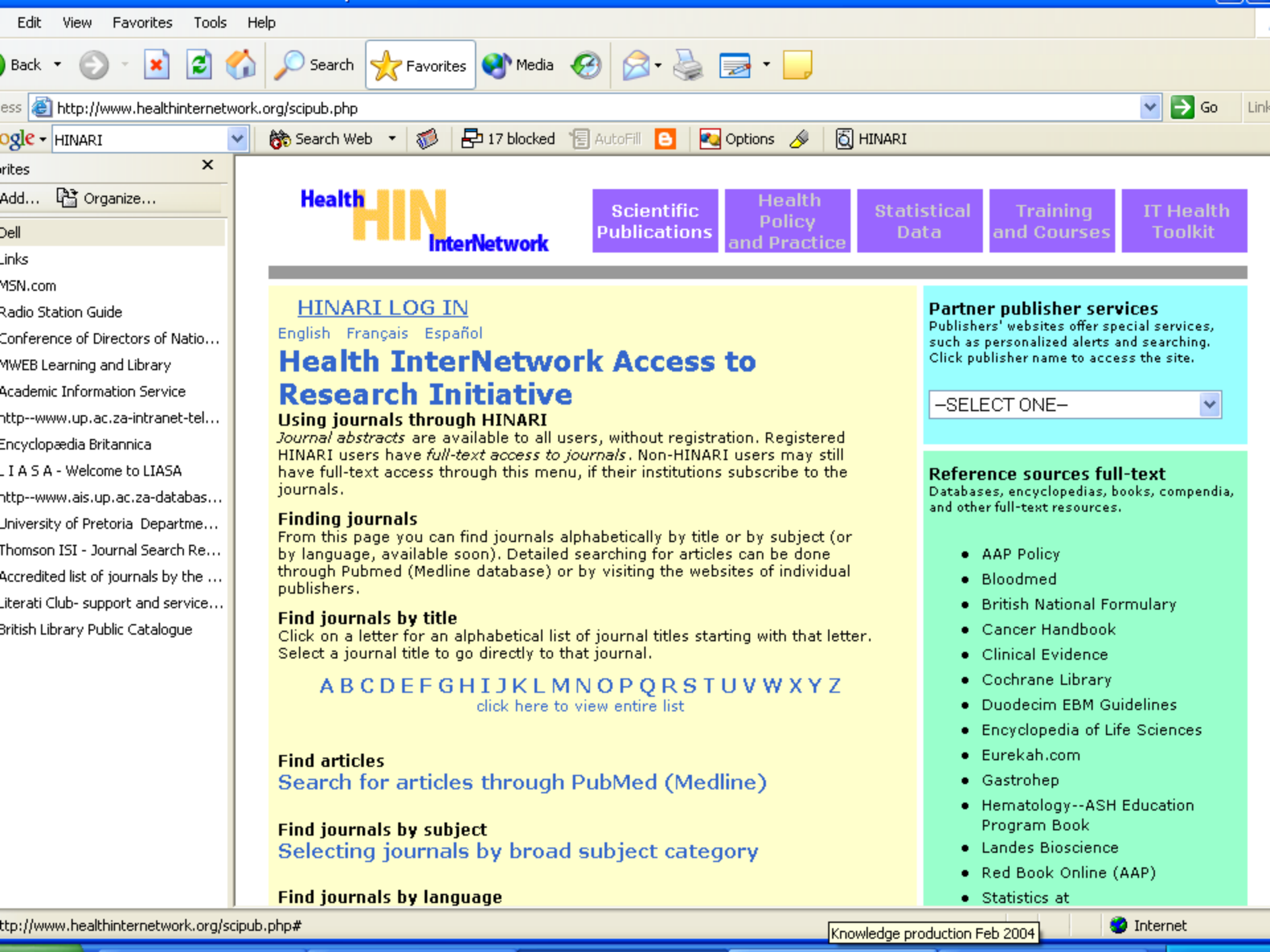
Aims and objectives

Resources

Component 2 Disseminating national and regional research

Aims and objectives

Programme elements

Internet

Attempts to overcome barriers (2)

- Schemes to assist in gaining access to literature
  - Others, e.g. HINARI
    - Health InterNetwork (HIN) Access to Research Initiative

Health HIN InterNetwork

Scientific Publications | **Health Policy and Practice** | **Statistical Data** | **Training and Courses** | **IT Health Toolkit**

HINARI LOG IN

English　Français　Español

Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative

Using journals through HINARI
Journal abstracts are available to all users, without registration. Registered HINARI users have *full-text access to journals*. Non-HINARI users may still have full-text access through this menu, if their institutions subscribe to the journals.

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—SELECT ONE—

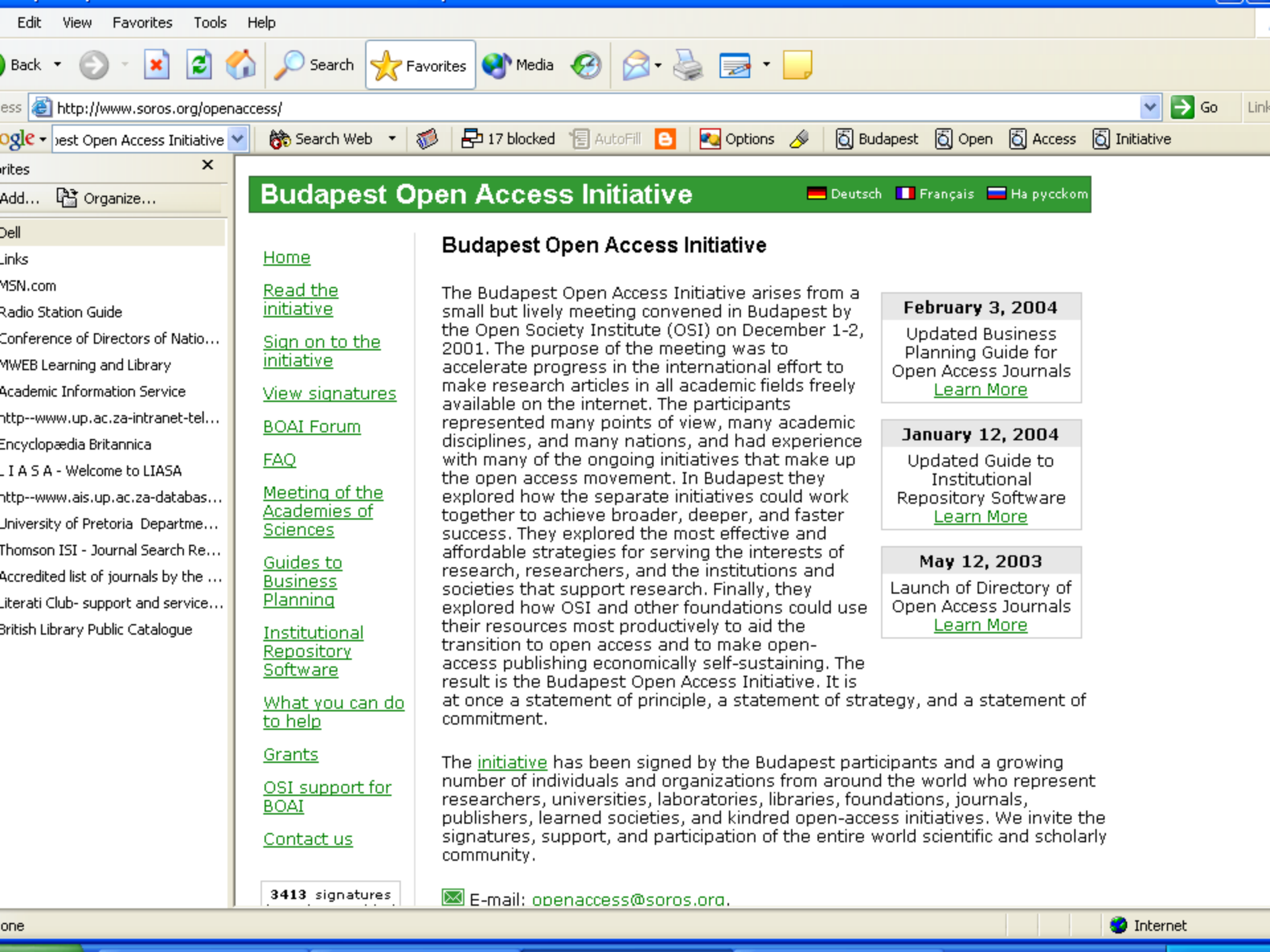### Reference sources full-text
Databases, encyclopedias, books, compendia, and other full-text resources.

- AAP Policy
- Bloodmed
- British National Formulary
- Cancer Handbook
- Clinical Evidence
- Cochrane Library
- Duodecim EBM Guidelines
- Encyclopedia of Life Sciences
- Eurekah.com
- Gastrohep
- Hematology--ASH Education Program Book
- Landes Bioscience
- Red Book Online (AAP)
- Statistics at

Unintended consequences

- Disappointing usage

- Sustainability

- Donor dependence

- Overlook own resources

What about open access?

Favorites   ✕
Add...   Organize...

Dell
Links
MSN.com
Radio Station Guide
Conference of Directors of Natio...
MWEB Learning and Library
Academic Information Service
http--www.up.ac.za-intranet-tel...
Encyclopædia Britannica
L I A S A - Welcome to LIASA
http--www.ais.up.ac.za-databas...
University of Pretoria Departme...
Thomson ISI - Journal Search Re...
Accredited list of journals by the ...
Literati Club- support and service...
British Library Public Catalogue

Budapest Open Access Initiative

🇩🇪 Deutsch   🇫🇷 Français   🇷🇺 На русском

Budapest Open Access Initiative

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Meeting of the Academies of Sciences

Guides to Business Planning

Institutional Repository Software

What you can do to help

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OSI support for BOAI

Contact us

3413 signatures

The Budapest Open Access Initiative arises from a small but lively meeting convened in Budapest by the Open Society Institute (OSI) on December 1-2, 2001. The purpose of the meeting was to accelerate progress in the international effort to make research articles in all academic fields freely available on the internet. The participants represented many points of view, many academic disciplines, and many nations, and had experience with many of the ongoing initiatives that make up the open access movement. In Budapest they explored how the separate initiatives could work together to achieve broader, deeper, and faster success. They explored the most effective and affordable strategies for serving the interests of research, researchers, and the institutions and societies that support research. Finally, they explored how OSI and other foundations could use their resources most productively to aid the transition to open access and to make open-access publishing economically self-sustaining. The result is the Budapest Open Access Initiative. It is at once a statement of principle, a statement of strategy, and a statement of commitment.

The initiative has been signed by the Budapest participants and a growing number of individuals and organizations from around the world who represent researchers, universities, laboratories, libraries, foundations, journals, publishers, learned societies, and kindred open-access initiatives. We invite the signatures, support, and participation of the entire world scientific and scholarly community.

✉ E-mail: openaccess@soros.org.

February 3, 2004
Updated Business Planning Guide for Open Access Journals
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January 12, 2004
Updated Guide to Institutional Repository Software
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May 12, 2003
Launch of Directory of Open Access Journals
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The Public Library of Science (PLoS) is a non-profit organization of scientists and physicians committed to making the world's scientific and medical literature a freely available public resource.

The internet and electronic publishing enable the creation of public libraries of science containing the full text and data of any published research article, available free of charge to anyone, anywhere in the world.

Immediate unrestricted access to scientific ideas, methods, results, and conclusions will speed the progress of science and medicine, and will more directly bring the benefits of research to the public.

To realize this potential, a new business model for scientific publishing is required that treats the costs of publication as the final integral step of the funding of a research project. To demonstrate that this publishing model will be successful for the publication of the very best
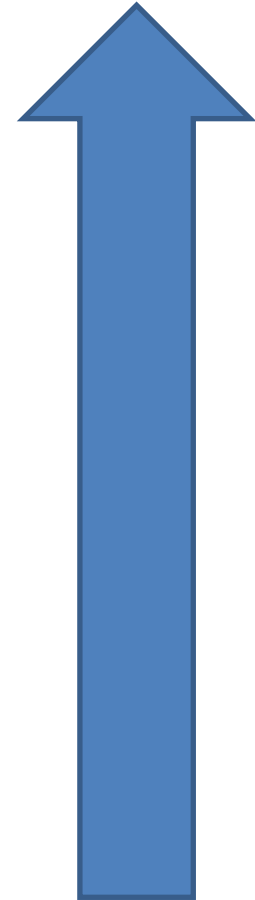
South-North & South-South information flows

Image: Nasa, http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/image/earth_1_apollo17_big.gif

South-North information flows

- Small relative to North-South
- Neglect & exploitation
- Forms of information flow
  - Scholarly information
  - Purchase of publications
  - Archives & MS resources
  - Indigenous knowledge
  - Research data
  - Brain drain

Scholarly content

- Contributions by African scholars & scientists to international literature
- A trickle, why?
  - Quality standards of international journals
  - Prejudice
  - Perception of relevance
  - Poor language skills (English)
  - Poor resources; out of date (N-S flow)
  - Local journals unsatisfactory
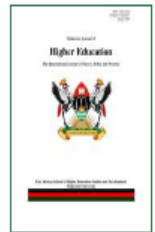 - Poor coverage in indexing & abstracting databases

http://sajlis.journals.ac.za/pub

http://www.ajol.info/
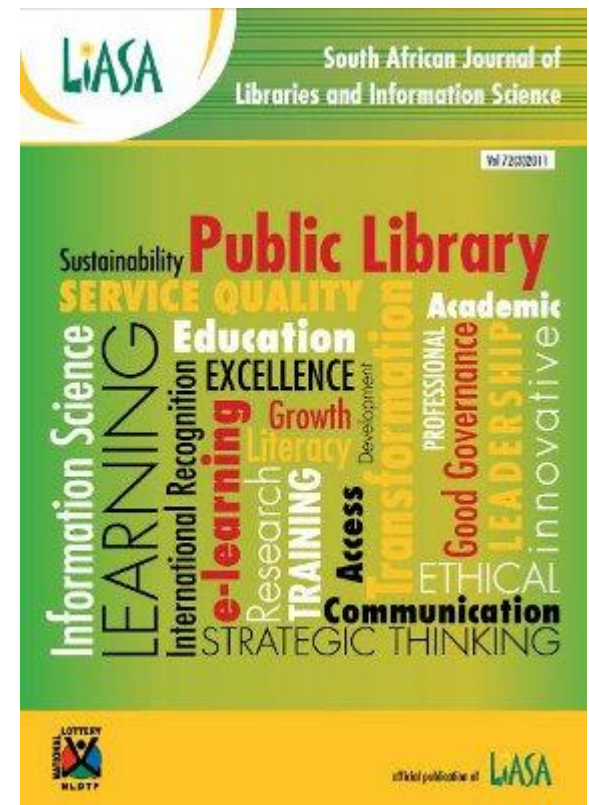
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Featured Journal: Makerere Journal of Higher Education

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FAQ's

Welcome To AJOL!

African Journals OnLine (AJOL) is the world's largest and pre-eminent collection of peer-reviewed, African-published scholarly journals.

Historically, scholarly information has flowed from North to South and from West to East. It has also been difficult for African researchers to access the work of other African academics.

In partnership with hundreds of journals from all over the continent, AJOL works to change this, so that African-origin research output is available to Africans and to the rest of the world.

AJOL is a Non-Profit Organisation based in South Africa.

More about AJOL and the challenges we work to address

South-South information flows

- Barriers
  - Dependence on former colonial powers
  - Dominance of western science & scholarship
    - Own work undervalued
    - Dependence on databases
  - Communication links
  - Linguistic barriers
- Internet, e-journals & **open access** offer hope
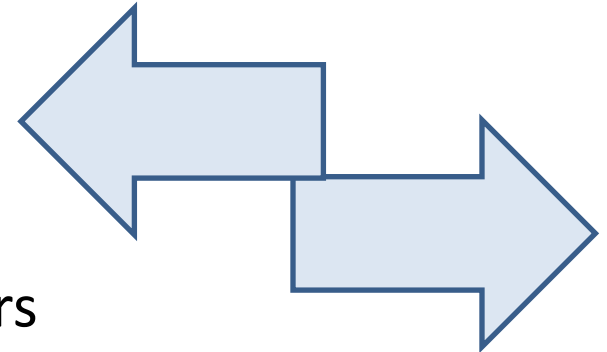
The Facebook Map of the World, 2010

Map of Facebook friend links, augmented with superimposed maps of "the Earth at night", airline routes and transoceanic data cables.

What will it look like in 2020?

facebook