

Bandwidth Optimization in Developing Countries Universities

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Overview

Higher education institutions in developing countries have to deal with growing demands on their Internet infrastructures. Managing this demand usually requires that infrastructure, telecommunications, computers, etc. are upgraded and extended. However, since this can be costly, other approaches need to be pursued.

This 'infobrief' argues that, through better understanding of actual Internet usage, improved management of Internet applications, enhanced training and awareness-raising for users, and the introduction of measures to control undesirable uses and behaviours, existing bandwidth can be made to go much further.

The infobrief draws on a report commissioned by the International Network for Availability of Scientific Publication (INASP) in response to the concerns of partner organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The report was prepared with input from eight countries (from Africa, Asia and Europe), and has been written for three main audiences: senior management, librarians, and IT managers.

It first identifies access problems in university environments, and then explains why access is frequently slow and costly, and how it can be affected by government policies as well as by other regulatory and economic restrictions. Finally, the report identifies how each stakeholder group can influence and improve online access within their institution.

Further information can be found at

<http://www.inasp.info/pubs/bandwidth/bandwidth-infobrief-final.pdf> (English)

or

<http://www.inasp.info/pubs/bandwidth/bandwidth-infobrief-french.pdf> (French)