



Malawi Libraries and Information Consortium
C/O Kamuzu College of Nursing Library
P/Bag 1, LILONGWE Malawi



Chairperson: Mrs. G. Kadzamira; Secretary Mr. P.M. Mapulanga. Treasurer Mr. G. Nyali
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21st February, 2015

The Vice Chancellor
Mzuzu University
Private Bag 201
Luwinga
Mzuzu 2

Dear Dr Robert Ridley,

I am writing as the local partner in Malawi of INASP and on behalf of INASP's Executive Director, Sue Corbett, and her colleague, Emma Farrow, who will be visiting Malawi in the week commencing March 16th, 2015. INASP (www.inasp.info) is a UK based charity, funded by the UK and Swedish governments, and has been working in Malawi to support the production of high quality academic research for over ten years.

INASP's work includes:

- providing university and research institute libraries with access at discounted rates to online scholarly journals and books
- supporting the development of MALICO as a nationally representative library consortium able to get the best value for money in purchasing online research materials
- training researchers in the use of information and research writing skills
- supporting Mzuzu University in developing the curriculum for its Library and Information Science students and for updating the pedagogical skills of faculty

The work INASP does with MALICO forms part of a substantial new programme called Strengthening Research and Knowledge Systems which works as far as possible at a national level to strengthen access to research, the production of research and its use in national level decision making.

The INASP team coming to Malawi would value the chance to meet with you and to share information about the scope of the work and how it might support your goals for the development of research and higher education. It would also be helpful to talk more generally about research in Malawi - where the important work is being done and the

enabling/constraining factors in the environment are. This would help both MALICO and INASP position our work more sensitively in line with real needs.

It may also be worth noting:

- INASP works closely with African Journals Online in helping local journals to strengthen their quality and the contribution they can make to publishing local research (www.ajol.info<<http://www.ajol.info>>).
- INASP's AuthorAID project has global recognition for the support it provides to early career researchers (www.authoraid.info<<http://www.authoraid.info>>).
- INASP also works on promoting the use of research evidence by policy makers. Their Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence programme and is currently working in Ghana, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

I look forward to hearing if you will be free to meet with us on **Thursday, 19th March, 2015 at Mzuzu University from 8:30AM**. I am attaching a copy of INASP's Annual Review which will give you a good overview of the scope of the work.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. P. L.', is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Patrick Mapulanga
MALICO Secretary