

# INASP: Effective Network Management Workshops

## Unit 2: Why Network Management

### About these workshops

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### Objectives

On completion of this session, we hope you will know:

- What you can get from this course
- Why we are running this course
- Why network management is important in academic institutions
- The benefits and value of good network management

We will cover how to achieve these things in the remaining units.

### What do you want from this course?

- Make university happy?
- Make your job easier?
- Do a better job?
- Get a certificate?
- Increase your pay?
- Change job?
- Make your institution happier? What do *they* want from you as a result?
- Manage your network better? Why?

### We want your university to run better

- Digital library resources
- Access to journals
- Collaboration with other scientists
- Recruitment and retention
- Reduce wasted time waiting for pages to load

Problems caused by poor network management...

### Internet based information resources and communication tools

- Digital library resources are under utilised

- Resource license costs can be less effective
- Free or low cost resources are difficult to take advantage of
- The digital library revolution is difficult to participate in
- Continued digital divide

## **Utilisation of ICT capacities and investments**

- Bandwidth charges of \$5,000 per month that result in an unusable link – is that money well spent?
- Infrastructure costs e.g. PC computer labs that users spend most of their time sitting around waiting for pages to display – is that money well spent?
- Impacts on a university's core activities, especially those that require up to date and a wide range of information resources e.g. teaching and research.

## **Libraries and access to information**

- Impact on the library or library mediated information \* Slow or no access to information resources \* Restriction on services that the library can offer
- Limited bandwidth is being used to access all sources of information \* Not just formal, quality controlled resources

Comparison: a library with a very small door, that only allows a small number of users in or out at any one time and is often closed. A locked or under utilised resource.

Library community are central in the development of supportive policy environment:

- bandwidth is an essential tools to deliver their services
- services are essential to the university

## **Brain drain**

Skilled staff leaving the university makes life very difficult for them. Do everything possible to reduce/avoid it!