

PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP

XIXth Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL)

Gaborone, Botswana • December 5th • Fee BWP 125

The Power of the Intranet

Low-cost strategies to scale local information and communication to serve hundreds or thousands of patrons

Local intranets - networks inside institutions - are the most cost-effective way to collect and distribute information. Research shows that more than 90% of the typical institutions' network traffic is entirely internal. This workshop will demonstrate low-cost strategies for delivering educational materials and services instantly over local area networks (LANs) as well as leveraging existing devices - like laptops, smart phones, and privately-owned computers - to serve more patrons.

This workshop includes hands-on demonstrations of the eGranary Digital Library, which provides lightning-fast off-line access to over 14 million educational resources including video, audio, books, journals and Web sites. It will also cover how to create and share local content using built-in tools like Moodle, WordPress, and web editors.

The Presenter: Cliff Missen is the director of the WiderNet Project and an instructor in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Iowa.

With over 25 years experience in computers, networking, multimedia design, teaching, and applications development, Missen oversees the WiderNet Project's efforts to improve digital communication in developing countries through the development of human capacity and research into low cost applications of information technology.

As well, he leads the development of the non-profit eGranary Digital Library, an innovative way to deliver the world's knowledge to people and institutions with inadequate Internet access. The eGranary Digital Library is installed in more than 350 schools, hospitals, clinics, and universities in Africa, India, Bangladesh, and Haiti.

Since 2001, Missen has trained over 4,000 people across Africa and India in information and communication technologies, including a "Digital Librarian" workshop at the 2006 SCECSAL conference.



The WiderNet Project, a non-profit service program based in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Iowa.

