



The 16 librarians with Prof. Jurgens Hendriks (back left) and Dr Len Hansen (back right) at NetACT's AGM in Kenya.

NetACT's Internet Portal – good news for researching

The students call them “die biblioteek tannies.” That will be “library ladies” in English. They are the wonderful people (there are men too) who put the lights on when it comes to writing papers and doing research. Sixteen of them joined the NetACT Annual General Meeting in Kenya in July this year to develop a “NetACT Internet Portal” (NIP). Six were South Africans (from the Universities of Pretoria, Free State, North West and Stellenbosch), seven were from Kenya, two from Nigeria and one from Malawi.

An internet portal is something like a table of contents in a book. Instead of pages, the references are to www (world-wide-web) sites. The portal consists of references to open access books and journals. “Open Access” refers to research material that is available and can be downloaded to your computer, free of charge. There are literally thousands and thousands of theological and other books available, journals too, *if you know where to look for them.*

The NIP puts all the information together and adds www references to the best available teaching, learning, and research methodology information that theological schools need. Step two will be to train librarians in Africa to use the NIP. NetACT got international funding to develop the NIP and open the information highway to its schools and, as such, to the church in our continent.

We soon learned that the “biblioteek tannies” have more initiative than developing internet portals. They improvised to go shopping at Kenya’s markets too.

Contact Prof. Jurgens Hendriks at hjh@sun.ac.za for more information.