

## **Quarterly Project Report**

### **Rebuilding the Agricultural Information System for Institutions of Higher Education in Afghanistan**

**Submitted to the International Arid Lands Consortium  
January, 2005**

**Arid Lands Information Center  
Office of Arid Lands Studies  
University of Arizona (UA)**

#### **Overall Project Goals:**

The goal is to take a first step toward developing a modern agricultural information system in Afghanistan. This will be accomplished by creating a fully equipped and operational Agriculture Electronic Library housed in Kabul University's College of Agriculture.

#### **Accomplishments:**

Barbara Hutchinson (Arid Lands Information Center) and Atifa Rawan (UA Library) submitted a proposal for an Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant to fund training for librarians and library technicians working in higher education institutions in Kabul and in the provinces of Afghanistan. With support from Karen Holloway (UA Library), and Katherine Waser, Michael Haseltine, and Carla Casler (all from the Arid Lands Information Center), they prepared a thorough plan and 3-year budget in collaboration with the University of Arizona Library, Arid Lands Information Center, Center for English as a Second Language, and the School of Information Resources and Library Science.

Atifa Rawan attended a meeting about the Afghanistan University Partnership Program (AUPP) in December 2004 which included a delegation from Afghanistan's Higher Education sector and the Coordinating Council for International Universities (CCIU). She and Dr. Joe Hiller, Assistant Dean for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Chair of the Watersheds Program in the School of Natural Resources, presented the University of Arizona's diverse capabilities for work in Afghanistan. A follow-up to this meeting will be an official letter of interest for assistance in the area of library and agricultural education curriculum development.

Efforts continued to try to gain support for a more comprehensive agricultural library development project that would incorporate regional universities as well as Kabul University. A concept paper for such a project was forwarded to contacts at the USAID mission in Afghanistan, the US Embassy in Afghanistan, and USAID Washington. In addition, discussions were held with members of the U.S. National Agricultural Library about collaborating with University of Arizona on an expanded project. This effort will involve multiple institutions including the University of Illinois and Texas A & M as well as the University of Arizona.

Atifa Rawan has maintained close contact with Mr. Abdul Khalid Madadi, Field Coordinator of the Agriculture Electronic Library (AEL) at Kabul University, and with Dr. Fayez, Minister of

Higher Education, and Dr. Wassimi, Executive Manager for ICARDA in Kabul to ensure effective operation of AEL. In particular, a meeting was held with Dr. Wassimi and all UA project participants, including Dr. Bob Freitas from the IALC, in November when he visited Tucson. Efforts to formalize a business relationship with Dr. Wassimi and the ICARDA office in Kabul are ongoing.

Nicole Joos, TEEAL Coordinator, is sending further training materials including a DVD of a training session to Mr. Madadi.

“AFGHANISTAN GETS ITS FIRST ELECTRONIC LIBRARY” by Carla Casler was the top item in the October 29, 2004 issue of CALS Newline, an email “current awareness” newsletter produced by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, which has 300 subscribers throughout Arizona. This included a link to Atifa’s trip report on the OALS web site:  
<http://ag.arizona.edu/OALS/oals/Tripreports/atifajune04.html>

Carla Casler also submitted an article to *Arizona Land and People*, which will be the main feature of the January issue.

Atifa Rawan gave presentations on the library redevelopment project at the University of Arizona’s Arid Lands Information Center (August 19, 2004), Center for Middle Eastern Studies, (September 2, 2004), and Library Faculty Assembly (October 5, 2004), and at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Tucson (October 10, 2004).

Current quarters expenses for operations, salary, and equipment for AEL

1. Upgrading the 4 monitors (\$25 each)	\$100.00
2. Computer desks (2)	\$90.53
3. Chairs (4 - \$47.37)	\$189.47
4. Vacuum cleaner	\$113.68
5. CD shelve	\$189.47
6. Book shelf	\$190.55
7. Cover for 4 computers	\$15.82
8. Transportation, delivery expenses	\$12.38
9. Madadi's salary (July -Sep. \$50 p/m)	\$150.00
10. Internet card connection	\$43.00
Total Expenses	\$1,094.44