

IFSW Representative to Sage Publications Report to the General Meeting 2014

Significant Activities:

1. Continued representation on Editorial Policy Committee of *International Social Work*

I have continued in this role over the last two years, attending the annual Editorial Board meeting and advising on policy issues from time to time; also reviewing occasional articles submitted.

2. Need for further Board members from IFSW Regions

Currently applications are invited for membership of the ISW Editorial Board. The Board is currently seeking to make 8 new appointments. We would particularly welcome applications from Africa, South America, and Asia as these areas are under-represented on the Board at present. If you have an interest in this please email Liz Ryan at isw@dur.ac.uk. Board Members receive full online access to the journal, and the issue archive as a benefit of the position.

3. Changes to editorship of *International Social Work*

Since the last period the editorship of the journal has changed with Vasilios Ioakimidis joining ISW as a co-editor with Lena Dominelli, while the other co-editor Simon Hackett is leaving ISW. Liz Ryan remains as the Journal Manager running the editorial office which is based in Durham, UK.

4. Usage

There were **179,555 downloads of articles in 2013**. This represents an impressive **29% improvement on last year**, and download figures **74% over the discipline average**. There are now **6,076 people signed up to electronic alerts for the journal**.

5. Circulation

Institutions subscribing via traditional models remains level, with **437 institutions** possessing traditional subscriptions, **representing an overall renewal rate of 98%**. **57 more institutions** now have access through sales to library consortia, **an increase of 2%**.

6. Special Issues

ISW published two special issues in 2013. The special issues were on **Child Rights in Africa** and **Religion and Spirituality**.

For 2014, ISW is/are publishing four special issues. **Human Trafficking** was published in January, **Social Work Education** in May and **Social Work in Russia** is due as 57/5 in September.

The **Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development 2014** special issue has been published to coincide with this World Conference in Melbourne.

For 2015 ISW is due to publish two special issues on **Climate Change** and **Humanitarian Aid**.

With regards to forward planning, the special issues for 2016 have been chosen, and these will be on **Islamic Social Work** and **Sami Social Work**. No plans have been made for 2017 yet.

7. Publicising and promoting the Journal

ISW will hold another session aimed at helping people to get published in journals at the World Conference in Melbourne in July. ISW did the first session in Stockholm and it was very well attended so we hope to replicate this success.

Using social media to promote the journal is going very well. 904 people 'Like' the ISW Facebook page, and we have 1785 followers on Twitter. ISW also has a LinkedIn profile with 329 professional connections. These numbers have all increased exponentially in the past year and ISW hopes they continue to grow. Facebook and Twitter are used to announce new papers on Online First, publicise special issue calls for papers, announce when new issues of the journal are available and announce any other appropriate news.

ISW hopes to venture into podcasts this year as another way of promoting the journal as we feel these could be very popular. We are also considering creating an ISW blog.

Five virtual issues under Editor's Choice Collections are available on the home page. These are on **Sex Trafficking, Genocide and Child Soldiers, Disasters, Fighting Poverty** and **Social Work in Europe**. ISW is planning another virtual issue to coincide with the World Conference and this will be advertised on ISW website and on Twitter and Facebook.

8. Forward Planning

- ISW editors will attend the conference in Melbourne, and use the Global Agenda special issue, a virtual issue and 'How to get Published' session to publicise the journal.
- Continue with using social media to publicise the journal.
- Finalise the Editorial Board refreshment to ensure a more balanced member list.
- To continue using SAGEtrack to increase high quality submissions which it is hoped will in turn raise the journal's impact factor (i.e. its citations in other journals).
- To continue to use virtual themed issues to create a wider audience for the journal.
- Decide on the future of book reviews with SAGE.
- Further revise the system for selecting the ISW Journal Prize winners which is acceptable to all.

9. Access for IFSW Friends

We would like the online Journal to be freely available to IFSW Friends – this would be by means of embedding a valid link to the online archive within a secure section on our website, to be accessed by nominated Friends of Owner organisations only. SAGE are still looking into this possibility, but it would assist if we did create this secure site.

Nigel Hall
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