

Khayelitsha, Cape Town, South Africa

"Multimedia in a Township School"

1. Introduction of the Project Partner

The ASA project will take place at the Esangweni Senior Secondary School in Khayelitsha. The school was established in 1994 and moved to its present location in 2003. It provides secondary education from grade 8 to 12. The students' age ranges from about 14 up to 18. Khayelitsha is a black township located south-east of Cape Town and is home to between 1 and 3 million people. South Africa is regarded as one of the most prosperous countries in Africa, yet it is first world and third world in one country. Ten years after abandoning apartheid and the establishment of democracy, the segregation and the poverty gap among the people of different colours still remains. Due to political changes in South Africa during the last 10 years the government and international organisations have been looking at improving the living conditions in rural areas and informal settlements. Major difficulties in Khayelitsha include unemployment, HIV/Aids, crime and drug abuse. Another major problem concerns housing – the majority of people in the townships still live in shacks. Although the government has started building brick houses and is continuing to do so, the process is rather lengthy.

Despite these problems there is also the danger of broadening the digital divide. Internet access in this area is hardly existing, basic computer skills amongst the learners and members of the community are lacking. In order to make information accessible - preparing students for the job market and a further university education - it is crucial that the school provides the infrastructure to acquire computer literacy. School is the only possibility for youngsters from disadvantaged areas to get in contact with the computer including multimedia facilities and access to Internet.

The school has hosted ASA participants for two years already. In 2004 two ASA-Participants from Germany and Slovakia have carried out the ASA-Project "Multimedia for Township Kids" at Esangweni School. The focus of this project was the introduction of multimedia facilities and various aspects of computer and Internet usage to learners and teachers. The main content of the courses taught was photography, filming, web programming and the creation of a student magazine.

In the following year, 2005, two ASA participants from Germany and Estonia carried out the ASA project "Internet for Township Kids" in the school. In many ways, the project was a continuation of the activities carried out last year. All the courses taught the previous year were continued. The

ASA participants also engaged in numerous other activities, such as giving computer courses to teachers and assisting them in various computer related activities, repairing and maintaining the computers in the computer lab and installing software in the computers, administrating the school network and user accounts.

2. ASA-Project

Besides providing the teachers and learners of the school general assistance and guidance in all computer related activities, the ASA participants in 2006 will focus on the following tasks:

- Continuing the work of the four multimedia groups (newsletter, webpage, photography, filming) and establishing co-operation with the learners in a neighbouring school
- Creating and managing centralized and private filespace
- Giving computer training to the teachers of the school and community members (the specific content of the training will be specified during the course of the project).
- Giving computer training (both hardware and software) to the computer club members and other interested students, so that they would be able to pass their knowledge to other learners once the ASA Participants have left the school.
- Updating and deploying the system disk image of the computers in the school computer lab
- Developing and updating the school webpages
- Making sound and video recordings

2.1 Project Plan

1. Introductory Phase (1 week)

The ASA Participants should familiarize themselves with their working environment and surroundings. They should communicate with the teachers of the school and visit classes. The ASA participants should introduce themselves, their country and culture to the school community by visiting classes and giving presentations.

The schedule for the multimedia groups should be set up. ASA participants together with the project partner will work out the content of the teacher training and set up a schedule of courses.

2. Main Phase (8 weeks)

During the main stage of the project, the ASA Participants will focus on the following activities.

Multimedia groups

In addition to working with each group separately, the ASA Participants should also integrate the work of the groups, so that each group would be able to use the results of other groups in their

work. At least one joint multimedia project/task with the participation of all groups should be undertaken.

Esangweni School has recently established co-operative relations to Kwamfundo High School, located in Khayelitsha. The work of all multimedia groups at Esangweni should be introduced to the learners of that school and similar groups started in the partner school. The ASA Participants together with the learners of Esangweni should assist the partner school in establishing the groups. Once the groups have been started, the co-operation should be continued in the form of information exchange and occasional joint meetings.

Creating and administrating the filespace

The school has one Linux lab, one Windows lab and one mixed (Windows and Linux) lab. There are also 4 servers, which run Linux and are used as web-, LDAP- and file servers. The file server runs SAMBA which allows a Windows computer to access the files on the server. The ASA participants in 2005 set up a centralized file space for the Windows computer in the mixed computer lab, which is currently the most used lab. The following step would be to extend this centralized file space for the Linux computers and the Windows lab. The students of the school require personal password protected file space. The LDAP server running in the school is used to store all the authentication data (of Linux logins and email addresses). This authentication data can be used to create a SAMBA account for every student on the file server and to set up a private file space on this server. The file space can then be protected by the same password as the password for the email account. To restrict the learners from storing too many files on their private file space, the private file space should also be set up with a quota.

Teacher training

The ASA Participants will conduct teacher training according to the content and schedule determined during the introductory phase.

Updating the system disk image in the computer lab

In order to prevent learners from installing software and modifying system settings in the PCs, software was installed which undoes any changes to files on restart. If some changes on the software or settings of the computers are requested by the learners and approved by the responsible teacher, the system disk image has to be updated. When the system disk is created, it has to be deployed to all of the computers in the computer lab. The image should be updated regularly by the ASA-Participants.

Sound and video recordings

The ASA Participants will make sound and video recordings of various events taking place in the school and in the community; the recordings are to be captured, edited and published in a suitable

format. Students from the filming group should be integrated in the recording activities. The ASA Participants should consider establishing a new multimedia group for recording and editing sounds.

3. Final Phase (3 weeks)

During this final stage of the project, the ASA Participants will complete the joint multimedia project with the participation of all groups and produce the results of the work. The teacher training should also be completed and certificates produced if necessary. Also, the work with the filespace and user accounts should be completed. The sound and video recordings made during the course of the project should be reviewed and published.

The ASA Participants will give training to some students concerning the administration of the user accounts, so that they would be able to continue the activities once the ASA Participants have left.