

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTATION NETWORK ON THE AFRICAN GREAT LAKES REGION
RÉSEAU DOCUMENTAIRE INTERNATIONAL SUR LA REGION DES GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS



The Network was initiated in 1995 by a group of northern and african scholars, with the aim of maintaining and disseminating as much as possible of unpublished written documents (*grey literature*) about the Great Lakes region. The major objective was to gain better understanding and dialogue.

In 1996, the Network issued its first CD-ROM, which offered about 2'500 pages of numerized papers; it has been followed by 7 other issues totalizing about 40'000 pages and 6'000 copies (year 2000).

The same year, the website <http://www.grandslacs.net> was opened in order to increase the dissemination of the documents towards a larger audience. In 2009 it offers more than 100'000 pages in 4'500 documents on a free access basis.

Based in Geneva under the aegis of a Swiss Foundation, the Network opened several units for document processing in the Great Lake countries: Burundi, Rwanda, DRC and Tanzania, in close relationship with public Universities. The staff trained by the Network largely contributed to the processing of documents issued by individuals, academics, governments, international organizations, NGO's, churches, political parties...

Initially funded by the Swiss Cooperation, UNESCO, France, the Fonds Francophone des Inforoutes, the Regional Council of the Nord/Pas-de-Calais (France) and Geneva City & State, the Network answered tenders and submitted projects to other donors, offering its expertise of electronic document processing. For instance, the Bujumbura office got a funding from European Union (PREBU) to numerise the Official Bulletin of Burundi for the Ministry of Justice. The documentary Network also relieved the broadcasting of the information and the works of the ICTR in its early stages.

In 2009, the generalization of computing equipments and of individual websites among the public and private organizations took over from the documentary Network.

This data bank became the immediate and lived memory on the events of the Great Lakes region during the last two decades. It is an incomparable tool for all those who are interested in this region. The database is now accommodated and accessible to the following address :

<http://graduateinstitute.ch/fr/home/research/centresandprogrammes/ccdp/database/documentati-on-network-great-afri.html>

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