



Kenya National Library Service

10th National Book Week Celebrations — 2005

Run Dates: Monday, September 19 to Saturday, September 24, in all KNLS libraries

Theme: Reading For Life



Mission Statement

To establish library facilities and provide appropriate reading and information materials to all communities in Kenya.

Vision

To be the leading National and Public Library in Africa

Empowering Communities Through Library and Information Service Provision



The Kenya National Library Service HQ in Nairobi: Inset: Wananchi doing research in KNLS facilities: KNLS recognises that reading is the most fundamental way through which knowledge is acquired

The Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) recognises that information is a basic commodity in everyone's life, and that reading is the most fundamental way through which knowledge is acquired. KNLS therefore strives to ensure that the services provided are responsive to the user needs.

Our clients range from baby class toddlers who want to find toys and games to play with in the library, to professors who want to find the latest and sometimes the ancient information for research purposes. Using the available resources, KNLS provides a wide range of services, which reflect its dual-purpose roles of both the national and public libraries.

National Library Services

The National Library Division is charged with the role of collecting and preserving for posterity books and periodicals published in Kenya.

- Legal deposit centre for Kenya

KNLS is a depository center for all publications that are published in Kenya or outside but with an interest to Kenya. Books and Newspapers Act Cap 111 (1987) of the Laws of Kenya states that "Every publisher in Kenya is required to deposit two copies of each every new title published, with the Director, KNLS within 14 days of the publication.", for purposes of preservation of the National Imprint.

- Preservation and conservation of national imprint
- Production of Kenya National Bibliography – KNLS compiles records of the Kenyana collection published in any given year. This gives a statistical account of Kenya's publishing output and reveals the strength of Kenya Publishing industry.

- Issuance of International Standard Book Number (ISBN) to publishers. KNLS is the national agency for ISBN. ISBN is a unique international identification number assigned to each title of a publication
- National reference services

Offers reference and referral services to library users and researchers in different fields of study

- Inter-library lending and resource sharing
- Acts as a depository library for: World Bank, United Nations, International Labor Organisation and UNESCO publications.

- Custodian of rare books and specialised collections — government publications and legal notices, constitutional review materials from various countries, microfilms and microfiches of serials, bibliographies.

Public Library Services

Lending

- Individual lending for adult and junior readers
- Bulk lending to schools, prisons, institutions for visually impaired persons, among others.
- Provision of reading space

Outreach services

These services target people who for one reason or another cannot conveniently access the static library services.

- Mobile motorised services
- Non-motorised mobile services
- Book box services

Reference and referral services

Community information services

- Community lectures on topical issues
- HIV/Aids information services
- Repackaging indigenous information

Consultancy and advisory services

KNLS provides consulting services in the area of library establishment/development and management. On request, KNLS gives technical assistance in organisation of library materials as well as planning and designing of a library at a minimal fee. KNLS also provides opportunities for internship in all its branches.

Children Services

- Story telling
- Reading and writing competitions
- Games
- Drama and cultural activities, among others.

Special services

Some of the services have been established in

consideration and appreciation of the cultural values and social dimensions of various communities. These are aimed at reaching specific disadvantaged communities in Kenya.

The camel library service in Garissa and Wajir

The camel was chosen because it is a culturally acceptable and treasured mode of transport among the nomadic communities. It is also able to walk through the harsh terrain in the region and is adaptive to the community's nomadic way of life. In Garissa, the camel library operates under three camel caravans. Our special appreciation goes to Safaricom who donated a complete camel caravan in 2004.

Donkey library service

Donkey library service in Nyilima, Bondo District has been received enthusiastically by the community and schools around the area. The donkey is commonly used as a mode of transport in that area.

Services to the Visually Impaired Persons (VIP)

KNLS provides a variety of services to the VIPs. These include: Braille lending to individuals and institutions, reading stories and newspapers to those with visual impairment, provision of talking books, transcription of popular materials into Braille, typing services, among others.

Advocating Behaviour change in the fight against HIV/Aids

HIV/Aids information service: The board in its efforts to participate in inculcating behaviour change in relation to HIV/Aids scourge has established Aids information units in all its 36 branch libraries. Specific activities offered include: convening forums for peer groups to discuss various issues on HIV/Aids, lectures and video shows, dissemination of HIV/Aids information through folk media such as drama, songs, and dance, lending of information materials on HIV/Aids, among others. KNLS also recognises the importance of information and therefore the need to avail it to all people. As a result, KNLS board has obtained copyright permission from various authors of books and information materials related to HIV/Aids to transcribe them into Braille.

Recently, KNLS was granted copyright permission by NASCOP to transcribe the book 'HIV Surveillance Results. Vol. 1.' The book has already been transcribed at African Braille Centre and will be distributed to the KNLS branches for use by VIPs countrywide. Other books for which

copyright permission has already been obtained by KNLS are:-

- 'Nutritional Aspects of HIV Infection' edited by Tracie L. Miller and Sherwood L. Gorbach and
- 'Breaking the Silence: Kenya Families Coping with AIDS' published by Family Planning Private Sector.

These two books are undergoing transcribing at the Kenya Union of the Blind.

Another book that is earmarked for transcribing is 'AIDS Pandemic' by Richard Willis. The transcribing process has been funded by the government.

Book Donation

KNLS donates books to deserving institutions on behalf of Book Aid International (BAI) of UK. Once the books are received by KNLS distribution is done on a first come first served basis. Deserving institutions are expected to apply for the books to the Director, KNLS. An agreed percentage of the BAI donations is distributed to the KNLS branches.

KNLS board values the shareholders and donors participation in the library and information services provision.

Book Aid International (UK) has been one of our major partners for many years. This year, BAI has given 10,000 Sterling Pounds to the KNLS board under the book trade project.

The funds will be used to buy culturally appropriate and suitable children's books. When this is done, our children's collection will be greatly boosted.



The camel library service in Garissa and Wajir and donkey library service in Nyilima, Bondo District have been received enthusiastically by the local communities and schools



Students borrow books from a mobile library