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Editor's Note

To all those who spared their time to share their views with kenal readers, I can only say "God bless you!" I encourage you to "keep it live" by sending more articles. For those who would want to write in the next issue, kindly note that the deadline for submission is 20th November 2012.

Send your articles for the next issue to:

corporatcommunications@knls.ac.ke or
nancy.ngugi@knls.ac.ke

Compiled and edited by:

Nancy Ngugi, Senior Public Relations Officer

Contributors

J. Njeru, Muniyu
M. I. Mwandih, Kisumu
J. Mwangi, Naivasha
B. Kalugho, CDBD
P. Mwirigi, NLD
P. Kimaru, NAL
A. Mutiso, Mombasa
R. Wanjohi, Meru
M. Kinyanjui, Kibera
F. Talam, Intern
B. Mutali, Inmate, Naivasha Maximum Prison
Book club members, Kisumu

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P.O Box 30573 – 00100

Tel. 254 -020-2158352

Fax: 2721749

e-mail: knls@knls.ac.ke,

Web site: www.knls.ac.ke

knls Five-year Strategic Plan (2012-17)

Vision

The hub of information and knowledge for empowerment

Mission

To enable access to information for knowledge and transformation of livelihoods

Core Values

- Passionate
- Innovative
- Customer Focused
- Knowledge driven

Strategic Objectives

- To improve the reading culture among the Kenyan people through informed and targeted intervention programs
- To increase access to information through development, equipping and maintenance of libraries
- To enhance availability of information resources through utilization of modern technologies and strategic partnerships
- To enhance collection and preservation of national bibliographic information through legal deposit copies and other sources
- To strengthen institutional capacity by upholding responsible corporate governance, resource mobilization and human capital development.

The upcoming national library of Kenya

Horizon of new era in information services

The construction of the proposed national library will herald a new era in the provision of library services in Kenya. As the world moves towards online service integration, the library will play a critical role not only in providing digital storage of information materials but also in availing unlimited online access to all relevant information in a friendly and interactive environment.



The ongoing project that will be home to The National Library of Kenya and the knls headquarters



The building that has housed the National Library of Kenya and knls headquarters since 1974



A journey of **transformation**



Then: The old Nakuru library premises that has served the residents since 1976.



Now: The new Nakuru library building that opened its doors to the public on Monday, 2nd July 2012.

The search for facilities to set up a library in Nakuru started in 1975, where the then Kenya National Library Service Board requested the Municipal Council of Nakuru to avail facilities where library and information services would be provided to Nakuru residents.

Upon favourable response, knls Nakuru branch was established in February 1976 at Starehe hall with an initial staff of six including one librarian and three library assistants. Located off Kalewa road in Bondeni area of Nakuru Municipality, the library has a floor space of approximately 275sq metres with a sitting capacity of 140 adults and 50 children.

As a provincial library, Nakuru library was initially set up to cater for the needs of the expansive Rift Valley province. According to the 2009 census, Nakuru County has a population of 1,603,325 and is expected to continue growing as more and more people migrate into the county in search of arable land and to exploit the business opportunities available in the region.

Nakuru town is the fourth largest urban centre in Kenya after Nairobi Mombasa and Kisumu with an estimated population of over 500,000 people. The library catchment area covers Nakuru town, Njoro-Mau Summit, Kuresoi, Subukia-Nyahururu, and Marigat-Eldama Ravine regions.

As the main business hub for the region, Nakuru has experienced significant growth in both the business and education sector where almost every public university has established a satellite campus in the town.

While this provides a ready market for the library, it also poses capacity challenges as the current library is inadequate to cater for this large population. Within Nakuru Municipality, the library serves 26 primary schools, 18 Secondary schools, over 20 colleges and higher learning institutions, health facilities, banks and Non-governmental organizations. In 1995, the Municipal Council of Nakuru allocated a plot to the KNLS board for the construction of a modern library and construction work begun in 2007.

The new library, sitting on a plot measuring 0.3798 hectares, is located behind Christ the King Cathedral off Moses Mudavadi Road. It is located in close proximity to the Central Business District and is accessible through either Moi or West roads.

E-granary in Kisumu

Digital library and community information portal without internet connection

By MOSES I. MWANDIHI, Kisumu

A lecture on e-granary was organized by American Embassy at knls Kisumu on 5th June 2012. It was facilitated by Professor Cliff Missen from Iowa University in USA, where he is an instructor at the School of Library and Information Science. Professor Cliff highlighted the use of off-line digital information, with an emphasis on the e-granary Digital Library.

The focus was on developing librarian's digital information literacy, both through advanced search strategies as well as creating, collecting, managing, and disseminating locally produced digital resources. The e-granary digital library otherwise referred to as "The internet in a box" provides over 30 million educational resources to institutions and resource centers without Internet access. Thus, installation of the e-granary digital library at the knls Kisumu is a welcome move. It will enable researchers, students, institutions, and other interested individuals to access very rich information.

The event was attended by lecturers and students from various colleges, information officers from Cardiff Kenya and the Library staff. Lameck Oyoo from Kisumu Polytechnic had the following to say after attending the lecture. "It was a great privilege for us to have been invited to attend the launch of egranary at knls, Kisumu.

The good relationship between Kisumu library and our school has been of great help to us. Since we were introduced to this library last year, we have benefited a lot especially from



the information at the American Corner. I also wish to thank the speakers from American Embassy Nairobi and Professor Cliff for the perfect presentation on egranary. The digital Library will no doubt be of help to students and professionals especially in the area of research." One of the participants Steven, a Director of Cadif Kenya said he first learned of the egranary in 2011 in an international conference (E-learning Africa) in Daresalam.

He explained that the installation of egranary was a golden opportunity for the residents of Kisumu, particularly youth as they would be able to access over the 30 million learning resources hence making learning affordable even to the less privileged. The egranary has boosted our library resources and presents new information sources to the residents of this region. Kudos Cliff Missen!

The focus was on developing librarian's digital information literacy, both through advanced search strategies as well as creating, collecting, managing, and disseminating locally produced digital resources.

Reading for your success in life

EVANS OMONDI, Lions High School, Book Club President

It is indeed true that people you meet and books you read determine your future "success in life."

Am grateful to knls Kisumu library for providing an opportunity to pupils and students to enhance their education through unique library activities such as book clubs. Time, which might have been used in engaging in anti-social behavior, is profitably utilized in reading for individual empowerment.

Organization of programmes such as debate has seen many students grow in eloquence of speech and public speaking.

Discussion/debate on politics, economics and social matters has helped many students understand their environment and the country as a whole especially in relation to the curriculum subjects learnt in school.

My wish as the elected president of the Book Club, Kisumu library is that such programmes

should be organized from the school level up to the National Level as this will instill among students positive attitudes towards life and also appreciate what is happening around them.

I believe that everyone has the potential to be the best they can in life. Hence, parents, teachers and various institutions should participate in the reading activities and encourage students so that they can be responsible citizens as they pursue their goals in life. From the Kisumu American Corner activities, coordinated by Moses Imbayi, we have benefited in various ways including:

- Promotion of reading culture among students and clear understanding of various concepts.
- Encourages effective exchange of ideas, some of which can be incorporated in the national development agenda.
- Enhances National Cohe-

sion and Integration, as students from different ethnic backgrounds are able to associate and articulate their views together.

- Promotes public speaking as students have the ability and capability to address a large crowd effectively without fear.
- Development of the leadership skills among future leaders.

My sincere gratitude goes to the principles of Lions High School Kisumu, Kisumu Girls High School, Kisumu Day and Kassagam Secondary School who kind-heartedly allow their students to attend the above the reading activities.

As a way of preparing the students for the competitive world, I encourage you all to support such programmes so as to bring out successful young individuals.

Thank you!



Board members and heads of departments during a retreat in March 2012

A football league is born in Embu

By JOSEPH N. JOHN, Embu Community Library

Football is a game loathed and liked by its haters and lovers in almost equal measures. But in order to nudge the non football lovers into reading this article, let me (on a light note), start by defining football as a game in which 22 physically and mentally fit and healthy fellows chase a ball in a field being cheered on by a multitude of not so healthy fans who should be the ones practicing in the first place.

Nonetheless, the Embu Provincial Library has once again pulled a fast one in the knls network by organising a football derby reminiscent of a big football league. The events of 9th December 2011 will for a long time remain etched in the minds of the Embu fraternity.

This is the day the junior library customers composed two football teams namely Junior F.C (Man-U) and Library F.C (Chelsea F.C). The two teams showcased their football skills in the Embu Library field. "Man-U" was largely composed of the students from private schools, while "Chelsea" was composed of those from public schools. The nicknames chosen by the boys were the names of who is who in the world of football.

There was Peter "Drogba" Kariuki; another was Brian "berbatov" Munene, Sam "Messi" Maina and other big names in the major European leagues. I was struck with awe by their impeccable familiarity of their favorite players. And so for the next one-hour or so the boys sweat it out in a fiercely contested game.

It was fun watching the boys pump goal posts past the make shift goals followed by celebratory jigs and drills that are performed when a player scores a goal. Judging by its standards,

the game was fairly balanced, but a prolific player Caleb "Rooney" wendo conspicuously added flavour to the game by his mastery of football skills and thrilling prowess, which he spiced with celebratory jigs and taunting theatrics anytime he scored a goal.

Were it not for his miniature size, one would easily have confused him with the real Wayne Rooney. The birth of the Embu Library junior football club I would say was by default. It was a culmination of a fact-finding mission by Madam Karen Sharkey of the Book Aid International (BAI).

During her visit, the children freely interacted with her and they articulated their issues quite well. This largely as a result of the good rapport that the Embu library staff, particularly those in the junior section, have with the junior library customers.

Thus, when Madam Karen asked the children what they wished to be provided with, they thundered in unison "BALL" and voila!!! Madam Karen fished out Ksh.2,000/= for the purchase of the ball. We thank you Madam Karen for your benevolence and kind gesture. We look forward to continued partnering with BAI.

The partnership between knls and the BAI, which has a dual mission of promoting and sustaining a reading culture in our children, shall always be a success story. We on our side promise to put in our best and we

won't disappoint.

Going back to the game of the day, eventually, when the final whistle was blown, it was "Chelsea" who 'uncharacteristically' took the day by humbling "Man-u" 3-1. Caleb "Rooney" wendo netted two goals and Brian "Giggs" Munene scored once for the victors. John "berbatov" Murimi netted the consolation goal for "Man-u." In the post match interview the captain, Caleb "Rooney" promised a repeat of a similar thrashing in the next game.

The activities of this day, were successful because of the worthy cooperation of the members of staff in organizing the young children. Each and every step in the event was well facilitated by members of staff.

The referee of the game was Mr. Gichuki; the facilitator was Mercy, the First Aid providers on standby were Mrs. Muriuki and Mr. Njeru (both coincidentally had learnt the life saving skills the previous week, courtesy of a Boards sponsored course at the Multimedia University).

And to ensure that nothing escaped uncovered, the events of the day were captured on camera by Mr. Njeru. I thank you all fellow members of staff and continue with the same spirit. Embu is in the inside lane as far as innovativeness and creativity are concerned. Am not preempting, but watch this space for another very original activity which is being worked on. For now just keep on guessing. Lastly, inventiveness has similarly been exported to the Munyu Community Library courtesy of the author of this article who has since moved to the Branch. So expect similar and possibly enhanced activities in Munyu too.

It was fun watching the boys pump goal posts past the make shift goals

It all starts at infancy



Young readers enjoying outdoor reading at Nyilima Community Library. Mesmerized by the determination on their faces is the KNLS Director, Richard Atuti

FRIDAH TALAM, Intern Moi University

Reading and writing are the eyes and ears of a reader. They walk hand in hand, but then most people find reading more interesting without writing. As you read, it is fundamental to write.

The notion that writing is meant for journalists, is a passing cloud in the minds of many readers. Writing existed since time memorial, when early writers used symbols on tablets. God himself wrote the Ten Commandments and why not you? Writing is a vital end product of every reader after the reading process as it gives a therapeutic tool to communicating ideas. It helps to serve various purposes such as writing for others to read. Writing also improves and strengthens your reading skills as well as restores psychological balance.

Children are required to be oriented to writing in their early stages of development. This will build a culture of writing that will be milestone in their history in their future careers. People today, find writing a difficult task to accomplish, it may be because of lack of interest or lack of what to write, yes great writers like Ngugi wa Thiong'o started small

but they now write the world just because they read and write.

Infancy does not imply a young child it extends to every individual who does not have the ability to write but can develop the skill of writing having read. This is gospel to every reader that everyone has got the ability to write only faith and creativity is the key!

We read that which someone else had read and took a step to write, write today and you will start reading that which you have written. Join other writers in equipping our libraries with books and our minds with content. As you always read ensure that you have your pen and note book with you and change your attitude to read as you write and at the end you are writing something to be read. You have been reading good and bad, you have also read this article now, it is now time to read and write. Your story is interesting only that you have not tried to write, Remember that other writers and readers critically thirst for your story, your article to read.

Pupils come calling for tinga tinga stories



School children at the Buruburu Library

By J. MWANGI, Naivasha

It has become very common for secondary and primary schools on field visits to make a stop-over to the library as one of the centres of attraction. The experience has shown that they tend to spend more of their field visiting time in the library than any other centre they visit.

The most recent group came from Mutamaiyu Primary school from the outskirts of Naivasha town. They were pupils of lower classes (classes 1-3) with their teachers

who were visiting various centres of attraction including the famous Hells Gate and lake Naivasha. Coincidentally they came when we had just received the Tinga Tinga books and they were the first institution to enjoy the new story books.

According to their teachers this was the first time for these children to see a library and also to have such kind of a story telling session. The head teacher promised to register the school as an institutional member of the library.

Kisumu Library readers speak out

I have really benefited from Kisumu Library. The library has diverse information materials, in both books and electronic resources.

The library has given us easy time by providing us with reading materials through their School Library Outreach Programme (SLOP) and so we don't have to go out of the school during school time. The library has helped me as a pupil in many other ways. Sometimes I have plenty of work to do though I don't have the textbook needed and so I have the opportunity to run to the school library and get the book from among those that have been borrowed from knls Kisumu Library. I have also benefited from American Corner programmes which enable us to gain more knowledge and understanding by conducting debates between schools.

- Jerry John; 13 Years, Class 8, Kisumu Union Primary School

The Kenya national library has helped to improve my ways of communication and writing English and Kiswahili. Consequently, I have been able to get good grades in composition and insha. This is because of the many storybooks read in the library, some of which are written in simple English and also Kiswahili. The library has also helped me improve on my public speaking. Through debate forums among the pupils from different schools.

This has brought together pupils with different talents and skills and helped to develop their confidence. It has also promoted interactivity among students which has helped them learn from one another. The Kenya National Library Service promotes the spirit of handwork and discourages laziness among children. The library also does not allow usage of its resources during school hours. Students who are sent home for fees are usually advised to go home and report to their parents. While parents are still looking for money, the children go to the library to continue getting knowledge.

- Denies Levi Odhiambo; 12 Years, Class 7, Manyatta Arab Primary School

Information ethics in provision of library services

By Betty Kalugho

Ethics can simply be defined as professional standards of conduct. Ethics is the principle of right and wrong that individuals use to make choices to guide their behaviors. It is a field that describes what one should do or not do. It is about deciding what is right or wrong.

Ethics aim to promote human good. They keep society from falling apart and promote human flourishing. Without rules of any kind, our world would be chaotic and torn apart. Hence, information ethics can be looked at as the branch of ethics that deals with the relationship between the creation, organization, dissemination and utilization of information and the ethical standards and legal codes, which govern human, conduct in society.

Information ethics broadly examines issues related to ownership, access, privacy, security and community. It concerns all human activities related to information i.e. our relationship with information (what we do with information and how we generate information, process it, distribute it in all formats). Information ethics is concerned with the question of who should have access to what information. The core issues in information ethics include intellectual freedom, equitable access to information, information privacy and intellectual property.

We live in an information society. Information and information technology have increasingly become essential to our social, economic and political interactions. It is therefore important for information professionals to study questions that arise from the creation, control and access to information.

Information ethics provides a framework for considering moral issues concerning information privacy, moral agency, new environmental issues and problems arising from the life cycle (creation,

collection, recording, processing, distribution) of information especially ownership and copyright. In an age when access to information is so free and open, each individual and all information creators should be responsible for handling information ethically.

In an age where we are information contributors and consumers, we share a responsibility to each other not to mishandle information. The information ethics begins with each person who both understands the power of information and the scourge of misinformation. It requires that we strive for honesty, transparency, accuracy and fairness. Information professionals as participants in the information society should take up their role of gathering, processing, distributing and using information. In the midst of ethical dilemmas linked to information access, privacy, accuracy and intellectual property information professionals are expected to live up to their ethical standards.

They should provide accurate and reliable information, maintain a confidential relationship with their clients, observe and encourage respect for the intellectual property rights of information products and ensure equitable access to information. This will only be accomplished if, information professionals need to have good working knowledge of information ethics so that they can take part in information-related activities.

They need to be educated on the ethical use of information on issues such as plagiarism, copyright, intellectual property, privacy, responsible use, bias etc. Ethical principles in librarianship include but are not limited to professionalism, accessibility, privacy, accuracy and security. To conclude we need to ask ourselves if these principles are practiced in our own real life situations or not.

Career day held at Meru Library

A career day organized by Meru Library and Meru Library Shiners Youth Club was held on 29th April 2012 at knls Meru library. The aim of the event was to assist the youth and parents identify career opportunities within Meru County and it was also an opportunity to enlighten the stakeholders and the community in general on the op-

portunities we have in the library. A similar event was held on 30th April 2011. A total of 295 youth and exhibits attended. The main sponsor of the event was KASNEB who gave a cash donation and also facilitated the Mt Kenya librarians to attend. Other sponsors included: Eco bank; Super loaf; Mafuko; Ripples international; Institutions. Activities in-

cluded: entertainments e.g. salsa dance, fashion show, comedies, scouts drill; exhibitions, talk on child rights, career talk and a motivational talk on attitude change. The knls Board Chairman made a surprise visit during the event. The event has become very popular with the youth and other stakeholders and we hope to make it an annual event.

Nairobi area library hosts Meja Mwangi

Nairobi Area library hosted a rare guest on 8th June 2012 in the name of Meja Mwangi, a renowned prolific author and film producer who began writing in 1970s.

Meja Mwangi (pictured) was born, brought up and educated in Nanyuki where he was a story teller right from his formative years. Mwangi visited the library to familiarize himself with the community library's policy while also exploring possibilities of establishing a partnership that would enhance library development and marketing through community involvement.

Mwangi, whose two of books have been turned into films, has so far authored over 15 books which comprises of novels, children books and short stories. He is an active member of the friends of Laikipia library.



Two of Major Mwangi's literary works

During his visit to the library, Meja Mwangi who worked for a short while at the British Council library recalled his first encounter with a library in 1960s, as a young primary school pupil at Nanyuki CCM primary school. He read his first library book at the Nanyuki Social hall where a good Samaritan damped lots of books donated from some

By Pancras N. Kimaru, NAL

schools in Britain. These were mainly large print storybook with beautiful illustrations.

He recalls that, the same hall was an entertainment center where the Famous Maroon Commandos (Later became an army band) used to hold weekend boogies to recreate the residents.

Due to poor library management and inadequate book security, all books found their way out of the library and were never recovered. The poor library died! The few books he read motivated his story-telling acumen and his sharpened writing appetite. Meja, a heavily-built, and a rather introvert man, continued with his library encounter when he joined Nanyuki High school.

He tells of how another philanthropist donated a consignment of books to their school but due lack of space in this former barrack, the books were stored in the headmaster's house, a kilometer or two away from the school. Students would walk that distance to borrow and return books.

This time, the headmaster tied up as the librarian. Meja would walk all the way. It was while here that he made a decision to join the author's club by communicating his stories through books. He started his first manuscript, "Kill me quick," while in secondary.

He personally typed his manuscript with a manual typewriter before presenting it to Heinemann Publishers.

Meja, a former volleyball player and globetrotter, had an



opportunity of interacting with library users and staff at the junior library where he underscored the role of the library in transforming the lives of the communities. He promised to donate several of his titles for distribution to the KNLS network.

On marketing library services, particularly in Laikipia, he promised to shoot a documentary on library development in Nanyuki County.

During his visit Meja was accompanied by Retired Architect Kephins Migwii, a former employee of Housing Finance of Kenya, who is currently a community conservation educator based in Mt Kenya region. Mr Migwii is a resident of Laikipia County and a friend of the library.

If you never met Meja during his visit, ensure to encounter him in the following titles: *Kill me quick*, *Going down river road*, *The last plague*, *Cockroach dance*, *Striving for the wind*, *Weapon of hunger*, *Mzungu boy*, *The big chiefs*, *The boy gift*, *Mama Dudu*, *Crossroads*, *Power*, *Baba pesa*, *Hunter's dream*, *Jimmi the dog*, *Mountain of bones*, His latest titles are, *The old man*, and *The thief*. Meja has promised to be a regular patron of the library. We welcome other authors to use the library platform for interaction with the readers.

Mombasa library gets a facelift



Before:



After:

By Augustine Mutiso, Mombasa

Mombasa library has attained a new look after the recent renovations that involved internal and external painting, spraying of shelves, electrical and plumbing works.

In addition, the mobile library bus has been fully branded. The new look has been appreciated by both our customers and neighbours. Our customers are commenting that the reading environment is now more conducive than before while our neighbours are commending us for the good work done. To illustrate on this, we carried out a users' survey to find our customers' opinion on the recent library facelift, and some of the findings are as follows:

1. 83% of users sampled visit the library daily, 6% weekly and 11% twice to four days a week.
2. 89% of those using the library are registered members while 11% are not, mainly due to lack of guarantors.
3. 89% of library users appreciate the re-arrangement of shelves which has made accessibility of materials easier. However, 11% felt that more library guides are needed to make access to information materials easier and faster.
4. Rating of facilities was as follows:-

	Fair	Good	Satisfactory	Excellent
Toilets	6%	44%	39%	11%
Fans	0%	28%	11%	61%
Shelves	6%	28%	39%	28%
Painting	0%	17%	17%	66%
Tables	6%	28%	11%	55%
Windows	0%	28%	39%	33%
Lighting	0%	17%	22%	61%

5. Improvements suggested included:-
 - Constant provision of running water in toilets.
 - Provision of drinking water for library users.
 - Need for new chairs.
 - More and current books especially in accounts.
 - Revival of the cyber café.
 - Improvement of media service.
 - More library guides for easier access of the information materials.
 - Readers should stop returning books to the shelves to avoid causing difficulty in accessing information materials.

However the library users appreciated the good public relations accorded by staff and the security provided. From Mombasa library, we sincerely thank the Board for this worthy consideration!

Dzitsoni community benefits from ICT training

Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT) has partnered with KNLS Dzitsoni Library to train the community on ICTs. The training is conducted at the knls Dzitsoni library and is being facilitated by Pascal Shanga Kaloki of DOT. The programme started on 10th May 2012 and so far several people have benefited including 8 men and 15 women in the first group; the second group is

still in progress and it includes thirty three students, twenty six men and seven women. Comments from the participants indicate that the training is good and helpfully. It has enabled them to acquire basic ICT skills/knowledge. They can now use computers for communication and also doing research. The program has had a big impact to the community as a whole, and

has interested even primary and secondary school teachers who feel they should be updated with the current ICT technology. This training has been made easier through the use of the computers donated by CCK and the support from the knls Board. Our partnership with DOT is timely and valuable in our efforts to empower the community. THANKS CCK! THANKS DOT!

Disseminating HIV AIDS information to visually impaired persons

By JAMES K. NJOROGE, NAL

Not so long ago, my colleague at the Braille corner read for me the contents of the vision 2030 particularly the health factor which is well covered under the social pillar. Under this sector, the government recognizes the role played by a healthy population in driving the country's development agenda. Vision 2030 success depends heavily on the quality of Kenya's labor force.

My colleague also read for me the summarized version of the millennium development goals (MDG) where human health has been given top priority. In fact both vision 2030 and MDGs focus very sharply on elimination of diseases so as to create a functioning and productive labor force. Health information access therefore becomes vital component that can accelerating achievement of the objective of the two programs.

HIV AIDS scourge has been identified as a national disaster due to its impact on the country's population. It has affected the tiny and the mighty regardless of class, religion, age, color, status or gender. Apart from directly affecting the victims it ends up impoverishing the relatives and the community at large. It has therefore become necessary to tame this scourge so as to ensure stability in the country's economic performance. knls has joined other agencies in fighting this disease.

Several strategies have been put in place such as distribution of condoms to the library customers, organize HIV AIDS talks, VCT tests, guidance and counseling. Positive results have been realized through these efforts. As an equal information provider, knls has extended the same services to the visually impaired persons through the branch Braille corners.

These corners provide information in Braille, large prints and other alternative formats such as talking books, web based and through a screen readers. In addition, visually impaired persons (VIPs) are reached through outreach and homebound services. While all these efforts directed to the VIP are appreciated it is necessary to evaluate whether they meet the intended objectives. Disseminating HIV AIDS information to the VIPs faces several challenges, realizing almost zero or no impact at all. The under mentioned issues can shed more light.

Challenges faced in disseminating HIV AIDS information to visually impaired persons (VIPs)

1. GENERAL PERCEPTION: Many a time, the sighted people form a general perception that people with disabilities are lesser human beings. When a sighted person sees a lady with disability pregnant, they raise several questions as who did this to her? Why did it happen? Sighted people forget that people with disabilities are normal human beings who are equally sensitive like them. In this regard the sighted do not prioritize dissemination of HIV AIDS information to the persons with disability.

2. HIV AIDS TALKS: Talks are effective ways of disseminating information. But any time I attend one, stress fills up my body on leaving the lecture. Presenters use non verbal communication, particularly when demonstrating how to use devices such as condoms. I hear them say "you hold the condom this way and insert it here." When the audience falls into laughter am at a loss.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF CONDOMS: knls has continued to distribute condoms to its staff and library customers. Proper signage with VIP friendly inscriptions should be placed in strategic places where VIPs can locate them with ease. Otherwise, the VIPs rely on sighted persons thus denying them privacy. Apart from locating the condoms VIPs also face the problem of identifying the date of expiry of such gadgets. Writing is normally in print. The danger of using an expired gadget is obvious.

4. VCT SERVICES: While appreciating the efforts KNLS has done in mobilizing VCT providers to conduct voluntary testing at knls premises, the VIPs feel a bit shy to access these services. A VIP will require to be accompanied to the VCT by a guide. The test outcomes will therefore be known by others, thus no secrecy.

CONCLUSION

Access to information is the key to economic development. For any country to achieve its development goals it must adopt affirmative action where the marginalized persons enjoy special dispensations so as to participate in the country's programs. Effective and efficient channels of communication through which information reaches the various groups must be adopted.

Messages meant for public consumption must be transcribed in various formats such as Braille and audio for the purposes of the small minority.

Basic first aid training, a must at the work place

By JOSEPH N. JOHN, Munyu Library

When my name was floated to represent my branch at a first aid seminar last year, let me say that all odds were against it. First, I was on my annual leave and was to sit for my exams in the same week. But then somehow I was able to attend the three-day training at the Multimedia University. Secondly, found it difficult to relate my duties as a librarian and learning first aid skills. But now I know better because by the end of the three days I had already realized how vital the training was both in my working and private life.

This is because accidents will always occur and more so in situations where one least expects. Being prepared for emergency situations and being able to administer first aid when needed, can make a major difference in how severe an injury is able to become before proper medical treatment is given.

First aid training prepares individuals to respond to emergency situations with confidence and imparts them with the skills needed to potentially save a life. The most critical aim of first aid is to preserve life. In fact, the overriding aim of all medical care including first aiders is to save human life, which is sacrosanct. The second aim of administering first aid is to prevent further harm. That is preventing the condition from worsening, or from danger of further injury. The final aspect of First Aid is to promote recovery.

First aid also involves trying to start the recovery process from the illness or injury, and in some cases might involve completing a treatment, such as in the case of applying a plaster to a small wound. Prior to my training, I had never thought that handling an emergency was such a breathtaking task.

This is because theoretically, administering First Aid sounds as easy as ABC until a situation arises when one has to manage a real needy case. Unless one is able to compose himself very first whatever you know will fizzle out and you might end up playing the role of a bystander.

My First Aid skills were stretched to the limit when, one day while on duty alone, one of the library customers fainted and started convulsing. The situation was aggravating fast in front of me and other library customers, some of whom started screaming. My First Aid skills were instinctively nudged when one of the readers shouted, "*lete maji*" (bring water) ostensibly to pour on the patient. This displayed how most people lack basic life saving skills. It is at this point that I started administering the much-needed First Aid. I started by assessing the level of consciousness of a patient.

Assessing consciousness when administering first aid to an injured person entails asking the injured person simple questions. This will allow you to determine if the victim is capable of a verbal response. Eventually we managed the situation well, by offering the much needed first aid and put everything under control. We then referred the injured student to the nearest health facility for further medical care.

The young man was very grateful and he had the following compliment, which he made vide our customer's complaints/compliments register "to give thanks to one of the Librarian who gave me first aid when I fainted." I realized from that experience how important the basic first aid skills are to an organization.

That episode might seem an isolated case but remember that a life was preserved and that life could be mine or yours. An organization however small should train staff to administer first aid at critical sites throughout the organization. Lastly, I appeal to all those who underwent the training to at least introduce their colleagues to the vital life saving skills so that we make our branches a safe place to read and work in. We have started a peer-to-peer first aid program in Munyu and we are doing quite well.



Seminar on cupboard libraries held in Meru

By RICHARD WANJOHI, Meru

A seminar on cupboard libraries was held at Meru Library on 15th June 2012. This was a follow-up on the March 18th 2010 workshop on establishment of cupboard libraries in 5 primary schools and Meru Prison department.

Ten pupils from each of the 5 schools attended and become the founder members of the cupboard/libraries in their schools and the 5 teachers would become the patron's and the prisons social welfare officer would be in charge of the prisons library.

The cupboard library service is adopted to ensure that irrespective of the distance, as many pupils as possible are able to access the library services. In such an initiative, the school buys the cupboard and the library supplies the books through the teacher patron for a maximum period of one month.

The teachers are also trained on how to handle the library books. This serves as the starting point for the development of full-fledged libraries in participating institutions. The cupboard libraries are adopted because many primary schools don't even have enough class room facilities.

The objectives of the cupboard libraries are to provide library and information resources to needy institutions within Meru County and to develop skills in using libraries and other sources of information. The libraries also aim to inculcate positive reading habits in children at an early age, support improvement of quality education and encourage networking and resource sharing

Some of the achievements made by the Meru Library in partnership with some primary schools

in this venture as are follows:

- Mr. Wilson Obuya a library staff had helped to start a library at Minors academy after the March 2010 workshop. A small room was identified with a shelf and the children donated 125 books and magazines. The library has a girl librarian who is in class 7.
- Mr. Wilson Obuya was also elected the committee representative of class 2 at Mwrine Primary schools. During their first committee meeting in March 2012 it was noted that the last year class 8 pupils performance was not very good because they could not read well Obuya took upon himself to be taking books to the children in his class 2 so that they could nurture the love of the books and inculcate a reading culture at an early age. Currently every month he takes 70 junior books to class 2 which has 35 pupils and has also included 20 books for class 1 and 48 books for class 3.
- The other notable program is by John Mworira a security staff Meru library who, when going to his home carries 50 books in a carton every two weeks to Ukuu Primary School in Kariene Location about 5kilometres from the library. He identified a teacher Mrs Mwitii who is in charge of the books and about 120 pupils are now members of the library. Because of this initiative the head teacher has given a room to establish a library, and there are plans to make the school a center where the nearby primary schools can start exchange programs in sharing infor-

mation materials

During the seminar, it was resolved that each selected primary school and the Prison Department in Meru must undertake the following within the month of July 2012:

- A room/cupboard be identified with shelves.
- A committee comprising of a pupil chairperson, vice chairperson, treasurer and a secretary with the objective of managing the library and sourcing for information materials be set up.
- Library clubs be formed in the participating schools and members of the club be encouraged to donate an information material to the library and also become members of Meru library.
- Each school and prisons was assigned a library staff member to guide in setting up a library and during the September 2012 book week the best organized library will be awarded.
- Teachers and the prisons social welfare staff to be trained (free) in the library on library management and receive certificates on the same.
- Schools to set up exchange programs with schools nearby especially those in the rural areas.
- Meru library to be invited for parent's day in the 5 primary schools to sensitize the parents on importance of school libraries and how they can promote a reading culture among their children.
- The library clubs to device ways of soliciting for information materials/supporting the cupboard Libraries from well wishers.

Which way for KNLS?

By JOSEPH NJERU, *Munyu Library*

Our esteemed magazine *Kenal News* is momentarily improving day by day. The quality of its form and content has taken a new pedestal with every publication.

Kudos to the editorial team for your efforts in ensuring that the message from the contributors has the desired flow. It's not lost to me that we sometimes remit articles with grammatical, typesetting, typographical and all manner of errors for which you burn midnight oil rectifying.

Also appreciated are the efforts of the worthy, indefatigable and the incessant contributors whose pens never run dry. Your articles truly give this magazine an impressive outlook.

To the ardent readers of this magazine, for without whom the contributors would not be writing. Your fervent interest in the magazine remains the cannon fodder with which you feed the contributors to continuously write to satiate your appetite for the *Kenal* newsletter.

I am sure that their pens will always be full and you will always be yearning for successive issues. The future is bright for our magazine. There is light at the end of the tunnel, which is definitely not from an oncoming train, but is a ray of hope.

Going by this trend I have no doubt in my mind that *Kenal News* will be one of the most sought out newsletter. Subscriptions will shoot through the roof and potential advertisers will be begging for a space.

Let me comment on an article that appeared in the last issue by Betty on the devolved library system in Germany. It was timely going by the current happenings in our country in preparation for decentralized governance.

The article shed light on decentralized library operations in

Deutschland into a three-tier system of governance. This mode of operation seems to work quite well due to the fact that Germany is a developed country and most significantly state funding of libraries which receive 75% of their funds from a foundation funded by the federal Government.

This raises questions about the fate and modus operandi of knls Libraries under the new constitutional dispensation.

Firstly, the devolved system of governance in Kenya is a distinct two tier arrangement unlike the one in Germany. Secondly, the chapter on devolution has a lot of un-legislated pieces pending so as to fully operationalize the process of devolution. This continues to leave questions still lingering in our minds.

For instance the provisions of chapter eleven (11) article 174(h) states that the objectives of devolution are to "facilitate the decentralization of state or-

gans, their functions and services: from the capital of Kenya". Article 187 sub-article 1(a) also states that "the functions or power of the government may be transferred the other levels of government if the function or power would be more effectively performed or exercised by the receiving government.

The effect of these articles in my humble view compels the national Government to cede some of its powers to the county government. The question that keep lingering in my mind is: Is knls among the functions that will be surrendered to the counties?

This is because there are various school of thoughts that have propagated a range of ideas about how the various government departments will be run. Some argue that retaining various functions of the government will be at the prerogative of the county. Let's wait and see at what level we shall be operating in.



Maundu Meeri community in Rumuruti gather for a community reading tent in March 2012

Developing a weeding policy in public libraries

By *JOSEPH N. JOHN, Munyu Community Library*

Weeding is the practice of removing from circulation copies of rarely used books and materials with information that is no longer relevant to the Library customers.

Practically, weeded books are part of the Library stock that is held in abeyance because a situation may arise whereby the weeded information materials may find their way back in circulation. In order to enhance the value and usefulness of information materials, care must be taken to ensure that library stock is as comprehensive as possible and is properly maintained.

The vitality of a library collection depends on a vigorous collection development as well as a careful management of its collection. One aspect of this management is the judicious weeding of materials that no longer support the user's needs. Librarians should therefore weed their collections as and when necessary in order to maintain relevance and quality.

Like in all other collection development aspects, the weeding of information materials must be a consultative endeavor involving librarians, collection development and book distribution, Library users and other parties as appropriate. The weeding process should be guarded by a well-defined plan. This process will help identify both strengths and weaknesses in a libraries holding.

Recognition of weak areas will subsequently be addressed, and whenever possible, appropriate new titles will be acquired. Having a weeding policy is thus a prerequisite for any Library that wishes to provide relevant information resources to its customers.

Some of the General principles to consider while weeding may include: Last date of circulation; Physical condition; Timeliness; Reliability; Ephemeral – informational materials like periodicals and newspapers become obsolete very fast; Materials that are duplicates or in multiple copies; Proscribed materials or materials that is banned by the government.

However, a Librarian must also be very careful when applying the above principles. Different libraries may wish to prioritize the principles depending on the prevailing circumstances.

Practically, weeded books are part of the Library stock that is held in abeyance because a situation may arise whereby the weeded information materials may find their way back in circulation.

Electronic books the latest paradigm shift in information consumption and publishing

By *Philomena Mwirigi*

An eBook is an electronic version of a traditional print book that can be read by using a personal computer or by using an eBook reader. Users can purchase an eBook on diskette or CD, but the most popular method of getting an eBook is to purchase a downloadable file of the eBook (or other reading material) from a Web. Generally, an eBook can be downloaded in five minutes or less. In late 2007, Amazon.com revolutionized the e-book market with the introduction of its Kindle e-book reader and e-book inventory. The Kindle was the first e-book to offer free, wireless access to download e-books and search the Web.

Although it is not necessary to use a reader application or device in order to read an eBook (most books can be read as PDF files), they are popular because they enable options similar to those of a paper book - readers can bookmark pages, make notes, highlight passages, and save selected text. In addition to these familiar possibilities, eBook readers also include built-in dictionaries, and alterable font sizes and styles.

Advantages of e-books are similar to those found in any form of digital information. Digital information can be instantly delivered to any place on earth. It is infinitely compliant. It can be rendered on paper, saved for later use, aggregated into vast libraries. Whereas printed books provided stability, predictability, and performance; e-books can provide flexibility. eBook provides the promise that no book need ever go out of print that no book need ever be unavailable. E-books promise more availability of the books we want. The promise shifts in the current business and distribution models. E-books promise to alter lives by improving communication between individuals' access time and cultural divides, no matter where we live or what our interests are. They promise more immediate access to books when we want them. Despite some uncertainty for the adoption of e-books in libraries librarians are currently purchasing and providing e-books for their users, who are accessing these e-books with increased frequency. There are several different e-books models available to libraries today. The most widely used models require a web-based environment to access the content. Others require the use of specific hardware or software.

Bonaventure Mutali, an inmate at the Naivasha maximum prison is the principle of their inmates education programme. The prison receives information materials from the KNLS Naivasha library under the institutional membership arrangement. Mutali says that a bigger population of inmates in penal institutions hail from poor backgrounds. Most of them never had the chance to attend formal school. Accordingly upon admission to prisons from Law Courts, many of such inmates become desperate and hopeless while the strong willed move and adjust to prison conditions by adapting to their new environment. The most abundant literature accessible easily to an inmate is the Holy Bible. This is because the said religious literature is freely distributed to inmates by prison Catchesits without considering their literacy levels. Most inmates join prison schools that were set up as part of prison mandate to rehabilitate offenders through such programmes as education, technical skills, sports and spirituality. But given the predicament of not knowing how to read and write those admitted to prison schools do not put up a meaningful fight to gain those skills so that they are able to read the Bible, newspapers, magazines and other literatures.

Be it as it may, in the course of inmates struggling to conquer the realities of illiteracy, majority end up developing a culture of reading with a view of wanting to gather useful information that would help them re-ignite their inborn talents and shape up their future careers upon release from prison. In inmate prison schools, most teachers are inmates. A few are trained teachers while most are not, but they derive their successful teaching skills from the many years of experience they taught in such schools. Hence inmates who excel in National Examinations are those who have fully resorted to the culture of reading and this aspect has paid dividends as indeed those who have used their time well by

Developing a reading culture among inmates

By BONAVENTURE MUTALI, Inmate, Naivasha Maximum Prison

burning the mid night oil in order to pass exams have been able to make it notwithstanding the tight prison schedules.

The culture of reading too has been enhanced by the emerging trends of information technology. For example one cannot operate a computer without formal education. Hence most inmates interested in computer studies put up lots of energy of learning and reading in order to attain the needed skills of handling information technology equipments. Furthermore, there are also some inmates who get bored with long prison sentence and resort to reading novels, magazines, scientific journals as a way of passing time but unknown to them, they end up opening up their undeveloped talents as indeed knowledge and information are key determinants to human development both intrinsically and extrinsically.

However, in as much as inmates have taken up learning for various reasons as stated above, the prison department has happily realized the importance of rehabilitating prisoners through formal education and professional skills in order to empower them to be useful to themselves and to other people within their reach and far upon release from prison.

A good example is the Naivasha Main Prison where the Officer in Charge, ACP Patric Mwenda (OGW) has made education to be part of the many rehabilitation programmes that are in place in this prison. Naivasha Main Prison has a primary school and a secondary school. Besides the two, there is also a school of Accountancy which offers professional courses related to accounts. Many of the hardworking inmates who went through the Naivasha Inmates' Education Programme

(NIEP) have ended up in Universities and more others are doing well in business out there.

However, establishment of education programme as part of the rehabilitation programmes for inmates has brought with it challenges that the prison has to face. For example there is lack of funding to make the programme fully operational to benefit many inmates. The survival of the education depends on donations from well wishers – mainly from Father Grol's Welfare Trust in the person of Brother Linus Schousten. Hence lack of finances limits the registration of a bigger number of inmates for National Examinations. Further, the text books in stock from well wishers are not adequate enough to quench the reading thirst of inmates. The few available books are outdated and hence do not reflect the current syllabus of the 8;4;4; system of education.

However, in an effort to promote a reading culture among the inmates, knls, Naivasha branch has been in partnership with the prison over the years. Through institutional membership, KNLS has been lending books to the prison. Naivasha Main Prison as a Correctional Centre has had impressive academic results in the national examinations such as the KCE and KCSE. Our general appeal to well wishers out there is to consider donating reading materials to the Inmates' Library to improve the reading culture like in the same way that the knls has been doing. Finally, we note with gratitude that the Courts of Law more often than not have recognized the efforts of the prison Department by acquitting those prisoners who have reformed and have done well in their National academic exams including the Government trade test vocational training courses.

Information literacy

Avenue for accessing information resources

By PHILOMENA MWIRIGI, NLD

Accessing quality information resources requires information literacy skills. Library staff have a duty of ensuring that library customers have skills of identifying quality information resources and able to evaluate data retrieved in order to extract information from it.

The term information literacy is not a new phenomenon. It first appeared in library literature during the 1970s and it is now sometime wrongly employed to describe library user education and bibliographic instruction (Petermanec, 2008). However, information literacy programmes do a great deal more than tell how to use the library.

Information literacy is essentially tied to the strategic value and use of information. In some manner, a person who is library literate cannot be regarded as fully information literate. Library literacy is a sub-set of information literacy. Library skills tend to focus on the ways of locating information or the instrument aspects of retrieval. They do not usually cover the broader correct elements and the higher-level analytical skills necessary to effectively extract and utilize information in a manner which will withstand appropriate scrutiny.

Information literacy's basis is a human's ability to advance once he or she recognizes their information needs formulates how to retrieve information, and then creates new knowledge with it. Information-literate persons need analytical and critical skill to formulate their research issue and evaluate possible outcomes.

Information literacy has advantages in providing a sense of greater control in their lives; more independence, self-confidence, self-respect, self-analysis; improvement of their learning and perception of it as a challenge; the selection of quality information; a more global view; a more reflective type of learning; improved memory and concentration; autonomy in learning; the transfer of knowledge; and ultimately more success in their endeavors.

In libraries and in other parts of the lifelong education, teaching, and learning process, information literacy supports inquiry/creativity/innovation by supporting necessary needs.

Librarians have a duty of knowing their targeted users and their expressed and tacit or unspoken needs. The more users are educated, the more users know how to utilize library services. Information literacy masters content, one is able to work more rapidly, and then accepts more information critically. To work smarter rather than just harder or quicker, library users need solutions to tackle both the process and the content

Librarians are not only openers of doors and gateways to information; they are not only navigators of the seas of information; but are also key enablers, able to empower users to become self-sufficient in developing information gathering and evaluating skills which assist others to be well resourced for changing life circumstances.



Information literacy has advantages in providing a sense of greater control in life; more independence, self-confidence, self-respect, self-analysis and improvement of learning

2012 SCECSAL XX held in Nairobi, Kenya

By MARY KINYANJUI, KNLS Kibera



Participants during the closing session (left) and Kenya Library Association President Prof. Constantine Nyamboga addresses the conference. (right).

Standing Conference of East, Central and Southern Africa Library Associations (SCECSAL) was held at the Laico Regency, Nairobi from 4th to 8th June 2012.

The Conferences brought together over 300 delegates from 20 countries of the world. A total of 85 papers were presented during the conference. The theme of the conference was 'Information for Sustainable Development in a Digital Environment'. The theme touched on the core challenges of development in Africa.

The conference emphasized that the developing world today has no choice but to migrate from traditional analogue and embrace modern methods of storing information in digital libraries. The digital libraries will present library users with numerous advantages.

Since they will not be limited to physical boundaries, specific information can be easily accessed on a 24 hour basis by many people at the same time and take little space. This transition has continued to impact on our societies given the fact that information is fast becoming economic issue in the world.

Thus, professionals in the information field cannot afford to ignore challenges, such as the moral and ethical issues, posed by digitization and use of technology. Similarly, governments can no longer continue to do without policies on libraries and particularly those which address digital information.

This was clearly pointed out by Prof. J.J. Britz when he gave his keynote address titled 'From my pen to the ipad.' Ten knls librarians attended the conference. Some of the recommendations made during the conference were made:

- Governments need to support libraries in technological development
- National libraries to digitize their printed information materials for ease of accessibility and posterity

- Governments should formulate digitization policies
- SCECSAL member countries to ensure effective legislation, policies and guidelines governing access to e-public records are in place
- Librarians should be more innovative and embrace technology
- SCECSAL member countries to ensure appropriate and copyright legal frameworks are put in place in each country
- Library and information science schools to integrate social media in their curriculum
- Importance of in depth training in ICT's management and business related courses for information specialists
- Knowledge audit to be conducted regularly
- NEPAD to establish at least one e-school in every country.

The following resolutions were passed:

- SCECSAL, member associations, and libraries in the SCECSAL region should develop social media strategies and adopt the use of appropriate web 2.0/social media applications in their activities;
- SCECSAL member associations should develop and implement capacity development programmes to include training on the application of web 2.0/social media to library and information work, among others.
- Library and Information Science Schools in the SCECSAL region should review their curriculum to ensure that they respond to the emerging needs (i.e. web 2.0/social media, managing digital documents, etc) of the library and information profession in the region.
- A federation of African Librarians and information Professionals (AFLIA) was proposed and accepted unanimously.