



Lubuto Library Project

Bringing knowledge and enlightenment to Africa's street kids, orphans and other vulnerable children and youth



Lubuto Library Project Newsletter No. 21 – November 2011

U.S. library professionals contribute finishing touches to LubutoLiteracy lessons

About 20 members of the Washington, DC chapter of the Special Libraries Association will be volunteering in the coming weeks to put final touches on the 700 Etoys-based LubutoLiteracy lessons created



by teachers and youth in Zambia. The computer-based reading lessons, in the seven major Zambian languages and based on the Zambian school reading curriculum, teach children to read in their mother tongue. There are 100 lessons in each Zambian language. To each of these a sound file, recorded in the 7 languages for each lesson and giving instructions on what to do with each lesson, will be added by the volunteers, requiring about 120 volunteer hours to complete.

Lubuto's technical partner Mike Lee is organizing the project, and also will be adding Creative Commons licenses so that the lessons may be adapted by others. After completion, the 700 LubutoLiteracy lessons will be uploaded to the LubutoCollections.org website, which is currently being developed for this purpose by Drexel i-School Lubuto volunteers Sarah Parnell and Tim Siftar. From there they can be accessed and used anywhere, or translated to other African languages for use in other countries.

These lessons will make a major contribution to promoting literacy throughout the African continent, an important innovation that library professionals were in a unique position to conceive and execute, and we are grateful to our colleagues in the U.S. for joining with our partners in Zambia to finalize them. A reception to

thank all of these volunteers along with our cataloging volunteers is planned for early in January, 2012. The youth who created and illustrated the designs in Zambia all earned school fees to allow them to complete secondary school for their work.

Lubuto again nominated for Astrid Lindgren Award



For the third time, Lubuto has been nominated for the [Astrid Lindgren Memorial](#)

[Award](#) (ALMA). Administered by the Swedish Arts Council, ALMA is the world's largest prize for children's and young adult literature, and the annual award is designed to promote interest in children's and young adult literature, and in children's rights, globally. The nomination itself a high honor, this year Lubuto was nominated by two of the eligible nominating bodies. The final ALMA winner will be announced in March 2012.

Lubuto has been repeatedly nominated for this prestigious award because of its record in promoting literacy among disadvantaged children in Africa by working with individuals, communities and national governments to effect a profound change that promotes literacy and reading throughout society. Along with high-quality, comprehensive book collections and literacy-promoting library services, Lubuto Libraries provide a full range of preservation, reading promotion, educational and social service activities.



Lubuto-ZLS partnership to continue under new government

Zambia has received accolades worldwide for its recent, peaceful elections and transition of power to a new government. A reorganization of ministerial portfolios has constituted a new Ministry of Education, Science and Vocational Training, and we continue to work closely with the old and new education establishment in Zambia on the plans for scaling up in partnership with the Zambia Library Service. Public and private sector education stakeholders are equally impressed with how Lubuto Libraries are changing lives and improving the quality of education in Zambia. Other organizations that have expressed interest in supporting the growth of our libraries include the Open Society Institute of Southern Africa and UNICEF.



Message from the President: spreading understanding of excellent libraries virtually



I often speak to graduate library science schools and other professional groups as I did in September to my Philadelphia SLA colleagues and Drexel i-School classes. It was nice to spread the reach virtually to student groups, but then in October San José State University (SJSU) provided the forum for a completely virtual colloquium. One great thing about this platform is that it is recorded and so, if you are interested in a more detailed understanding of our mission and how we are accomplishing it like no other organization, tune in to: ["The Lubuto Library Project: proving the value of high-quality public-access libraries in International development "](#) SJSU then hosted the first virtual international library conference, Web 2.011, which Lubuto participated in as a sponsor. We are very excited about the possibilities this technology holds for staff training of our growing library network in Africa.

Please send checks to:
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