

KENYA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE

NEWSLETTER

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A Milestone for Literacy, Inclusivity, and Women's Empowerment: KNLS Unveils Renovated Children's Section and Lactation Room

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Empowering Inclusion: ATScale Project Launches Training on Accessible Digital Content

In a significant step toward promoting inclusivity and digital empowerment, the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) proudly hosted the launch of the Training on Digitization and the Creation of Accessible Content under the transformative ATScale Project. The event, which ran from January 20 to 24 at the KNLS Headquarters (Maktaba Kuu), brought together key stakeholders committed to improving the lives of persons with disabilities.

Held in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), and the Kenya Society for the Blind, the training focused on equipping participants with skills in digital content creation and accessibility. Participants were introduced to a range of assistive technologies designed to enhance learning and information access for individuals with visual impairments.

"This initiative represents more than just training; it's about breaking down barriers and ensuring that persons with disabilities are included in the digital revolution," said a representative from KNLS during the opening ceremony.

Another impactful session of the training took place midweek, with a focus on advanced techniques for digitizing books and creating accessible materials for persons with visual impairments. The session reaffirmed the project's strong commitment to inclusive access to education and information.

The event was further enriched by the presence of Fred Ong'aro, Deputy Director of Fund Strategy at the Communications Authority of Kenya, whose participation underscored the importance of strategic partnerships in advancing digital accessibility. In his remarks, Ong'aro emphasized the need for sustained collaboration among government agencies, development partners, and institutions like KNLS to bridge the digital divide for persons with disabilities.

The ATScale Project is a global initiative aimed at increasing access to life-changing assistive technology and services. In Kenya, the project's implementation marks a pivotal move toward strengthening support systems for persons with disabilities, particularly those who are blind or visually impaired.

Throughout the five-day training, participants learned how to digitize content, apply accessibility standards, and convert materials into formats such as braille and audio. Sessions also emphasized inclusive design principles to ensure equitable access to information and education.

Representatives from the Ministries of Education and Health reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind in Kenya's digital transformation. The involvement of CHAI and the Kenya Society for the Blind added technical expertise and community-driven insights that enriched the experience. As Kenya accelerates its journey toward a digitally inclusive society, initiatives like ATScale are essential in turning policy into practice and ensuring that access to information is a right enjoyed by all.

"Inclusion is not a privilege—it is a right. And this project brings us one step closer to realizing that right for all,"



Lighting the Path to Literacy: Mwangaza Primary School Library Officially Launched

In a heartwarming milestone for literacy and education in Kenya, the Mwangaza Primary School Library was officially launched on 30th January 2025 in Isiolo County, marking yet another success in the transformative partnership between the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) and Book Aid International.

The new library is part of ongoing efforts to promote equitable access to books and create safe, vibrant, and inclusive learning spaces for Kenyan children. It stands as a testament to the enduring impact of the Explorer Library Project, which has, since 2020, brought the joy of reading to learners in underserved communities from Nakuru to Nairobi, and now to Isiolo.

Speaking during the event, KNLS CEO Dr. Charles Nzivo emphasized the significance of such initiatives in transforming young lives. “This library is more than just a room of books; it’s a gateway to opportunity, a tool for empowerment, and a symbol of our shared commitment to nurturing a reading culture across Kenya,” he said. KNLS Board Chairman, Bishop Robert Theuri, also addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of partnerships in delivering educational equity. “Through collaborations like the one we have with Book Aid International, we are demonstrating that change is possible and that it begins with access to knowledge,” he noted.

Equipped with hundreds of age-appropriate books and designed to be child-friendly and inclusive, the Mwangaza Primary School Library aims to empower pupils through reading, encourage independent learning, and complement the national curriculum. Teachers and students alike will benefit from the rich literary resources made possible by Book Aid International’s generous support.

Since the inception of their partnership, KNLS and Book Aid International have implemented a variety of impactful projects aimed at strengthening library infrastructure, improving access to learning materials, and equipping educators with skills to foster reading among children. The Mwangaza library exemplifies how these efforts are changing lives at the grassroots level.

Local leaders, school officials, and community members attended the launch, celebrating the potential of books to open minds and shape futures. The joyous occasion was filled with storytelling, poetry, and expressions of gratitude from the school community.



Books, Leadership, and Hope: KNLS Partners with The Trueness Project to Empower Kenya's Next Generation

A new chapter in international collaboration and educational empowerment has begun, as the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) and The Trueness Project joined forces in a bold initiative to uplift communities through books, mentorship, and leadership development.

The partnership formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is rooted in a shared vision to enhance the role of reading and learning materials in driving Kenya's social and economic development. The Trueness Project, a nonprofit organization based in Daniel, Wyoming, USA, brings a wealth of experience in philanthropy, mentorship, and leadership training.

The first fruits of this collaboration were realized on February 11, when KNLS hosted M. Teresa Lawrence, President and Executive Director of The Trueness Project, at Maktaba Kuu, the KNLS headquarters. Her visit reaffirmed both organizations' commitment to empowering communities, especially young readers and emerging leaders.

During the visit, the organization donated a collection of books to KNLS, which will be shared across three facilities. A standout among the titles is *Leading Forward: Kereri Girls' Leadership Journey*, a powerful anthology authored by students whose stories reflect courage, insight, and a deep understanding of leadership in the Kenyan context.

"These young writers are proof that when we provide access to books and platforms for expression, we unlock leadership potential that can transform communities," said Lawrence.

On February 24, a donation was formally presented to KNLS, further deepening the impact of the partnership. The gesture symbolizes more than just the transfer of knowledge, it represents a bridge between communities, nations, and generations.

This collaboration aligns seamlessly with our mission to promote lifelong learning and inclusivity. "This partnership extends the reach of our work and amplifies the voices of our youth. It is a strong affirmation of our belief in the power of books to change lives.



Books to Go: Mumbuni Primary School Gets a Reading Boost Through Book Aid International Partnership

In a vibrant celebration of literacy and learning, Mumbuni Primary School in Machakos became the latest beneficiary of the Books to Go project, a dynamic initiative by the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) in partnership with Book Aid International.

Launched on February 17, the project seeks to expand access to quality reading materials for pupils, nurturing a culture of reading both in school and at home. With a donation of books, book bags, and classroom support resources, the program is designed to empower children to borrow, explore, and learn beyond the classroom walls.

The atmosphere at Mumbuni Primary was filled with excitement as learners received their new reading materials; many for the very first time. Teachers, librarians, and community members gathered to celebrate the beginning of what promises to be a transformative journey for young minds.

The project goes beyond book distribution. It includes support for classroom libraries, teacher training, and resource mobilization to ensure long-term sustainability and integration into school routines. The goal is to make reading a central part of every child's life, at school and at home.

Book Aid International, a long-standing KNLS partner, has been instrumental in ensuring that students in underserved areas have access to age-appropriate, high-quality books. Together, the two organizations are working to build a generation of confident readers and independent learners.

The impact of the Books to Go initiative is already being felt in schools across the country, and Mumbuni Primary now joins a growing network of learning institutions empowered by the program. As the students turned the pages of their new books, it was clear that something greater was unfolding: a lifelong love for reading.



SoundScapes: A Celebration of Music, Innovation, and Cultural Harmony



An unforgettable symphony of sound, history, and innovation unfolded in Nairobi as music lovers gathered to celebrate SoundScapes, a vibrant showcase of musical instruments and traditions from across the globe.

Held on February 22, the event brought together audiences of all ages to experience the magic of melody through grand pianos, string ensembles, wind instruments, and more. From classical harmonies to experimental sounds, SoundScapes offered a rich exploration of how music connects people, cultures, and generations.

The exhibition was a collaborative effort made possible through the support of Gwariva, the U.S. Embassy in Kenya, and American Corner Nairobi. Their combined efforts helped transform the venue into a multi-sensory celebration of rhythm, innovation, and cultural dialogue.

Visitors were treated to live performances, interactive instrument demonstrations, and engaging discussions on the evolution of music. The atmosphere was electric, filled with awe, curiosity, and shared joy. The event not only honored the technical brilliance behind music but also highlighted its role as a universal language that transcends boundaries.

“SoundScapes was more than a musical showcase, it was an experience that reminded us of the beauty of human creativity and collaboration,” noted one attendee.

As the final notes echoed through the space, it was clear that SoundScapes had left a lasting impression, inspiring deeper appreciation for music and its power to unite.



KNLS and KLISC Forge Stronger Ties to Advance Library Services Nationwide

In a significant move to enhance access to knowledge and resources, the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium (KLISC). The agreement, formalized on February 26, aims to strengthen collaboration between the two organizations in areas of knowledge sharing, resource access, and digital transformation across Kenya.

The signing ceremony was graced by the presence of the KNLS CEO, who emphasized the transformative potential of the partnership. "This MOU marks a new chapter in our shared vision for the future of library services in Kenya," the CEO remarked. "Through this collaboration, we are not only expanding access to information but also empowering libraries to lead in the digital age, ensuring every Kenyan has the tools to succeed."

The partnership is set to revolutionize library services nationwide by fostering improved resource-sharing platforms, increasing digital access to learning materials, and boosting the capacity of libraries to meet the needs of a rapidly changing information landscape.

With KLISC's established network of libraries and KNLS's national reach, the collaboration is expected to have a significant impact on the quality and accessibility of information services, from urban to rural communities. The organizations are committed to jointly advancing digital literacy, resource management, and user-centered services.



A Milestone for Literacy, Inclusivity, and Women's Empowerment: KNLS Unveils Renovated Children's Section and Lactation Room

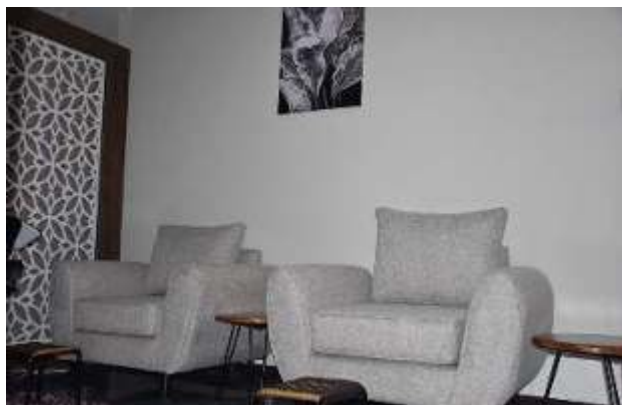
Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), in partnership with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), proudly launched the newly renovated Children's Section and a dedicated Lactation Room at its headquarters on March 7, marking a significant milestone in creating a family-friendly, inclusive learning environment. This initiative celebrates International Women's Day by empowering both young readers and mothers in one inclusive space.

The event was graced by H.E. Subutay YÜKSEL, the Ambassador of Türkiye to Kenya, and the Chairman of KNLS, Bishop Robert Theuri. Both dignitaries emphasized the importance of such collaborations in promoting education, culture, and gender inclusivity. "This partnership exemplifies our shared commitment to enhancing literacy, supporting gender equality, and empowering women through access to safe and supportive spaces," said Ambassador YÜKSEL.

The newly renovated Children's Section offers a vibrant, inviting space for young readers to explore knowledge and develop a love for learning. The addition of the Lactation Room provides a safe, comfortable, and private space for mothers, offering much-needed support for those balancing family responsibilities while accessing educational resources.

"This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to providing inclusive, supportive spaces for all. Investing in literacy, culture, and gender inclusivity is investing in a brighter, more equitable future for everyone," said Bishop Theuri.

As we approach International Women's Day, this launch stands as a powerful reminder that when we uplift women, we uplift entire communities. Through this partnership, KNLS and TİKA are making lasting contributions to education, inclusivity, and the empowerment of future generations.



A Day of Joy and Discovery: KNLS Mobile Library Bus Visits Mumbuni Primary School

Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) brought a day of joy and discovery to Mumbuni Primary School through its Mobile Library Bus. The bus, filled with a vast collection of books, provided students with a unique opportunity to explore new stories, engage in fun games, and embrace the joys of reading.

In collaboration with Book Aid International, KNLS made the day possible, bringing books to life and fostering a love for reading among the students. The Mobile Library Bus is a vital part of KNLS's outreach services, aimed at reaching schools and communities with limited access to libraries and educational resources.

A grade 4 student expressed their gratitude, saying, "We are so thankful to Book Aid International for making this possible. Together, we are building a love for reading and learning that will last a lifetime."

As the students explored a world of stories and knowledge, the day underscored the importance of providing accessible learning resources and fostering a lifelong love for books. The Mobile Library Bus continues to be a powerful tool for inclusivity in education, bringing the gift of reading to communities across Kenya.



Celebrating the Gift of Knowledge: Longhorn Publishers Donates KES 620,000 Worth of Books to KNLS



In a remarkable gesture of support for literacy and education, Longhorn Publishers PLC has generously donated books worth KES 620,000 to the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS). This significant contribution reinforces the publisher's unwavering commitment to fostering lifelong learning, equipping libraries, and empowering the next generation of leaders.

On behalf of the KNLS Board, Mary Kinyanjui expressed sincere gratitude for the donation. "We deeply appreciate this generous contribution from Longhorn Publishers," Kinyanjui stated. "These books will greatly enhance our collections and directly benefit students in marginalized areas, ensuring that knowledge reaches every corner of the country."

This partnership is poised to enrich the KNLS collections, providing a wealth of reading materials that will help to elevate education standards and foster a culture of learning across the nation. The books will be distributed to various KNLS libraries, with a particular focus on areas with limited access to resources.

KNLS Nakuru Sparks Creativity Through Youth Authorship Forum

Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) Nakuru organized a dynamic event that brought together young aspiring writers, aiming to cultivate their creative talents and spark a lifelong passion for authorship and storytelling.

Held on February 15, the event brought together aspiring young writers for a day of inspiration, mentorship, and practical guidance on the art of storytelling. Through engaging workshops and interactive sessions, participants explored the foundations of authorship, ranging from idea development to character creation and the power of personal narratives.

The forum also emphasized the role of writing as a powerful tool for communication, creativity, and personal development, equipping young people to share their voices with confidence. Speakers encouraged participants to view writing not just as a skill, but as a calling, one that can influence minds, preserve culture, and shape futures.



Britannica Library is Now Live: Expanding Knowledge Access through KNLS

Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) is excited to announce the official launch of Britannica Library, now available through the KNLS website, www.knls.ac.ke. This partnership brings a wealth of trusted, interactive, and engaging resources to users, enhancing Vtabu and making reliable knowledge more accessible than ever before.

The launch event was graced by the CEO of KNLS and a representative from Britannica, Martt, who highlighted the significance of this collaboration in expanding access to quality information for research, learning, and discovery. With this new addition, users can now explore an enriched range of resources designed to support education, academic research, and personal growth.

“We are thrilled to introduce Britannica Library to our users,” said the KNLS CEO. “This addition strengthens our commitment to providing valuable resources and empowering individuals with the knowledge they need for personal and academic success.”

Britannica Library is accessible through Vtabu, providing a comprehensive tool for students, researchers, and curious minds alike to engage with verified, trusted content across various subjects. Start exploring today: <https://library.eb.com/levels>



Launch of Kerarapon Primary School Library: A Milestone in Promoting Literacy and Lifelong Learning

On March 21, 2025, the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), in partnership with Book Aid International, officially launched the newly refurbished library at Kerarapon Primary School in Kajiado County. This milestone event, implemented under the Explorer School Library Project and funded by Book Aid International, marked a significant step in promoting literacy and lifelong learning among learners in the area.

The launch was a resounding success. Despite financial limitations, the refurbished library now offers a spacious, inviting, and well-organized reading environment designed to inspire young readers. The event drew enthusiastic participation from pupils, teachers, parents, and the broader community, all eager to celebrate the transformation of the learning space. Their presence was a testament to the strong community support for the initiative and shared commitment to nurturing a reading culture.

KNLS Chairman, Bishop Robert Theuri, delivered a powerful message during the event, stating, "This library is more than books and shelves; it is a place where every single child can reimagine their future and nurture their career." He reaffirmed KNLS's dedication to expanding access to knowledge, particularly through the Explorer School Library Project, noting: "First, it ensures that every child here, regardless of background, has access to quality books. Secondly, it empowers teachers with the resources and training to make learning exciting and effective. And lastly, it fosters a reading culture that extends beyond the classroom into homes, communities, and the future."

Mr. James Kimani, Africa Representative for Book Aid International, expressed a deep personal connection to the project. "I am happy to bring this project home since I have lived in this area for the last 21 years, and this being my home school, I am proud to have implemented it," he shared.

Mr. Kimani recounted how he and the school's headteacher began by donating books his children had outgrown. Recognizing the high demand for books, they decided to collaborate more formally through the Explorer School Library Project. "Through reading and books, one can be anything they want to be," he affirmed, emphasizing the transformative power of access to reading materials.

The launch of the Kerarapon Primary School Library is one of several interventions under the Explorer School Library Project, which aims to equip schools with quality reading resources and teacher training to build sustainable reading environments.

KNLS remains committed to working with partners like Book Aid International to reach more schools and communities, ensuring that every child has the tools to read, dream, and achieve.



Cohort 7 ICT Graduates Complete Training: Empowering the Future with Digital Skills

Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) proudly celebrated the graduation of 27 students from Cohort 7 of the ICT training program, marking another important milestone in equipping young learners with essential digital skills. The graduation ceremony was a testament to the students' dedication and hard work, as they mastered a range of ICT competencies that will position them for future success in the ever-evolving digital landscape.

The training program covered several key areas, including computer literacy, digital communication, cybersecurity, and data management. These vital skills are becoming increasingly essential in today's technology-driven world, empowering graduates to thrive in various professional and academic fields.

The KNLS CEO, speaking at the ceremony, emphasized the importance of digital skills in today's world, stating, "Through programs like this, we are not just imparting technical knowledge, we are preparing students to become leaders and innovators in the digital age."

The program is part of KNLS's ongoing commitment to bridging the digital divide and ensuring that every Kenyan has the opportunity to acquire the skills necessary for personal and professional growth.

As the graduates embark on their next chapter, the knowledge and skills gained through this training will serve as a foundation for their success in the digital world. KNLS remains committed to empowering individuals and communities through education and skills development.



Cohort 7 ICT Graduates Complete Training: Empowering the Future with Digital Skills

Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) Buruburu proudly celebrated the graduation of 13 senior citizens who completed an ICT training program, equipping them with the essential digital skills needed to navigate today's technology-driven world. The ceremony, which saw the successful completion of the program, highlights KNLS's commitment to bridging the digital divide and ensuring that older adults can confidently engage with digital tools and online services.

The CEO of KNLS, who was present at the event, applauded the graduates for their dedication and perseverance throughout the training. He stated, "This initiative has been incredibly impactful in empowering our senior citizens. It is crucial that we equip all generations with the tools they need to thrive in an increasingly digital world."

The training program covered key areas, including basic computer literacy, online communication, digital safety, and navigating online services, all of which are essential for daily life and social participation in the digital era.

KNLS Buruburu's ICT training for senior citizens is part of a broader initiative aimed at promoting digital literacy across all age groups and ensuring that no one is left behind as the world becomes increasingly connected.

KNLS Nakuru Sparks Creativity Through Youth Authorship Forum



The Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) marked Library Week with a vibrant and informative engagement at Mount Kenya University's Nakuru Campus on 22nd February 2025. The event brought together students, faculty, and library professionals in a day dedicated to discovery, research, and the vital role of libraries in education.

As part of the celebrations, KNLS showcased its extensive library resources and digital platforms, offering participants hands-on exposure to tools designed to enhance both academic and personal development. Attendees received guidance on International Standard Book Number (ISBN) services, research methodologies, and how to effectively utilize library assets for scholarly pursuits.

The session also served as an opportunity to sensitize students on the KNLS Service Charter, reaffirming the organization's commitment to accessible, inclusive, and innovative library services across the country. With a strong focus on promoting reading, information literacy, and digital skills, the event underscored the library's evolving role in Kenya's knowledge economy.



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