

APRIL 2023 NEWS BULLETIN

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Empowering youth with essential digital skills for the world of work



How i got to the library and changed lives



KNLS emerges position 3 in corporate category award



Kenya National Library Service signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nation Media Group to establish satellite container libraries nationwide.

Topic 02

Empowering Communities: KNLS joins forces with 1 Million Maktaba Book Drive Initiative to promote reading and literacy for all



5th African Library & Information Associations and Institutions (AFLIA) & 7th African Library Summit

Kenya National Library Service signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nation Media Group to establish satellite container libraries nationwide.



The two CEOs shaking hands after signing the MOU

On Tuesday, April 18th, 2023, KNLS and the Nation Media Group (NMG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish satellite container libraries across Kenya. This partnership aims to create a framework for collaboration in education and literacy initiatives. The primary objective is to enhance information access to community members in different parts of the country.

The project aims to bring libraries closer to Kenyan communities cost-effectively, regardless of their location. The converted containers will provide an ideal space for those who do not have access to a library facility and will offer a diverse range of information materials for all age groups.

This initiative marks a significant step towards promoting education and literacy in Kenya, particularly in rural areas with limited access to books and learning materials.

The signing ceremony was attended by various dignitaries, including Dr. Charles Nzivo, CEO of Kenya National Library Service, Stephen Gitagama, CEO of Nation Media Group, Clifford Machoka, Head of External Affairs at Nation Media Group, and among other attendees.



CEO KNLS, Dr. Charles Nzivo (left) together with the CEO Nation Media Group, Mr. Stephen Gitagama signing the Memorandum of Understanding)

Staff members from KNLS, AJW consultancy and Nation Media Group posing for a group photo

Empowering Communities: KNLS Joins Forces with 1 Million Maktaba Book Drive Initiative to Promote Reading and Literacy for All



Julie Musandu (far right), shakes hands with Hon. Mungatana as Mwanaisha Chidzuga looks on

On April 4th, 2023, KNLS joined forces with Book Aid International, Spotlight Publishers, and RTI to donate 2550 books to the One Million Tana River Maktaba Drive. This partnership between KNLS and the 1 Million Maktaba Book Drive is a significant step towards promoting access to information sources and encouraging a reading culture in Kenya.

The One Million Maktaba Book Drive, spearheaded by Mwanaisha Chidzuga, aims to collect one million books to be distributed to schools, libraries, and community centres throughout Kenya. This collaboration will provide an opportunity for people in both rural and urban areas to access books and engage in thoughtful conversations on various issues affecting their communities.

"We are excited to collaborate with the One Million Maktaba Book Drive and contribute to the promotion of reading in Kenya.... Access to books is essential for personal growth and community development. Through this partnership, we aim to make books more accessible to people across the country, regardless of their location," said Madam Jullie Musando, Deputy Director, KNLS.



Hon Mungatana, Senator, Tana River County, flags off the book consignment for the one- million book drive, as the teams from KNLS and one-million book drive look on.

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5th African Library & Information Associations and Institutions - AfLIA & 7th African Library Summit

Congratulations to our very own Madam Kaltuma Sama, Head Librarian at the Buruburu branch!!!! Ms Kaltuma has been invited to speak about public library innovation under the topic 'The passion about the profession drives library Innovation' during the 5th African Library & Information Associations and Institutions' at the AfLIA & 7th African Library Summit to be held Ghana from 22nd to 26th May 2023.

The conference, themed 'Future of learning, libraries and sustainable development in Africa', will delve into the various strands and possibilities of the future of learning. It will also explore how different types of libraries can adapt to this landscape to provide library and information services that foster learning.

Madam Kaltuma Sama's presentation, titled 'The passion about the profession drives library innovation', promises to contribute valuable insights to this important discourse. We are proud to have her represent our institution at this esteemed event.

Learn more https://web.aflia.net/5th-aflia-conference-7th-african.../





Training of librarians on digital transformation

In today's business environment, digital transformation and cloud computing have become indispensable, and libraries are no exception. Librarians therefore, need the requisite skills and knowledge to adapt to the rapidly changing landscape of technology through digital transformation.

In this regard, ICT officers from KNLS Uvumbuzi and Uhifadhi Centres conducted a training session for some of the Maktaba Kuu librarians on 23rd April 2023. This was aimed at empowering KNLS librarians to proficiently manage library resources, services, and operations in the digital era. With the acquired skills, the librarians are now equipped to effectively handle digital collections, e-books, and online databases.

Furthermore, cloud computing offers an efficient and secure means of storing and accessing data from any location, at any time. It allows librarians to manage their services remotely and ensures seamless access to digital resources for library users. This means that KNLS librarians can now easily store, access, and share various data, including books, journals, research papers, and other valuable resources. The training will also enable the librarians to offer more efficient and effective services to library users, thereby enhancing the overall performance of the library. Additionally, they have been equipped with the knowledge of the latest trends in digital technology, allowing them to keep pace with the evolving needs of library users and stay up-to-date with the ever-changing technological landscape,



Mariam Ismail a staff members from KNLS Uvumbuzi Centre explain why it is important for librarians to embrace technology

Empowering Youth with the Essential Digital Skills for the World of Work

KNLS in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT), and other partners, is making strides in spreading digital literacy in different parts of the country. The training focuses on equipping people with essential skills for success in the current digital era. This has been carried out through the KNLS branch networks as highlighted below:

1. Thika Library graduates 230 students with digital skills

Since 2018, KNLS Thika Branch has been providing basic computer skills training to the youth and other library clients, and to date over 1600 trainees have graduated.

On Friday, March 31st, 2023, a graduation ceremony was held at the Thika Library under the theme "An Empowered Generation," to celebrate the success of 230 students who completed a three-months Computer Training Program under different cohorts. This program, which was facilitated by DOT and Ajira Digital, provided the trainees with valuable digital skills that are crucial for success in today's economy.

The Computer Training Program covered a wide range of topics, including computer basics, internet and email usage, and software applications such as Microsoft Office. Through this program, graduates have gained practical skills that are highly in demand in the job market, enhancing their employability and potential for future success.





2. Buruburu Library holds a Digital Privacy Workshop for the Youth

Participants actively engage in group work during the workshop.

On March 20th, 2023, a digital privacy workshop was held at the Buruburu Branch, with the aim of raising awareness about the importance of data privacy and security among Kenyan youths. The workshop was attended by 14 participants aged 18-25 years, from diverse backgrounds and with varying levels of experience with digital technology.

Some of the topics of discussion included; the risks of sharing personal information online, and how to create strong passwords and protect your data from online threats among others.

The workshop provided the youths with important knowledge and practical strategies for safeguarding their data and protecting their online privacy and security. The participants were encouraged to be more aware and take steps to protect themselves in the digital world. With increasing concerns about data privacy and security, workshops like these play a crucial role in educating and empowering youths to safely navigate the digital landscape.

Other ICT training that Buruburu branch conducted included;

Digital Security; the aim was to create awareness of digital Security among the participants on how to protect their digital identity and stay safe online. A total of 21 youth between the ages of 18-35 years were trained.

Digital Well-being- The workshop's main goal was to raise awareness about digital well-being and provide practical tips on how to reduce smartphone addiction and maintain a healthy relationship with technology. A total of 32 youth were trained.



Participants during Activity Sessions

3. Laikipia Library trains youth in basic computer skills



Students celebrating with their trainers during the graduation ceremony

On 22nd March 2023, Laikipia Library held a graduation ceremony for over 80 students who had completed the 3 months ICT training program. The program was facilitated by Laikipia Branch ICT Officer. This was the first cohort for 2023, and the students were awarded certificates to mark their completion of the program. The ceremony was graced by Digital Literacy Officer, Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Mr. Kelvin Gitau. He emphasized the importance of ICT skills in the current digital age. He highlighted the various opportunities available for individuals who possess these skills and encouraged the students to continue pursuing their education.

4. Karatina library trains youth on basic design skills



On April 15th 2023, Karatina Library concluded a training program on basic design skills for 22 young participants. The program, which was facilitated by Ajira Digital, aimed to equip the youth with essential design skills Topics covered included graphic design principles, colour theory, typography, and popular design software such as Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. At the end of the training, the participants show-cased their final design projects, demonstrating their creativity and innovation. The program was lauded for its contribution to youth empowerment and community development, with plans for similar initiatives in the future.

5. Kibera Library undertakes cohort two training on basic computer skills



Kibera Library successfully concluded the second cohort of basic computer skills training that covered a wide range of topics, including basic computer operations, file management, internet usage, and Microsoft Office applications. The training program attracted 20 students who benefited with practical hands-on experience to enhance their proficiency in using computers for various tasks. The graduates of the program are now better equipped to thrive in the digital world and pursue new opportunities for personal and professional growth.

6. Mombasa Library - digital literacy training for young people

In collaboration with the British Council, Mombasa Library organized a digital literacy training program to educate young people on essential digital skills. The training, which was conducted on 15th and 16th April, 2023, attracted a total of 20 participants, aged 18 to 25 years, who successfully complete the program.

Topics covered included basic computer operations, internet usage, online safety, digital communication, and social media management. The participants were also given practical hands-on experience to enhance their proficiency in using digital tools for various tasks, such as creating and managing online content, conducting online research, and using digital platforms for personal and professional development.

The partnership between Mombasa Library and the British Council in promoting digital literacy among young people is a significant step in bridging the digital divide and equipping the youth with essential skills for the digital era. The training program not only provided participants with practical digital skills but also empowered them to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.



Digital literacy training ongoing

7. Kilifi Library Collaborates with Ajira Digital for a Two-Day Digital Marketing Training



Kilifi Library, in partnership with Ajira Digital, conducted a two-day digital marketing training on 19th and 20th April, 2023. The training aimed to equip the participating 27 youths with essential skills and knowledge in digital marketing, empowering them to leverage the power of digital platforms for business growth and success. Ajira Digital, a government initiative under the Ministry of Information, Communication, and Technology in Kenya, operates under its vision of equipping the Kenyan youth with relevant digital skills for economic empowerment.

The topics covered included: understanding the digital marketing landscape, developing effective social media strategies, optimizing websites for search engines, creating engaging content, leveraging email marketing, and analyzing digital marketing performance using analytics tools. The sessions were facilitated by experienced trainers who shared practical examples and case studies to illustrate the concepts and provide real-world insights.

8. Kinyambu Library graduates 14 youths with basic computer skills



Students posing for a group photo during graduation

On April 22nd 2023, Kinyambu Library held a graduation ceremony for 14 youths who successfully completed a basic computer skills training program. The program, which aimed to empower individuals with fundamental computer literacy skills, was conducted at Kinyambu Library in partnership with local organizations and trainers. The basic computer skills training program spanned over a period of two weeks, during which the students learned essential computer skills, including typing, file management, internet usage, email communication, and basic troubleshooting. The training sessions were conducted by experienced trainers who provided hands-on guidance and support to ensure that the students grasped the concepts effectively.

9. Kangema Community Library graduates 8 students with basic computer skills



The Kangema Community Library held a graduation ceremony for 8 students who successfully completed a basic computer skills program. The ceremony took place at the library on 14th April 2023, was attended by members of the local community and dignitaries. The program aimed to provide students with skills, such as basic computer operations, file management, and internet usage. The graduates expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn and enhance their digital literacy skills, recognizing the potential for these skills to open doors to new opportunities in their personal and professional lives.

Students display their certificates after successful completion in Basic Computer Skills Training



10. 63 students graduate with basic ICT skills at KNLS Muranga

KNLS Murang'a Library has been playing a pivotal role in equipping the local youth with essential Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills through a comprehensive two-month training program. On 20th April 2023, a total of 63 students successfully graduated and were awarded certificates recognizing their achievements in acquiring vital digital literacy skills. The ICT Officer at KNLS Murang'a, assisted by a volunteer, facilitated the training program that covered a wide range of ICT topics including computer basics, internet usage, email management, and online safety. The participants undergo rigorous training sessions that combine theoretical knowledge with practical exercises, providing them with hands-on experience in using ICT tools.

Laikipia Library holds a three-day sensitization training on HIV/AIDS



Participants keeningly follow through the proceeding during the training

Laikipia library in partnership with Kenya Red Cross conducted a three-day training on HIV/AIDS on 25th March 2023. The training was aimed at equipping youths with the relevant knowledge, skills, and attitudes to prevent HIV transmission and provide care and support to those affected by HIV AIDS, and other STDs. Participants were also enlightened on the need to advocate for policies and programs that reduce the impact of the disease on individuals and communities. The training was attended by 94 participants including medical practitioners and experts from Laikipia County including CEC Health Dr. Albert Taiti, Dr Mwachama from the Health Department, Nancy from the Health Department, Mr. Leon from the Health Department and Mercy from Ayarhep / Red Cross Laikipia County. The training was facilitated by a youth representative from Ngobit ward Joseph Gitahi, Jostech Services, Mr. Godfrey from the NG-CDF, and Youth Representative from Laikipia East Constituency among others.

KNLS Eldoret Receives Book Donation to Enhance the Library's Local Content

KNLS Eldoret recently book donation valued at \$4,000 from Erin and Grace McBride, residents of Maryland, USA. This generous contribution includes a collection of 201 books specifically aimed at enriching the local content available at the library. The books focus on Swahili language and are designed to cater for learners of all ages, including both juniors and adults.

The two titles, namely "Swahili Book 1: Swahili for Beginners", and "Swahili Book 2: Learn Swahili Easily," will play a vital role in tin assisting people who are learning Swahili as a second language including foreigners n who are studying and working in Kenya. It is worth mentioning that the author of these books is a Kenyan citizen currently residing and working in the Netherlands.

With their international appeal, these two titles have gained recognition for teaching Swahili language in various regions across Asia, Europe, and America. Adding to their prestige, the esteemed writer, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, has contributed a forward to these books. The books have been published by BoekenGilde for Educultural Travel in the Netherlands.

Knls Eldoret wish to express their heartfelt appreciation to Erin and Grace McBride for their remarkable generosity, noting that their contribution, will undoubtedly benefit numerous learners and contribute to enhanced cultural understanding among different communities.

KNLS Meru Staff Hold Breakfast Meeting with Uzury Empowerment Stakeholders



KNLS Meru Libran, Mr. Wanjohi (right) presents an award to Mr. Domico, one of the Stakeholders of Uzury Program

On April 3, 2023, the staff of KNLS Meru held a breakfast meeting with stakeholders from Uzury Empowerment, an organization dedicated to empowering girls in Meru County. The meeting aimed to create a sustainable curriculum for the Uzury program, which will now be fully managed by Meru library. During the meeting, the empowerment program was formerly handed over to the Meru Library. The objectives of the programme include creating a cooperative community and building a strong bond between the organizations, among other key focus areas,

The breakfast meeting was attended by Mr. Richard Wanjohi, the Librarian in Charge at KNLS Meru, Stephanie and P.J Damico from the United States, a delegation from Watamu in Mombasa County, the mentees, and the volunteers of Uzury Empowerment. Mr. Wanjohi, who was the host, briefed the attendees on the various library activities, such as free computer basic skills training to Form 4 leavers, digital literacy training for people living with disabilities using Jaws software, learning circles program covering topics such as Design Thinking, Digital Marketing, Public Speaking, and nurturing youth talents in areas such as dancing, singing, fashion, and design. He also mentioned that children are taught how to write their own stories and create illustrations, which are then published online.

Fariah Laikipian, the Director of the House of Uzury, emphasized the importance of creating awareness and equipping girls with the necessary skills to realize their strengths in society. She highlighted the organization's efforts in combating gender-based violence and supporting girls' rights. She also noted that the program has resulted in improved moral values among the girls and promised that the status of girls will continue to be improved through collaborative efforts to achieve the organization's motto and vision. Ms Laikipian expressed optimism that handing over the program to KNLS Meru library would safeguard its sustainability.

In conclusion, the Uzury Empowerment Hub has made a significant impact on society, with girls who have undergone the training already starting their own businesses and improving their social well-being. The partnership between Uzury Empowerment and KNLS Meru is expected to further enhance the program's reach and sustainability, empowering more girls in Meru County and promoting gender equality.

A Reader at KNLS Nakuru Library narrates how she used the library to change lives

of other children in her neighborhood.

ing her to raise their children on her own.

In 2006, Rose's youngest son, who was in class 4 at visited the KNLS Nyeri library in her days in school. sources, lives can be transformed for the better. With the help of a friend, she located the KNLS Nakuru library and she enrolled her son as a member. From 2006 to 2010, Rose and her son regularly visited the library, and his academic performance improved significantly. He scored 340 marks in his Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exams and joined Bauuni Secondary School in 2011. He continued to utilize the library since he was a day scholar and eventually scored a B+ in his Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exams in 2014. He is now in his second year pursuing Mechanical Engineering at Kenya Technical University.

Rose's commitment to the library did not stop with her own children. She also registered her neighbors' children at the library and even paid for their book loans with her own money. The children, Jonathan Githinji, Sarah Kamau, Esther Wachira, and Kelvin K. Wachira, regularly visit Rose's home to pick storybooks and textbooks that she gets for them from the library. These have made a significant impact on their academic performance, and Rose regularly checks in with their teachers to monitor their progress. She is proud to see the positive changes in these children's lives and is grateful for the opportunity to help them, just as she has been helped by the library.

Rose Wanjiru, a 50-year-old widow and mother of Rose's dedication to her community has not gone unsix, has made a significant impact on her community noticed. Her selflessness and determination to improve through her journey with the KNLS in Nakuru Coun- the lives of children through access to education and ty. Her determination to improve her son's education resources have earned her recognition and respect in led her to the library in 2006, and since then, she has her neighbourhood. She is an inspiration to others and not only transformed her son's life but also the lives serves as an example of how libraries can transform lives beyond just being a repository of books.

Rose, originally from Nyeri County, had limited re- When asked about her motivation, Rose credits her sources after finishing secondary school in 1984. De- faith in God and her belief in the power of education. spite her parents' inability to afford her college or She encourages others to take advantage of the repolytechnic education, Rose ventured into the busi- sources and opportunities available at the library, as it ness of selling second-hand clothes, known as "mu- can be a stepping stone towards a brighter future. Her tumba," in Nakuru. She also got married in 1991, but story is a testament about the impact that libraries can her husband passed away after only six years, leav- have on individuals and communities, and Rose continues to be a beacon of hope for those seeking knowledge and empowerment.

Lanet Primary School, was struggling with his stud- Her unwavering commitment to the library and her ies and being mistreated by his teacher. Determined community serves as an inspiration to us all, showing to help her son, Rose remembered that she had once that with determination and access to information re-



Child-Parent Tusome Book Club Successfully Holds Inaugural Event with Impressive Turnout at KNLS Buruburu Library



Participants at KNLS Buruburu during the inauguration of Tusome Book Club on 18th March 2023

On Saturday, March 18th, 2023, the Child-Parent Tusome Book Club hosted its inaugural event at the Buruburu Library, welcoming children, parents, and invited guests. The program featured registration, membership/services sensitization, and library user education. There were also variety of engaging performances by the KIKOSI GROUP, including storybook reading, book previews, story-telling, and thrilling spelling competitions. The event saw an impressive turnout of 85 attendees, including 51 children. Currently, Tusome Book Club has 33 registered members. Attendees expressed excitement for the next meeting, and the event attracted positive reviews.





Day's activities in pictures

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A Community-Based Scout Movement Launched at the KNLS Meru Library

The official launch of the community-based scout movement took place on April 28, 2023, at the Kenya National Library Service Meru Branch. The event was attended by library staff and seventy-five junior readers. The guest of honor was Mr. Wilson Kinoti Mwiti, the Scout Trainer and Commissioner for Imenti.

During the launch, Mr. Mwiti expressed his delight in announcing the collaborative efforts between the Meru County Scouts Association and the Kenya National Library Service Meru. A welcoming that is specifically designed to engage and empower young people will be established in the library. This collaboration aims to strengthen the scout movement while promoting youth empowerment in the community. To spearhead this endeavor, Mr. Richard Wanjohi was appointed as the patron. His role entails coordinating library scout activities, organizing training programs, establishing partnerships and strategic alliances, and working towards increasing scout membership through the library platform.

The Kenya Scouts Association has partnered with the World Scout Movement (WOSM) to introduce an innovative project called 'Capacity Building for Membership Growth.' This pioneering initiative aims to train community-based scout leaders, enabling them to actively support school-based scout groups, rejuvenate inactive units, and establish new scout groups within local communities.

With the primary objective of fostering increased community engagement through community-based scouting initiatives, the Kenya Scouts Association envisions the participation of various community spaces such as chief camps, churches, mosques, temples, children's homes, and libraries.

The community-based scout movement is driven by three key goals. First, it seeks to equip scouts with essential life skills that will contribute to their personal growth and development. Secondly, the movement aims to create a positive impact within the community by engaging scouts in meaningful community service activities. Lastly, it endeavors to provide non-formal education that complements the core curriculum offered in the formal education system.

This partnership marks a significant milestone in empowering Kenyan youth and fostering community development through scouting. By embracing a community-based approach, the Kenya Scouts Association and the World Scout Movement are actively nurturing well-rounded individuals equipped with essential life skills, while simultaneously making a positive and lasting difference within their respective communities.



Some Scout movement members pause for a photo

The Chair of Iment North Scouts Movement and Scout Trainer, Mr. Wilson Mwiti receives a book gift presented to him by KNLS Meru Library Staff and Readers

KNLS emerge position 3 in the corporate category award during the 4th edition of the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO national cultural celebration and the 10th anniversary celebrations



Ms. Jemimmah Ihura, Librarian, KNLS NAL, attends to one of the customers at the KNLS stand during the 4th edition of the KNATCOM for UNESCO Cultural Celebrations held at KICC on 12th April 2023.

KNLS made a remarkable impact during the recent 4th edition of the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO national cultural celebration and the 10th anniversary celebrations held from 12th -15th April 2023 at KICC, Nairobi. The event, held under the theme "A Decade of Excellence - Enhancing National Development, Cohesion, Identity, and Pride," provided an ideal platform for KNLS to showcase its services through an exhibition. KNLS actively participated in the exhibition, highlighting the contributions of its NLD, ICT, and NAL departments. With a strong alignment between the event's theme and KNLS's core mandate of promoting cultural excellence and national development through library services, the exhibition successfully demonstrated the organization's commitment.

Notably, KNLS secured an impressive 3rd position in the corporate category and was honored with a trophy. This achievement reflects the library's dedication to fostering national development through its service offerings. Furthermore, the KNLS booth received a significant number of visitors, with 89 individuals taking the opportunity to explore and learn about the library's services. During the event, visitors provided valuable feedback regarding the library's membership process. Many expressed a desire for a more streamlined and convenient method, suggesting that the library should make the membership form available online. This recommendation holds great importance, as it would enhance accessibility and attract more individuals to become members of the library.



Trophy for Position 3 awarded to KNLS

Library Sessions (Pictorials)



Laikipia library hosts Nanyuki primary school for a library session





Meisori Community Library hosts Perkerra and Ngambo Primary Schools for an enriching day of library lessons.



Michinda Secondary School visits Nakuru Library for library sessions



Kibera branch hosts grade four pupils from Voluntary Academy for a read-aloud session.

Library Sessions (Pictorials)



Grade six pupils from Visa Oswal Primary visit Kabarnet Library for library sessions



Pupils from Muambwani primary school busy at Mutyambua library, after library orientation





Grade 3 pupils from St. Joseph Catholic Primary School visit the library. User Education, reading & stories were undertaken.



Library orientation at KNLS Mombasa, students from ALI HASSAN JOHO Girl's secondary.



Students from Daraja Mbili Secondary being taken through library operations

Library Sessions (Pictorials)



Alliance Boys High School visit Maktaba Kuu for library orientation and membership



Ukunda Secondary School visit Kwale Community Library for library sessions.



Grade 4 pupils from our Lady of Visitation School visit Timau Library for library sessions



Students from Township Secondary Londiani visit Kericho Library for library orientations and services

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