



knowledge without boundaries

Follow us on Twitter
twitter.com/eIFLnet

Join our Facebook page
facebook.com/eIFL.net

EIFL Newsletter – SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010

1. EIFL related news.....	2
EIFL Advisory Board News.....	2
Spotlight: Changing research in Mozambique with a shared institutional repository.....	2
EIFL Staff at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).....	2
Open access: the theme of the 11th Annual EIFL GA.....	3
News from national library consortia.....	3
2. EIFL Events September- October 2010.....	4
3. EIFL Negotiations.....	6
New staff member.....	6
Renewals.....	6
New agreements.....	6
New communication/support materials.....	7
4. Update on EIFL-IP.....	7
Broadening and deepening the EIFL copyright network.....	7
New member of EIFL-IP Advisory Committee.....	8
5. Update on EIFL-OA.....	8
Open access policy and institutional repository released at workshop in Kenya.....	8
OpenAIRE releases Guidelines 1.0 of OpenAIRE.....	8
Open access mandate adopted by V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine.....	9
A call to the African Union to consider Open Access policies, publishing, and repositories.....	9
6. Update on EIFL-FOSS.....	9
EIFL-FOSS Programme Update.....	9
7. Update on EIFL-PLIP.....	10
Bosnian public library provides support for young people to create a documentary film.....	10
Libraries and health services team up to build healthy communities.....	11

1. EIFL related news

EIFL Advisory Board News

Three board members retired and three new members have joined.

In August the terms of office for Kay Raseroka, Diana Sayej, and Sreten Ugrić ended. We would like to thank them all for their contributions and service to EIFL. In addition, we would like to acknowledge the significant contribution that Kay Raseroka has made to the library community and to her own community as she retires from her position as library director at the University of Botswana. Among her many accomplishments are that she served as the first African president of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. She also founded Botswana's Children's Information Trust, and has devoted more than 35 years to promoting the importance of oral learning in indigenous communities. Finally, Kay recently received an honorary degree from the University of Alberta.

We welcome new board members: Matseliso (Tseli) Moshoeshe-Chadzingwa, National University of Lesotho; Gintare Tautkevičienė, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania; and Tigran Zargaryan, Fundamental Scientific Library, Armenia. We look forward to working with them in the two coming years.

Spotlight: Changing research in Mozambique with a shared institutional repository

The new Spotlight features the development of the first repository in Mozambique. Launched in November 2009, SABER currently holds 2,234 items including thesis and dissertations, journal articles and conference papers from Mozambican researchers and academics. The aim is for the shared institutional repository (IR) to become a single entry point for access to research produced in Mozambique. The vision is to unlock access to valuable research about Mozambique which is currently not widely available, and for Mozambicans to become contributors to global knowledge.

Read about the impact, the lessons and the people who made it happen here:

http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/news/spotlight/2010_09_03_changing-research-in

EIFL Staff at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

For the first time, EIFL will participate in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), the major policy making forum that emerged from WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society). It is attended by over 1200 participants from over 100 countries. EIFL has co-organised a workshop on "Why we need an Open Web: Open Knowledge Governance for Innovation"; scheduled for Friday September 17, 11:30 - 1:30.

Rima Kupryte (EIFL Director) and Iryna Kuchma (EIFL-OA Programme Manager), as well as Emilija Banionyte, EIFL-IP Coordinator for Lithuania will present. In addition, Teresa Hackett (EIFL-IP Programme Manager) will be attending.

2010 IGF: Vilnius

The theme of the fifth IGF is Developing the Future. As described by Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General, "This theme reflects the open and inclusive nature of the IGF with its multilateral, multi-stakeholder, democratic and transparent approach to discussions of Internet-related public policy issues. The Vilnius meeting will help articulate a view of how we can use the Internet for the benefit of all humankind, and how we can further address the risks and challenges ahead. Internet

governance should not be seen as an end in itself, but as a means of achieving development for all as expressed in internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.” Learn more about 2010 IGF: Vilnius.

EIFL at the IGF Village

EIFL will share a booth with Association of Progressive Communication (APC). It is an opportunity to network, meet NGOs working in similar areas and share ideas with government delegates.

Remote Participation IGF Vilnius 2010

The proceedings in the main meeting room will be webcast (audio and video), and the transcript of these proceedings will be streamed in real time. The events in the workshop rooms will be audio cast. For further details on how to access these and other means of remote participation, please go to the IGF website at: <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>

Open access: the theme of the 11th Annual EIFL GA

Representatives from over 40 EIFL partner countries met in Lund, Sweden, August 6-8 to share their experiences and learn from each other. This year’s focus on open access touched on all facets of this important topic, including advocacy, policy, open access repositories, open access journals, and institutional repositories. Leslie Chan, senior lecturer at University of Toronto and founder of Bioline International, reminded us all that the web was “designed by scientists to share knowledge ... our goal [as information providers] is to support scholarly communication and ensure that knowledge is accessible to all.”

Many of the presentations were given by EIFL partner country participants who shared their experiences and lessons learned. They demonstrated both big and small steps that they are taking in order to move the open access agenda forward. In addition, there were presentations from leading open access advocates including Alma Swan, Leslie Chan, Melissa Hagemann, Monica Hammes and Sergey Parinov. There was also an introduction by UNESCO Open Access Consultant, Daisy Ouye about their newly formed open access program. In addition, there were sessions to introduce the new “Copyright for Librarians” - an Online Open Curriculum on Copyright Law (created by EIFL in partnership with the Harvard Berkman Center) and also to introduce the new EIFL-FOSS program plan and elicit feedback. All presentations are available on the [EIFL GA site](#).

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their generous support: the Open Society Institute, Swedish Library Association and Lund University Library and publishers AAAS/Science, Burgundy, Cambridge University Press, Gale Cengage Learning, ebrary, EBSCO Publishing, Emerald Group Publishing, Institute of Physics Publishing, JSTOR, Morgan & Claypool publishers, Oxford University Press, Project Muse, SAGE Publications, Taylor and Francis, and Wiley & Blackwell.

Next year General Assembly will be hosted by the National Library of Belarus.

News from national library consortia

Botswana

On September 20-24, the Botswana Library Consortium plans to hold a strategic planning workshop.

Kenya

On September 2-3, Kenya Libraries and Information Services Consortium (KLISC) together with Hasselt University, Belgium, organised a DSpace training for 25 participants from different institutions in Kenya setting up open institutional repositories.

Mali

Mali Medical is planning to hold an international workshop about E-publishing for medical journal editors from African French speaking countries during the last week of September. Topics such as Copyright, Open Access, Creative Commons will be covered. Among the speakers – Abdrahamane ANNE, Faculte de Medecine, de Pharmacie et d'Odontostomologie, and Consortium Malien des Bibliothèques (COMBI)

Ukraine

October 12-15, International Forum «Information Society – problems of development» INFORMATIO 2010 – International Conference on Electronic Information Resources Design, Use and Access will be held in Kyiv organised by “Informatio-Consortium” Association, Ukrainian Institute for Scientific, Technical and Economic Information, National Technical University “Kyiv Polytechnical Institute”, National Medical Library of Ukraine, Academic Library of National University “Kiev Mohyla Academy”, Academic Library named after M.Maksymovych Kyiv National University named after Taras Shevchenko, Ukrainian Library Association, National Parliamentary Library, EIFL, ELibUkr – Project, Fracsim-IMM, Ltd and Informatio, Ltd.

2. EIFL Events September- October 2010

- September 1-2, Open Access and the Evolving Scholarly Communication Environment workshop was held at the University of Botswana, organized by the University of Botswana, Botswana Libraries Consortium, Public Knowledge Project and EIFL, and funded by Carnegie Foundation and EIFL.
- September 7, Association of Main Libraries of Serbia Assembly will be meeting in Zlatibor, Serbia. On the agenda will be a presentation on the Agrolib project by Vesna Crnkovic from the Public Library in Jagodina. This project is an EIFL-PLIP funded project that will provide new services to farmers in rural Serbia.
- September 13-15, the annual conference of cultural institutions in Lithuania will be held in Palanga. Two teachers Valda Bikute and Regina Bernotiene will present on the EIFL-PLIP funded project to design an educational tool for students.
- September 14-17, Iryna Kuchma, EIFL-OA Programmer manager, Rima Kupryte, EIFL Director and Teresa Hackett, EIFL-IP Programme Manager will attend the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Vilnius, Lithuania.
- September 17, during IGF ,Vilnius, EIFL and OER-Br Project will organize a workshop “Why we need an Open Web: Open knowledge governance for Innovation” Workshop will take place 11:30 – 13:30 ROOM 7
- September 20-21, Breda Karun, EIFL-PLIP Programme Manager and Simon Ball, EIFL-FOSS programme manager will be attending this year's ECEI10: European Congress on E-Inclusion conference in Brussels, Belgium. The theme is, “Delivering Digital Europe in Public Libraries.”
- September 23-24, Teresa Hackett EIFL-IP Programme Manager, will organise an international EIFL seminar in Vilnius, Lithuania to discuss how “Copyright for Librarians” - an Online Open Curriculum on Copyright Law can be integrated into library school curricula.
- September 29-30, Consortium of Tanzanian Universities and Research Libraries (COTUL) general meeting will be held in Tanga, Tanzania. It will include a workshop on access and use of e-resources and a COTUL progress report and strategic planning.

- October 6-8, at the Conference on Reading Promotion and Storytelling for Children, University of South Africa (Unisa), Pretoria, South Africa, Jane Meyers from the EIFL-PLIP funded Lubuto Library Project will present on their work to reach the growing numbers of orphans and vulnerable children by creating early reading programs in Zambian languages through its 'One Laptop per Child Zambian Language Literacy Programming' project.
- October 11–15, James Kimani and Abdi Omar, from the EIFL-PLIP funded Kenya National Library Service project, will be presenting a paper at the 12th Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa conference in Burkina Faso.
- October 12-15, Iryna Kuchma, EIFL-OA programme manager, will participate in INFORMATIO 2010 - International Conference on Electronic Information Resources Design, Use and Access, Kyiv, Ukraine.
- October 18-24, EIFL partners and staff will participate in the Open Access Week, the global event to promote free, immediate, online access to research. Open Access Week is an opportunity for the worldwide academic and research community to continue to learn about the potential benefits of Open Access, to share what they have learned with colleagues, and to inspire wider participation in helping to make Open Access the norm in scholarship and research.
- October 25-27, Teresa Hackett EIFL-IP Programme Manager will organise advanced training in copyright, advocacy and presentation skills for EIFL-IP librarians, to be held in Cambridge, UK.
- October 25-26, Iryna Kuchma will participate in the Berlin 8 Open Access Conference jointly hosted by Chinese Academy of Sciences, China, and Max Planck Society, Germany, in Beijing, China. Iryna Kuchma will present a paper "Advocating for open access to research results in developing countries: A case study from EIFL."
- October 26-30, Janice Pilch, University of Illinois will give a presentation on copyright in the digital era, and will facilitate discussions with local librarians and other stakeholders at Central Asia 2010 - Information and Library Resources in Science, Education, Culture and Business in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- October 27-28, Iryna Kuchma will participate in the Open access to the achievements of Slovenian scientists conference, organized by chapters for Special and for Higher Education Libraries of the Slovenian Library Association. Major topics to be addressed: Open access to scientific publications and data worldwide; Open access repositories and open journals publishing in Slovenia; Open access and evaluation of research; Setting up repositories; Future of open access to knowledge and research results in Slovenia.
- October 28-29, Emilija Banionyte and Ausra Vaskeviciene will share Lithuanian Research library Consortium experience in working in electronic environment with the participants of international conferences organised by the National Library of Belarus.

3. EIFL Negotiations

New staff member

We are pleased to welcome Ilse Gey van Pittius to the EIFL-Licensing team.

Ilse has been working with Susanna Lob since June on a part-time basis whilst she was completing her M.A. in Publishing at Oxford Brookes University. From 1 September she will work full time.

Ilse's responsibilities will include raising awareness of EIFL-negotiated agreements, liaising with Country Coordinators to promote uptake of subscriptions and usage, updating the EIFL-Licensing section of the website, liaising with vendors over the setting up of access, preparing information sheets, and monitoring usage.

Renewals

Oxford Reference Online/Oxford English Dictionary Online

The renewal agreement for Oxford Reference Online and the Oxford English Dictionary Online is now available.

- Further information about Oxford Reference Online is available at:
<http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/services/negotiations/p/ebooks/oxford-reference-online>
- Further information about the Oxford English Dictionary Online is available at:
<http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/services/negotiations/p/ebooks/oxford-english>

Grove Art Online/Grove Music Online

The renewal agreement for Grove Art Online and Grove Music Online has now been signed.

- Further information about Grove Art Online is available at:
<http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/services/negotiations/p/ebooks/grove-art-online>
- Further information about the Grove Music Online is available at:
<http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/services/negotiations/p/ebooks/grove-music-online>

Other renewals

We are in the process of finalising the renewal of the Oxford Scholarship Online agreement.

Renewal negotiations are also underway with Oxford Journals, Institute of Physics Publishing, Emerald, Multi-Science, Project Muse and Wiley.

New agreements

OECD-iLibrary

We have signed a new agreement for OECD-iLibrary. The successor to SourceOECD, OECD-iLibrary offers integrated access to over 5,000 books, 500 journal issues, 2,500 working papers and 2,200 multilingual summaries. It also includes 22 statistical databases (including 300+ cross-searchable datasets and 4 billion data points) plus 5,000 Excel tables. Further information about OECD-iLibrary is available at:

<http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/services/negotiations/p/business/oecd-ilibrary>

New communication/support materials

In order to help Country Coordinators promote awareness of the commercial e-resources available to their members through EIFL-negotiation agreements, we have prepared and sent out a range of support materials. These include information sheets for individual countries containing details about the e-resources that are available to them through EIFL-Licensing, and customised fliers for individual e-resources. For further information, please contact subscriptions@eifl.net.

4. Update on EIFL-IP

Broadening and deepening the EIFL copyright network

This autumn, we are busy preparing for two key events that will represent another step towards broadening and deepening EIFL copyright network.

In September, EIFL will hold an international seminar in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, Vilnius University and the Lithuanian Research Libraries Consortium for library school teachers and academics from countries including Armenia, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. The purpose is to discuss the teaching of copyright issues to librarians in the region, and how "Copyright for Librarians", the curriculum developed by the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School for EIFL might be of value. Discussion will include synergies with EU Tempus programmes in Armenia, Georgia, Uzbekistan and the Western Balkans. (Tempus supports the modernisation of higher education and creates an area of co-operation in countries surrounding the EU).

Professor William W. Fisher, Wilmer Hale Professor of Intellectual Property Law and Faculty Director at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society who supervised the curriculum, will lead the seminar, conduct a teaching session from the curriculum for local librarians, and will hold a public lecture at the Ministry of Culture in Vilnius entitled "Copyright and wrongs. Do existing copyright laws do more harm than good?"

Background note. In March 2010, EIFL launched "Copyright for Librarians", - an Online Open Curriculum on Copyright Law developed by the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School in the US. The course provides a grounding in basic copyright principles, covers copyright from the library perspective, and is in support of the library mission to provide access to knowledge. It is freely available online and we encourage re-use either as a stand-alone course or as modules integrated into an existing curriculum. It can be translated, adapted for national situations or supplemented according to local needs. Available here:

http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/copyrightforlibrarians/Main_Page

The second event is an advanced training seminar in copyright, advocacy and presentation skills for EIFL-IP librarians, as part of our commitment towards sustainability of the EIFL copyright network. In return, participants will make presentations at conferences and events, pass on their knowledge to librarians in the region, and assist with advocacy. EIFL-IP librarians from Armenia, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Moldova, Nigeria, Russia, Zambia, Zimbabwe will attend.

The seminar will take place in October in Cambridge, UK and will include training modules from "Copyright for Librarians" with a trainer from the Berkman Center; learning and sharing various other copyright topics; presentation skills and media training. There will be a guest talk by Dr Tim Hubbard, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute on the story of the Human Genome Project.

New member of EIFL-IP Advisory Committee

The EIFL-IP Advisory Committee advises on policy issues and strategy. We are delighted that Mr Luis Villeroel, Innovarte Corporacion, Chile will help with our work. Luis was previously responsible for copyright at the Ministry of Education and represented Chile at WIPO. An in-depth knowledge of international copyright issues and a keen development perspective make Luis a great partner for EIFL. We have worked together on several projects, including with the library community in Moldova.

Other members are James Love, Director KEI, Washington DC; Sisule Musungu, IQsensato; Winston Tabb, Johns Hopkins University and Chair IFLA Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM). Professor Ruth Okediji from the University of Minnesota remains available for questions and advice. Thank you to Ruth, and welcome Luis!

5. Update on EIFL-OA

Open access policy and institutional repository released at workshop in Kenya

On August 30, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and EIFL organised a workshop, “Benefits of Open Access for Research Dissemination, Usage, Visibility and Impact.” At the workshop, JKUAT faculty members and administration introduced an open access policy and an open access institutional repository was launched.

The workshop covered a broad range of open access issues including:

- Open approaches to scholarship (open access, open education, open science and open innovation)
- Open access benefits for researchers (increased visibility, usage and impact for their work)
- Open access benefits for research institutions (a management information tool to assess and monitor research programmes, a marketing tool for research efforts)
- Open access policies and mandates
- Open access institutional repository workflows

Presentations from the workshop will be available soon on [EIFL-OA Training and Capacity Building](#).

OpenAIRE releases Guidelines 1.0 of OpenAIRE

The OpenAIRE “[Guidelines 1.0: Guidelines for Content Providers of the OpenAIRE Information Space](#)” (July 2010) have been released. Repository managers who implement the guidelines will be facilitating authors, who deposit their publications in the repository, to comply with the EC Open Access requirements.

The guidelines will help repository managers to define and implement their local data management policies in compliance with the Open Access demands of the European Commission. Furthermore the guidelines will comply with the technical requirements of the [OpenAIRE infrastructure](#) that is being established to support and monitor the implementation of the FP7 OA pilot.

The OpenAIRE guidelines are supplementary and built on top of the DRIVER Guidelines. Editors: Marnix van Berchum (SURFfoundation, the Netherlands) and Eloy Rodrigues (Universidade do Minho, Portugal).

Open access mandate adopted by V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine

The open access policy adopted by V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University mandates that all published journal articles and conference papers be deposited in the open access institutional repository [eKhNUIR](#) if there are no legal objections by publishers. eKhNUIR also encourages and fully supports self-archiving of other research output produced by scientists and students of the university as well as other members of the scientific community.

A call to the African Union to consider Open Access policies, publishing, and repositories

Is Open Access to information through libraries on the agenda at the African Union when it comes to assessing countries' development under the African Peer Review Mechanisms? – asks Matseliso M. (Tseli) Moshoeshe-Chadzingwa, National University of Lesotho, EIFL country coordinator in Lesotho and EIFL Advisory Board member, in [her paper](#) presented at the [76th IFLA General Conference and Assembly](#), 10-15 August 2010, Gothenburg, Sweden.

From the abstract: Is the issue of Open Access to information through libraries part of business for the African Union (AU) when it comes to assessing countries' performance under the African Peer Review Mechanisms (APRM)? Whereas the scope of this review is limited as on record it focuses on three areas, namely politics, economics and good governance, in fact individual countries are free to incorporate relevant cross-cutting issues, such as HIV/AIDS, gender, or information access. The paper indicates that although technically speaking the matter of Open Access might in some regions be more of a librarians' preoccupation, they should not remain indifferent but rather seize the opportunity to influence others, such as researchers and political leaders, on the relevance of Open Access in the business of the APRM. A brief is given on the prevailing situation in Africa, as well as relevant factors to be addressed, as positively and/or negatively affecting how Open Access becomes part of the APRM processes.

6. Update on EIFL-FOSS

EIFL-FOSS Programme Update

Simon Ball (EIFL-FOSS programme manager) has been gathering input to help shape the next phase of the EIFL-FOSS programme. He shared early drafts of the EIFL-FOSS 18-month workplan with EIFL-FOSS coordinators, sought feedback from EIFL board members, and held sessions at the EIFL General Assembly.

Thank you to everyone who contributed! It was heartening to see such a wealth of ideas and passion for FOSS in libraries and we look forward to working together to make these ideas reality.

Findings

Two areas of priorities emerged:

1. FOSS library system tools. Following on from the EIFL-FOSS ILS Case Studies in Malawi, Armenia, Mali, Zimbabwe and Nepal, interest was expressed in investigating tools to perform some of the other key tasks in digital libraries, such as Link Resolvers and Federated Search Systems. In addition, several people wanted to see the creation of a 'comparison matrix' resource, highlighting the key features of each tool, so that a library, after determining the key criteria for their context could then use the matrix to select the appropriate tool. The creation of this kind of resource will

provide one major strand of the FOSS Program, and more details of how countries can get involved will emerge later in September.

2. Guidance and resources to advocate for FOSS. In the EIFL network we have many library directors who fully grasp the benefits of FOSS, but there are some library directors, managers, and other decision-makers who do not, and who do not have the time to unpack technical recommendations. So we will work on producing skills training and guidance for librarians and technical staff to help them to communicate the 'right' messages in the 'right' way to directors and decision-makers.

Other Projects

We are exploring many other options and will continue to be grateful for further suggestions as time progresses. We are investigating the potential for work on FOSS for plagiarism detection, FOSS mobile phone technologies, FOSS to support disabled library staff and users and so on.

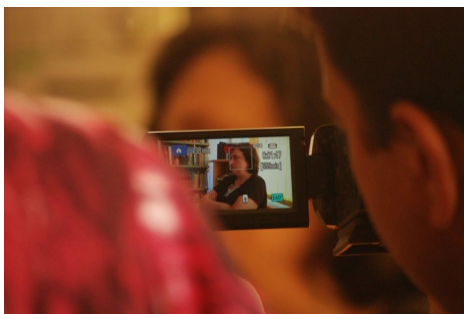
Background: Data gathering at the GA

A session with over 30 country delegates was held. The group was subdivided into regional groupings with a Europe group chaired by Tigran Zargaryan from Armenia, and an Africa / Asia group chaired by Abda Anne from Mali. The groups were asked to provide responses to areas of library operation where the possibilities for FOSS could be investigated, and tips for successful advocacy for FOSS to library directors. Their feedback was added live to a web-based document (using Titanpad: a FOSS web tool allowing multiple simultaneous contributions to a single document) where it can still be viewed (www.titanpad.com/eiflfoss).

7. Update on EIFL-PLIP

We are happy to start sharing stories of PLIP funded projects. Although they are just in their 5th month of implementation, results of their activities are already making a change in their communities.

Bosnian public library provides support for young people to create a documentary film



When a group of young people with no prior experience in filmmaking decided they wanted to create a documentary film, they turned to their public library for support. The Zavidovići Public Library Youth Center offered them a place where they could meet and work on the film and through the internet and Facebook seek support for their project.

In their film (“Tririjeke”/“Three Rivers”) they offer their creative response to the crisis and despair that surrounds them. Their community has been hit hard by the economic crisis and a large factory that has supported the community for over 120 years will soon close, resulting in 2000 workers losing their jobs. The entire town depends on this factory and the future doesn't look bright.

However, these young people recognized the natural beauty of their region with three rivers surrounding their town, and through their film they hope to promote tourism development and related economic activities to help support their community in the future.

Thus far, their project has developed quite a following (for example over 800 friends on their Facebook page, Tririjeke, <http://bit.ly/dvPnYB>) and it has also gotten media attention. We wish them success in their endeavor!

Background

The Zavidovići Public Library Youth Center is an EIFL-PLIP funded project to create and support a Multimedia Center for young people at the new location - bus stop -where school children wait long hours after school to go home..

Libraries and health services team up to build healthy communities



“Health workers and librarians can disseminate information to the public as a team. It is important to share resources and collaborate with other stakeholders in service provision.”

- *Workshop participant’s feedback*

As a result of an EIFL-PLIP funded project, librarians and health workers have started to work together to improve the health of communities in two towns in Kenya.

The Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) project works through a combination of technology and capacity building. With EIFL support, the KNLS has installed 10 new computers in each of the two libraries, specifically for use by health workers. The capacity building, a participatory process designed and facilitated by Healthlink Worldwide, brought together eight health workers and six librarians from Eldoret and Kisumu, and got them thinking about how to work together to improve community health.

At the start of the workshop, the librarians and health workers “were at a loss as to why they were in the same room, and wondered whether there was any commonality between them,” according to Healthlink Worldwide’s Africa Programme Manager, Mr James Kimani.

The workshop opened their eyes to the benefits of working together.

“They discovered that they needed each other to make their work successful. Many health workers admitted having grossly underestimated the skills of librarians before the workshop. Health workers produce information materials and do not consider libraries as a dissemination point. In turn, librarians did not consider health workers as an avenue for the dissemination of health information contained in their libraries,” Mr Kimani reported.

Since the workshop, according to KNLS, the number of doctors and health workers visiting the libraries has increased in the two branches. They expect numbers to rise further as the project progresses – particularly as publicity and marketing pick up. The project has already attracted the attention of a local radio station in Eldoret, which interviewed a librarian and is now encouraging all health workers to use the new library e-health information centres.

The workshop also increased the librarians’ and health workers’ computer skills and online research skills. It introduced them to online resources and databases, for example, the international health information support centre, Source (www.asksource.info), which is a rich source of free downloadable information and learning.

Background

The KNLS project, which aims to set up e-health information centres in two KNLS branch libraries, is part of EIFL’s Public Library Innovation Programme. Working in partnership with the health communication NGO, Healthlink Worldwide, KNLS have launched e-health information centres in libraries in Eldoret and Kisumu.

The EIFL team

www.eifl.net

twitter.com/eIFLnet

facebook.com/eIFL.net