

KENYA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE (knls)

Kenya National Library Service (Knls) Board is a State Corporation under the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports, and The Arts.



Justification

It was noted that

‘Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities’.

With this in mind, the Knls Board thought it best to come up with strategies that would ensure that public libraries were a one stop shop for information seekers through the adoption of technology as a focal point in the information and knowledge sharing platforms. Tech in libraries remains the standard for any futuristic library!

ICT Upgrade in Public Libraries in Kenya

- Knls partnered with Communication Authority (CA) in connecting all public libraries in Kenya with ICT infrastructure and equipment comprising of:-
 - a) 10 computers and servers for library management software (koha) in 56 knls centres.
 - b) LAN cabling, Wi-Fi access point links, power and backup solutions.
 - c) 56 all in one printer/scanner and consumer accessories .
 - d) 56 data card printers for library member registration.
 - e) Solar installation to 8 remote community libraries, and assistive technology for PLWD software in all the centres.
 - f) Managed internet connection of at least 10mbps per branch for 5 years.



Impact of the Partnership

- Knls has introduced training programs to varied clients i.e. the youth, PLWDs, women, children, and the vulnerable in society who desire to have basic digital skills.
- Knls has been able to attract new partners and funders that include but are not limited to:
Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL)-A partnership that has seen knls staff being capacity built in various thematic areas, for example, mobile information literacy, design thinking, communication and advocacy among many others.
- World Reader with a give of over 3000 kindles with content to 61 knls centers.
- Mobile devices i.e tablets ,kio Kits and refurbish ment of mobile phones dubbed Laibu mkononi
- Managed wireless connectivity where community can Bring their own devices

Impact of the Partnership

- United States Embassy-With revamped American corner at Knls Nakuru that includes physical library upgrade equipped with at least 40 state of the art machines, 30 chrome books, tablets and Wi-Fi access points.
- Sports Funds through the Parent Ministry-One of its kind virtual library project that has 3 components: Virtual library, data center and the digitization lab.

Impact of the Partnership

The Knls Virtual Library developed Vtabu platform enables access to information materials ubiquitously which is a futuristic aspect of the library of the future.

The data center offers centralized access to library services by Cloud hosting for use across the network.

The digitization lab is focused on the digitization of rare collections and manuscripts that can be accessed through the Vtabu platform.

Shortcomings to Overcome

- The knls network needs an upgrade of computers, equipment and accompanying accessories.
- There is need to ensure that staff are continuously capacity built to be able to champion, market and encourage use of the Vtabu/online platform through aggressive change management sessions.
- Virtual Learning in demand by the population
- Support to purchase additional e-content and resources.(digital content harnessing)
- There is need to increase the bandwidth across all networks.

Impact: online vtabu portal

The screenshot shows the vtabu online portal search results page. At the top left is the vtabu logo with the tagline "access anywhere anytime - knls virtual library". To the right is a search bar containing "All" and "Search content" with a magnifying glass icon. Further right are links for "Library", a shopping cart icon with "0" items, and buttons for "Login" and "Register".

The main content area has a dark header with the word "Search" in white. Below this, the page displays "Found 68 search results". On the left side, there is a "Subjects" sidebar with a list of categories: Computer science, Philosophy (selected), Religion, Social sciences, Language, Science, Technology, Arts, Literature, History, Fiction, Rare Content, Government Publication, and Any Subjects.

On the right side, there are filters for "Sortby" (set to "Latest") and "10 Records". The search results are displayed in a grid of six items, each with a book cover, title, author, and a "Membership" badge. The items are:

- COMMON REASONS** by Murori Kiunga. Title: "Common reasons why start-up businesses fail and what you can do about it". Rating: 0.0/5.
- Student Unrest and Education Governance in Secondary Schools in Kenya** by P.T. Nyamira. Title: "Student unrest and Education Governance in Secondary Schools in Kenya". Rating: 0.0/5.
- Personality Development** by Murori Kiunga. Title: "Little Birds ECDE Teacher Education". Rating: 0.0/5.
- THE WINNING HABITS** by Murori Kiunga. Title: "The Winning habits". Rating: 0.0/5.
- UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL** by Murori Kiunga. Title: "Unleash your potential". Rating: 0.0/5.
- THE WINNING CHARACTER** by Murori Kiunga. Title: "The Winning character". Rating: 0.0/5.

Conclusion

Knls has been able to achieve so much in the past, and it can achieve so much more in the future. The Board is a firm proponent and believer in Helen Keller's words:

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much".

The Knls Board looks forward to doing so much more with you so that we are all able to build communities.



Thank you

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<https://www.vtabu.knls.ac.ke>