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PUBLIC LIBRARIES ADVANCING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA

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PUBLIC LIBRARY INNOVATION PROGRAMME

EIFL's Public Library Innovation Programme advances community development by enabling public libraries to implement innovative ideas that use technology to improve people's lives and livelihoods.

CONTENTS

COVER PHOTO: Children organized a flashmob to raise awareness about the dangers of tuberculosis as part of Kyrgyz Libraries Information Consortium's 'No to TB!' campaign, which reached communities through 190 libraries.

EAST KAZAKHSTAN OBLAST PUSHKIN LIBRARY (KAZAKHSTAN)

Service helps 55 young people find work and improve their income

LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER 2011
In less than a year (2011/12), the Youth IT-Yurt service helped 55 young people find jobs, start small businesses or improve their positions at work, and encouraged another 10 to enter colleges of further education. Training takes place in a yurt, a traditional tent used by Kazakh nomads, and combines ICT, career guidance, job-seeking and media skills with knowledge of Kazakh traditions and culture. The service has inspired two local authorities to set up e-learning centres in their areas. In 2012, the library was selected to manage roll-out of a major United Nations project to deliver ICT to 17 villages through public libraries.
http://bit.ly/1ezwHJk

NEW JOBS: The library's ICT and media skills training helped 55 young people find jobs, start small businesses or improve their positions at work.

"AT THE LIBRARY, I LEARNED HOW TO ADVERTISE MY SKILLS ON THE INTERNET. I SENT OUT RESUMES AND LOOKED FOR A JOB ONLINE. FORTUNE SMILED ON ME!"
KUANYSH DYUSUPOV, SUCCESSFUL JOB-SEEKER

READ INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTRE (NEPAL)

Empowerment training promotes women's independence

LAUNCHED IN 2010

The library's Capacity Building Initiative empowers women slum-dwellers living in Kathmandu, Nepal's capital city, by offering practical training in essential literacy, ICT and business skills, and by helping them earn money so that they are less dependent on their husbands. In just two years (2010/12), the library taught 70 women literacy and numeracy skills, and 122 ICT skills. Fifteen trainees have found good jobs and are now earning a living wage. Others have started small businesses. The library also offers short ICT courses for girls from government schools which do not have computers. Trainers are all volunteers, and women who progress to advanced level ICT volunteer to train the beginners. In 2013, the service won an EIFL Public Library Innovation Award for using ICT to empower women and girls.
http://bit.ly/1lZyMRD

VALUABLE SKILLS: Before coming to the library, Binita Saru was an office assistant, but she did not have computer skills. After ICT training at the library, she excelled at her job, and later found an even better job. She now teaches her colleagues valuable computer skills so that they too can progress at work.

"I AM HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO TEACH OTHERS. I AM ALSO HAPPY TO EARN BETTER INCOME!"
BINITA SARU, LIBRARY TRAINEE

AGYAULI COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND RESOURCE CENTRE (NEPAL)

Library uses ICT to provide practical answers to farmers' questions

LAUNCHED IN JUNE 2011

The library serves Nawalparasi district, where over 80% of people are small-scale farmers. It connects farmers to agricultural experts and answers their questions through the internet, radio and film. In less than a year (2011/12), the Practical Answers service received 995 questions on topics including organic farming, plant diseases and funding. Working with MEDICT (Mobilization for Education and Development through ICT) the library provides information relevant to the local context and builds farmers' ICT and business skills. In 2012 the service won an EIFL Public Library Innovation Award for contribution to economic wellbeing of the community.
http://bit.ly/1ndOcSt

INCREASED YIELDS: Mushroom farmers say their yields and incomes have increase as a result of Agyauli Community Library's ICT training and information service.

"I BOUGHT STATIONERY FOR MY CHILDREN AND PAID THEIR SCHOOL FEES WITH THE MONEY EARNED FROM VEGETABLE FARMING."

FUL KUMARI MAHATO, LIBRARY TRAINEE

KYRGYZ LIBRARIES INFORMATION CONSORTIUM (KLIC) (KYRGYZSTAN)

Libraries mobilize communities to say 'No to TB!'

LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER 2011
KLIC set up TB information corners in 190 libraries and trained over 800 'No to TB!' campaigners – teachers, pupils, parents, social workers, journalists and librarians – who reached thousands of people in villages and towns across Chui province in less than a year (2011/12). 'No to TB!' campaigners use library ICT, including a TB web-portal which attracted over 7,000 visitors in 2012, and KLIC's 'No to TB!' e-resources repository, to support their campaigns. The service has demonstrated the power of a public library network in supporting a major national government health campaign.
http://bit.ly/1sFJ5zP

HEALTHY ADVICE: Young 'No to TB!' campaigners organized a flashmob to inform people about the dangers of TB and how to prevent it.

"THANKS TO THE LIBRARIANS AND THEIR ADVICE, AND THE DOCTORS, WE WERE ABLE TO OVERCOME THIS DISEASE."
JUKOV FAMILY, NOVO-POKROVKA VILLAGE

LVEATE CENTRESTONE PUBLIC LIBRARY (CAMBODIA)

Oral history project ends the silence about the brutal regime of Pol Pot

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2010

This oral history project trained librarians to interview Lveate villagers about their experiences under the brutal regime of Pol Pot (1975-79), a period which is remembered for mass executions, unjust imprisonment, forced labour and starvation. The project aims to end the silence about the regime and encourage understanding between the generations. In 2010/11, the library collected 115 interviews with villagers. Inspired by the project, a donor funded construction of a film viewing room, where villagers, teachers and students now watch and discuss the interviews.
http://bit.ly/1qqAnUJ

LIVING HISTORY: Students, villagers and teachers watch and discuss filmed interviews with survivors of the brutal Pol Pot regime in the library's new film viewing room.

ULAANBAATAR CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY (MONGOLIA)

Successful library talking books service sparks change in the law

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2010

This service is so successful that in 2012 the government has changed the Social Welfare Law to include digital book readers as a legal entitlement for all visually impaired people in Mongolia. The library records books into DAISY (digital) format and teaches people to use digital readers. Before the service, no visually impaired people were visiting rural libraries, but after just one year (2010/11), 21 rural libraries reported an average of three visitors a day. Book titles include vocational skills manuals, and the service is helping visually impaired people into employment and further education.
http://bit.ly/1opmxza

TALKING BOOKS: Blind and visually impaired people of all ages are learning to use DAISY digital talking book readers through Ulaanbaatar Public Library's service.

ABOUT

EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries) is an international not-for-profit organisation dedicated to enabling access to knowledge through libraries in more than 60 developing and transition countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

The EIFL Public Library Innovation Programme (EIFL-PLIP) helps connect communities in developing countries to information through public libraries by supporting creation of innovative public library services.

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