**PUBLIC LIBRARIES
PREPARING CHILDREN AND YOUTH
FOR THE FUTURE**

eifl 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 from Kibera, the biggest slum in eastern Africa, learn to use tablet computers to improve their knowledge of difficult school subjects in Kibera Public Library. Photo by Elaisha Stokes.

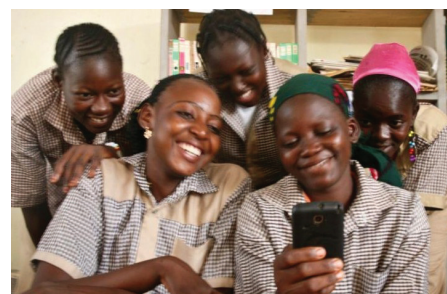# FRIENDS OF AFRICAN VILLAGE LIBRARIES (BURKINA FASO)

Library smart phones connect teenagers to heath information

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2014

Four village libraries in Tuy Province are teaching teenage girls to use smart phones to access health information online. Adolescent and sexual health issues are part of the school curriculum, but in some more traditional rural areas teachers are uncomfortable talking about these subjects. "Village libraries are non-threatening environments where girls can feel free to have discussions and ask questions," said Krystle Austin, programme manager. At each library, librarians and midwives are organizing girls' health clubs. In the clubs, girls are learning to use smart phones to research the internet; to create short e-books about health issues, and to set up a health blog and share information with their peers.
http://bit.ly/1qqFfJi

HEALTH CLUBS: Teenage girls in rural villages learn to use smart phones to access health information through the 'Girls Mobile Health Clubs' project.

CODE-ETHIOPIA (ETHIOPIA)

Community libraries tackle pre-school and family literacy

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2014

Three rural community libraries are helping to tackle the desperate need for early literacy development in Ethiopia by creating e-books for pre-school children, and by promoting family literacy. "Ethiopia lacks mother-tongue reading materials for children, and parents do not have experience of reading with their children," said Mr Tesfaye Dubale, Executive Director of CODE-Ethiopia, which is leading the project. CODE-Ethiopia will publish 12 new e-books for pre-school children; of these, six will be written by local librarians and based on community life and customs. Librarians are also being trained to offer regular family literacy sessions in which parents and children read together.
http://bit.ly/1kwX49e

FAMILY LITERACY: Three rural libraries are creating e-books for pre-school children and organizing family literacy classes where parents can read with their children.

GHANA LIBRARY AUTHORITY / NORTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY (GHANA)

Library training programme builds young leaders

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2010

The library's Internet Access and Training Programme links ICT and leadership training for vulnerable, unemployed youth. In just one year (2010/11), the library trained 190 youth (125 women and 65 men). Librarians report that because of their ICT training, some trainees returned to school; some signed up for driving lessons, and others are working in internet cafés or teaching part time to raise money for further study. The library is now a recognized player in local development, hosting monthly public lectures and debates to deepen understanding about the value of ICT in addressing community needs in areas like health, the local economy, women's empowerment and education.
http://bit.ly/1ztofYY

YOUNG LEADERS: ICT and leadership skills training in Northern Regional Library is helping build young people's technology, confidence and communication skills.

GHANA LIBRARY AUTHORITY / VOLTA REGIONAL LIBRARY

Mobile library's hands on computer classes for rural schools

LAUNCHED IN APRIL 2012

The library's mobile service takes low voltage laptop computers to five schools in under-developed parts of Ho Municipality in Volta Region so that children can get hands on computer experience. The van is equipped with solar power to charge the laptops and wi-fi internet. In two years, (2012/14), the library taught 350 students how to use computers, increasing their potential to pass their exams. The service attracted additional funding and technology support from the local technology agency, Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communication (GIFEC), which donated five desktop computers, additional solar panels, a canopy for outdoor lessons, desks and chairs. It also attracted over US$5,000 from individual donors through the online funding platform, GlobalGiving.
http://bit.ly/1iZYE4E

HANDS-ON: Children in rural schools that do not have computers or electricity get hands on experience through Volta Regional Library's mobile computer classes.

BUSIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY (KENYA)

Library tablet computers help children improve their marks at school

LAUNCHED IN APRIL 2012

The library's Watoto kwa Watoto project (Children for Children) created a colourful and attractive space for children in the library, and uses six tablet computers to help children to study and overcome challenges in passing exams. Guided by Minimally Invasive Education theory, in which children learn to use technology in a minimally supervised environment, librarians encourage the children to use tablet computers to access the educational content, to research the internet and to play educational games. After just a few months (2012/13), the children's school test results in science, mathematics, social and religious studies, Kiswahili and English improved. "The learners are exposed to a variety of learning materials. They gain new knowledge every time they interact with learners from other schools. This programme is building them academically and socially," said Ms Mercy Musungu, head teacher at Bugengi Primary School. *http://bit.ly/1ndVYfj*

LEARNING FUN: Children use tablet computers at Busia Community Library to access educational content linked to the school curriculum and to play educational games.

KENYA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE / BURUBURU PUBLIC LIBRARY (KENYA)

Mobile digital library brings the magic of stories to children

LAUNCHED IN AUGUST 2011

The library's 'mobile digital librarian' brings the magic of e-books to hospitals, young offenders' institutions, child care centres and schools, reaching hundreds of children who have limited educational opportunities and do not have access to books. The mobile service includes a laptop, a modem to connect to the internet, an LCD projector and speakers. The librarian downloads stories from online libraries that provide free e-books and educational resources for children. Enlarged text is projected to a screen, and the librarian guides the children through the stories. "It is as though each of the children had their own copy of the book!" said a care centre child minder. In 2014 the service won an EIFL Public Library Innovation Award for creative use of ICT in public libraries. *http://bit.ly/1jxagNi*

KENYA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE /
KIBERA PUBLIC LIBRARY (KENYA)

Library tablet computers support education in slum schools

LAUNCHED IN APRIL 2012
The library uses tablet computers pre-loaded with educational content linked to the school curriculum to help schoolchildren from under-resourced schools in Kibera, the biggest slum in eastern Africa, to improve their school results. Librarians teamed up with the educational agency, eLimu, which creates digital educational material in fun formats, including animations, film and puzzles. Working with eLimu, the library taught 120 children and 48 teachers to use the tablets to access the material and research the internet. To assess the children's progress, librarians organized games and quizzes. More than half of the children interviewed in a library survey said the programme had helped improve their English, mathematics and science. Kenya National Library Service has received a grant from an international NGO to replicate the programme in three more branch libraries.
http://bit.ly/W30qbJ

FUN FORMATS: Children from slum schools use tablet computers to access educational material in fun formats like video, puzzles and quizzes at Kibera Public Library.

"SINCE THE STUDENTS ATTENDED TABLET COMPUTER TRAINING, THEY HAVE SHOWN GREAT IMPROVEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN ENGLISH, AND THIS HAS INFLUENCED THEIR OTHER SUBJECTS."
LAWRENCE WANJI, TEACHER, KIBERA

KENYA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE / KISUMU PUBLIC LIBRARY (KENYA)

Library's video conferencing project connects rural schools

LAUNCHED IN OCTOBER 2011

Schools hundreds of kilometres apart in remote areas of western Kenya and across the border in Uganda are engaging in lively interschool debates, quizzes and spelling competitions through this public library's smart phone, laptop and video conferencing service. Few rural schools have internet connections, and so the library connects to the internet through the mobile phone network. The library provides technology training for teachers and pupils. "This has opened up a new chapter in my teaching career! I have never seen such technology before!" said Ms Rosemary Mutakha, English teacher at Shikalakala primary school. In 2014 the service won an EIFL Public Library Innovation Award for creative use of ICT in public libraries.

http://bit.ly/1jxagNi

VIDEO CONFERENCE: Kisumu High School pupils take part in a multi-school video conference organized by the library. When large groups of children take part, schools use projectors to magnify images and speakers to amplify sound.

MASIPHUMELELE PUBLIC LIBRARY (SOUTH AFRICA)

ICT and careers training links unemployed youth to opportunities

LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER 2011

In just one year (2011/12), Masiphumelele Community Library helped 20 vulnerable young people find jobs and encouraged another 31 to enter further education. The library's ICT training and employment information service trained 1,540 beginner and 48 intermediate ICT students, all from Masiphumelele, an impoverished informal settlement near Cape Town. The service, is building young people's skills, confidence and employability: "The library has changed my life because I am learning and I will get a certificate instead of just sitting at home doing nothing," said Sikhumbuzo Tsobo, one of the library's ICT trainees.

http://bit.ly/1gq521F

CAREER PATHS: The library's ICT and careers training is helping place vulnerable youth on positive career paths.

TANZANIA LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD (TANZANIA)

ICT to break the silence about adolescent sexual health

LAUNCHED IN JULY 2012

Cultural barriers prevent many parents from speaking openly to their children about sex and sexuality. Without the right information, teenagers experience confusion as they journey through adolescence, and are at risk of unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortions and contracting sexually transmitted diseases. Working through the National Central Library in Dar es Salaam, and in partnership with the non-governmental organization, Femina HIP, Tanzania Library Services Board (TLSB) breaks the silence through access to internet resources, ICT skills training, and offering lectures by experts in adolescent sexual health. In less than a year (2012/13), the service reached 104 teenagers in three schools. "We value this training. Sexual and Reproductive Health Training is necessary for the children, as many children are sexually active – but do not have awareness," said Aneth Laswai, a teacher.
http://bit.ly/1hoe26T

KAWEMPE YOUTH CENTRE (UGANDA)

Financial literacy and ICT training improve young people's chances in life

LAUNCHED IN MARCH 2011

A registered community library, Kawempe Youth Centre won an EIFL Public Library Innovation Award in 2012 for library services that contribute to economic wellbeing of the community. The library's service includes ICT, business and financial literacy training – all desperately needed skills in Kawempe, a densely populated division of Kampala where an estimated one in five people is unemployed. In just over a year (2011/12), the library trained 90 young people. Over a quarter of the trainees reported having opened bank accounts; several started small businesses and others entered vocational training courses.
http://bit.ly/1kKQ7xS

OWN BUSINESS: After attending training at Kawempe Youth Centre, Babirye Gorretti started her own computer school which she runs as a small business in Kawempe.
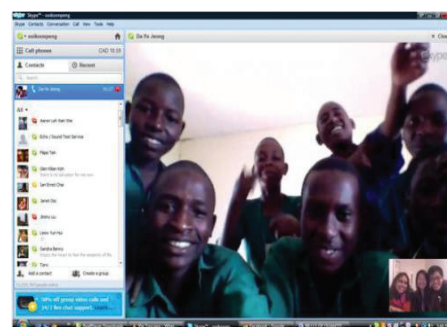
KITENGESA COMMUNITY LIBRARY (UGANDA)

Including the deaf among those who hear

LAUNCHED IN 2012

Kitengesa Community Library is playing a vital role in ending the isolation of deaf children, who for the first time are sharing space with regular library users, learning to use ICT, playing games, using Skype and taking extra English language classes. The library reaches out to Good Samaritan School for the Deaf, where over 100 boarding and day students have enrolled for primary education and vocational skills training. Until 2012, Good Samaritan students were isolated from the community. Few Ugandans know sign language, and even within their own families, deaf children may be regarded as mentally retarded. Now, about 20 students from Good Samaritan visit the library every week. To help overcome prejudice, the library also works with family members, schools and local institutions like hospitals and the police service. In 2013, the service won an EIFL Public Library Innovation Award for library services contributing to social inclusion in the community.
http://bit.ly/1optHDD

NEW FRIENDS: Children from Good Samaritan School for the Deaf use the online communication tool Skype to communicate with new friends in Canada.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF UGANDA, LIRA AND MASINDI PUBLIC LIBRARIES (UGANDA)

Mobile phone employment alert service helps young people find jobs

LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER 2011

In just six months, this partnership between three public libraries trained 560 vulnerable unemployed youth to use ICT, built a database of information about the skills, talents and career dreams of over 1,000 youth and sent out over 5,000 mobile phone text messages alerting young people to further education opportunities, scholarships and jobs. In addition to training and the SMS alert service, the libraries offer free access to ICT. Young people are flocking to the libraries – especially in the more rural towns of Lira and Masindi – to sign up for the service, and librarians report that numbers of library users increased by 30% in 2012.
http://bit.ly/1turcbh

UGANDA COMMUNITY LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION (UGANDA)

Technology camps for children promote healthy lifestyles

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2014

Five rural community libraries are organizing health and technology camps to increase children's knowledge about sensitive sexual health issues and healthy nutrition. "In a country where HIV/AIDS and malnutrition still claim many lives, there is a desperate need for information – especially among young adolescents," said Ms Brenda Musasizi, project coordinator. The libraries, all members of the Uganda Community Libraries Association (UgCLA), are working closely with secondary schools and community organizations. Youth who attend the camps are encouraged to share knowledge with their siblings, parents and peers. After the camps, they are able to research the internet to update their knowledge and find new information. *http://bit.ly/1kcHdcC*

SENSITIVE QUESTIONS: Children feel free to ask questions about sensitive health issues at their local libraries' health camps.

LUBUTO LIBRARY PROJECT (ZAMBIA)

Computer–based literacy education for vulnerable children

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2010

Vulnerable children are learning literacy skills in mother-tongue through Lubuto Library Project's computer-based reading lessons in the major Zambian languages. The Lubuto Literacy lessons were created using the One Laptop per Child application Etoys, but they run on any computer platform. USAID awarded the Lubuto Library Project an All Children Reading grant to further evaluate, refine and disseminate the lessons, and Zambia's education ministry, through the Zambia Library Service, is partnering with Lubuto Library Project to extend library services throughout the country. *http://bit.ly/W3OOH2*

MOTHER-TONGUE: Children are learning to read and write through Lubuto Library Project's computer-based literacy lessons in seven Zambian languages.

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 library's 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

ZAVIDOVICI PUBLIC LIBRARY (BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA)

Youth corner where vulnerable children learn ICT and media skills

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2010

Concerned about the amount of time children were spending waiting at the bus station, where they were vulnerable to drug dealers and other risks, the library created a lively multi-media centre with computers, internet access, video cameras, a TV set and music players where children are now learning media skills. In 2011, librarians reported that the service was attracting hundreds of children. Out of 731 students who are members of the library, 452 (62%) are young commuters. Over 250 young people have attended classes and workshops. "I come to the Youth Corner before and after school. The opportunity to use the internet in the library means a lot to me because I am now able to find information and create high quality presentations for my class work," said Eldin Sinanović, a high school student. *http://bit.ly/1kKLN1F*

SAFE SPACE: The library's lively and attractive multi-media Youth Corner is a safe space for young commuters who have to wait long hours for buses to take them home from school

"AFTER THE LITTLE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM IN THE LIBRARY, I AM MORE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO STUDYING JOURNALISM THAN EVER BEFORE."

ALMIRA RIDŽAL, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IN ZAVIDOVICI

'LYUBEN KARAVELOV' REGIONAL LIBRARY (BULGARIA)

Fun financial literacy classes for young people

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2014
The library's Fun Financial Literacy project teaches children and youth how to spend their money wisely and to save for the future. With support from public and private sector partners including the municipality and banks, librarians teach children and youth aged up to 24 about family income, budgets, saving, spending, donating, investing and using automatic tellers (ATMs). The young trainees also learn to use ICT, including mobile technology, safely to make payments and transfers, and to keep financial records.
http://bit.ly/1rdpWoT

YOUNG SAVERS: The library teaches children and youth financial literacy skills and how to use technology effectively to keep financial records and conduct online transactions.

"FINANCIAL LITERACY AND THE ABILITY TO USE TECHNOLOGY EFFECTIVELY AND SECURELY ARE ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE."

TEODORA ETIMOVA, DIRECTOR OF LYUBEN KARAVELOV REGIONAL LIBRARY

RIJEKA CITY LIBRARY (CROATIA)

3D printing project turns library into youth 'makerspace'

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2014

The '3D Printing Incubator for Children and Youth' project has transformed the library into a community 'makerspace' – the first place in Rijeka to give young people free access to 3D printers so that they can learn to make toys, tools, ornaments, souvenirs and much more. "The aim is build young people's belief in themselves as creative beings," said Ms Gorana Tuskan Mihocic, head of the library. Children and youth aged up to 24 are being trained to use 3D design and modelling software and to operate two 3D printers, one for complex, professional designs; the other to print basic designs.
http://bit.ly/1oJQStT

YOUNG MAKERS: Children are learning to use 3D modelling and design software and 3D printers through the library's '3D Printing Incubator for Children and Youth' project.

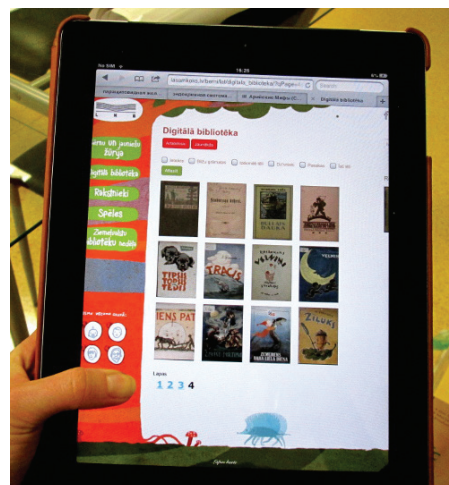## VALMIERA PUBLIC LIBRARY (LATVIA)

Social media app to make reading trendy for teenagers

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2014

The library's 'Read and get followers' project makes reading trendy with teenagers through a 'social reading' application (app) and by creating a special space in the library where teenagers will have free access to digital technology. The library uses the Fastr Books app which enables readers to create a digital library on smart phones or tablet computers. It also enables them to follow each other, chat about books, share opinions and compare their reading progress. At the forefront of the project are 15 young 'reading ambassadors' trained to use the app to promote reading and to become opinion leaders about books. In the library's modern 'Future Reading Room' teenagers will have free access to digital technology to make videos, write stories, play interactive games and read.
http://bit.ly/1kwWWql

SOCIAL READING: Valmiera Public Library uses a 'social reading app' for smart phones and tablet computers to encourage teenagers to read.

UTENA 'A. AND M. MISKINIAI' PUBLIC LIBRARY (LITHUANIA)

Educational computer game encourages reluctant pupils to return to school

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2010

In 2013, the library received funding to expand their innovative 'Play to Study' service, which includes an educational computer game, to more than 50 schools in nine municipalities, reaching 7,000 children. The funding represents major scale up of the service which was originally offered only in Utena District, where it reached 13 schools and 1,700 children. In 2010/11, the library worked with partners to develop the educational game, Iššūkis ('Challenge'), to encourage children who were avoiding school, but who were coming to the library during school hours, to reconnect with the school system. The game engages the children in tasks related to the school curriculum. At key points, to move forward, players must contact their teachers. It soon became extremely popular with all children and teachers reported that at some schools, over 80% of children had registered to play.
http://bit.ly/1ztlE1c

SUCCESSFUL GAME: Utena 'A. and M. Miskiniai' Public Library's innovative educational computer game inspired the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science to expand the game to include 50 schools, where it reaches 7,000 children.

PIEKARY SLASKIE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARY (POLAND)

Library uses gaming to spark youth passion for technology

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2014

The library's 'Programming of Curiosity' project for youth aged from 15 to 24 uses the educational technique of 'gamification' and digital tools to stimulate a passion for technology. "The technique of gamification uses the methods of games – like role-playing, competition, teamwork, and story creation – to change behaviour in non-game situations, and to increase motivation," explained Mrs Aleksandra Zawalska-Hawel, head of the library. Training includes theory and practice of computer programming, robotics, 3D design and modelling, and digital media skills like making videos and designing websites.

http://bit.ly/TT3JBd

INSPIRING PASSION: The library's project uses games and digital tools to stimulate young people's curiosity and passion for technology.

"YOUNG PEOPLE'S ICT KNOWLEDGE IS MOSTLY LIMITED TO FACEBOOK, COMPUTER GAMES AND BASIC SMART PHONE FUNCTIONS. THEY TOLD US THEY WOULD LOVE TO LEARN MORE."

ALEKSANDRA ZAWALSKA-HAWEL, HEAD OF PIEKARY SLASKIE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

'ALEXANDRU D. XENOPOL' ARAD COUNTY LIBRARY (ROMANIA)

'App library' builds teenagers' information and media literacy skills

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2014
This intensive public library training programme builds young people's critical thinking, media and e-literacy skills, and encourages them to use digital technology to produce and publish their own media. Titled 'App Library', the programme reaches out to teenagers aged 13 to 18 from gymnasiums (middle schools) and lyceums (high schools). "We are helping prepare youth for a future in which digital technology, media and information are increasingly important," explained Professor Florin Didilescu, head of the library. Training takes place in practical and interactive workshops led by librarians and teachers after school hours.
http://bit.ly/1lZCvi8

CRITICAL THINKERS: Teenagers improve their online research and critical thinking skills through Arad County Library's 'App Library' project.

"WE ARE HELPING PREPARE YOUTH FOR A FUTURE IN WHICH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY, MEDIA AND INFORMATION ARE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT."

PROFESSOR FLORIN DIDILESCU, HEAD OF ARAD COUNTY LIBRARY

PUBLIC LIBRARY 'DUSAN MATIC' CUPRIJA (SERBIA)

Library develops a new generation of technology experts

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2014

The library's Biblioteka++ project teaches children and youth aged from 10 to 24 basic and advanced computer coding skills, enabling them to develop useful problem solving software and web applications. "Many children learn programming at school, but after that they never write a single application. Programming language is just like spoken language: if you do not use it, you easily forget it. We make sure our trainees understand the value of what they have learnt by enabling them to build something useful for the real world," explained Mr Ivica Lazarević, Biblioteka++ manager. The library's main teaching tool is the LEGO Mindstorms EV3 robotics kit, which enables learners to build robots that are powered by tiny engines.
http://bit.ly/TT2ZvH

YOUNG PROGRAMMERS: The Biblioteka ++ maze helps students develop and test their computer programming skills.

"WE WILL MAKE SURE OUR STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF WHAT THEY HAVE LEARNT BY ENABLING THEM TO BUILD SOMETHING USEFUL FOR THE REAL WORLD."
IVICA LAZAREVIĆ, MANAGER OF THE BIBLIOTEKA++ PROJECT

BIBLIOTECA MUNICIPAL 'PABLO NERUDA' DE PADRE LAS CASAS (CHILE)

Ten libraries help young citizen journalists find their voice

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2014
This library project is training 30 young citizen journalists to produce media relevant to youth in 10 towns and villages in Chile's Araucanía Region. Araucanía is a primarily agricultural region; poverty is widespread. The majority of people living in the region are ethnic Mapuche, and the library's project addresses the interests of Mapuche youth who do not have space to express their views. The project works through a network of 10 public libraries. In addition to providing practical journalism and digital technology skills, the library is developing an interactive web-portal where young citizen journalists can upload their work, debate topical issues and communicate with their peers.
http://bit.ly/1w9t4SW

CITIZEN JOURNALISTS: Young citizen journalists are learning media skills so that they can produce and publish information relevant to youth in 10 towns and villages in Chile's Araucanía Region.

"YOUTH HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT MANY ISSUES. BUT THEY DO NOT HAVE SPACE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. OUR LIBRARIES ARE TAKING UP THIS CHALLENGE."
RUBÉN MARCELO CUEVAS SEPÚLVEDA, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

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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