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**TECHNOLOGY &
SOCIAL CHANGE GROUP**

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
Information School

Preliminary Activities of the Advancing Library Visibility in Africa Project

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3RD AFLIA CONFERENCE & 5TH AFRICAN LIBRARY
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Overview

Introduction

Library Sites Workstream

Development Stories Workstream

Future Plans

Introduction

Growing excitement about connections between libraries and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

However, the role of libraries is often unrealized

Perception problem – libraries do not frame their work in terms of development, and potential partners do not see the connection

How can public libraries overcome these perception issues and fully demonstrate their value as development partners?



Introduction



BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

- Collaboration between AfLIA and the Technology & Social Change Group (TASCHA) at the University of Washington
- Continues the legacy of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries (GL) initiative
- Goals shaped by GL advisory group
- Libraries as "central lifelong partners to the development of communities and the continent of Africa"
- Two primary workstreams – library sites and development stories

Library Sites - Method

- Participation in the 4th Africa Library Summit and 2nd AfLIA Conference in Cameroon in May 2017
- African Library Landscape study (2017-2018)
- Stakeholders' meeting in Ghana in March 2018
- Conclusion: geographic location and organizational information is a high priority
- Developed a Web application for collecting these data
- Pilot test – collected information about 28 libraries across 11 countries



Library Location

Click to add a point

Library Location

Click the map to locate your library. / Cliquez sur la carte pour localiser votre bibliothèque. / Clique no mapa para localizar sua biblioteca. / انقر فوق الخريطة لتحديد موقع المكتبة.

Click the map to draw the location.

Details / Détails / Detalhes / تفاصيل

Name of Library / Nom de la bibliothèque / Nome da biblioteca / اسم المكتبة (required)

Country / Pays / País / بلد (required)

Type of library / Type de bibliothèque / Tipo de biblioteca / نوع المكتبة

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, CC-BY-SA

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Library Sites - Methods



Library Location

1 selected / 190 records

Name of Library / Nom de la bibliothèque / Nome da l	Country / Pays / País	Type of Library / Type de bibliothèque / Tipo de B
KNLS NYILIMA LIBRARY	Kenya	Public Library / Bibliothèque publique / Biblioteca Pública
Ashanti Regional Library	Ghana	Public Library / Bibliothèque publique / Biblioteca Pública
JF Omenge Community Library & Info. Centre	Kenya	Community Library / Bibliothèque communautaire / Bibliote
Kenya National Library Service Nakuru	Kenya	Public Library / Bibliothèque publique / Biblioteca Pública
Upper West Regional Library, GhLA	Ghana	Public Library / Bibliothèque publique / Biblioteca Pública

LibraryLocation

Name of Library / Nom de la bibliothèque / Nome da Biblioteca: Ashanti Regional Library

Country / Pays / País: Ghana

Type of Library / Type de bibliothèque / Tipo de Biblioteca: Public Library / Bibliothèque publique / Biblioteca Pública

Other Library Type / Autre type de bibliothèque / Outro tipo de biblioteca: Community Library



Library Sites - Methods

Library Sites - Methods

In-country voluntary 'champions' support the project within their library networks

- Communication with local library staff - Phase 1
- Assistance with location reporting - Phase 2
- Quality assurance - data review and validation

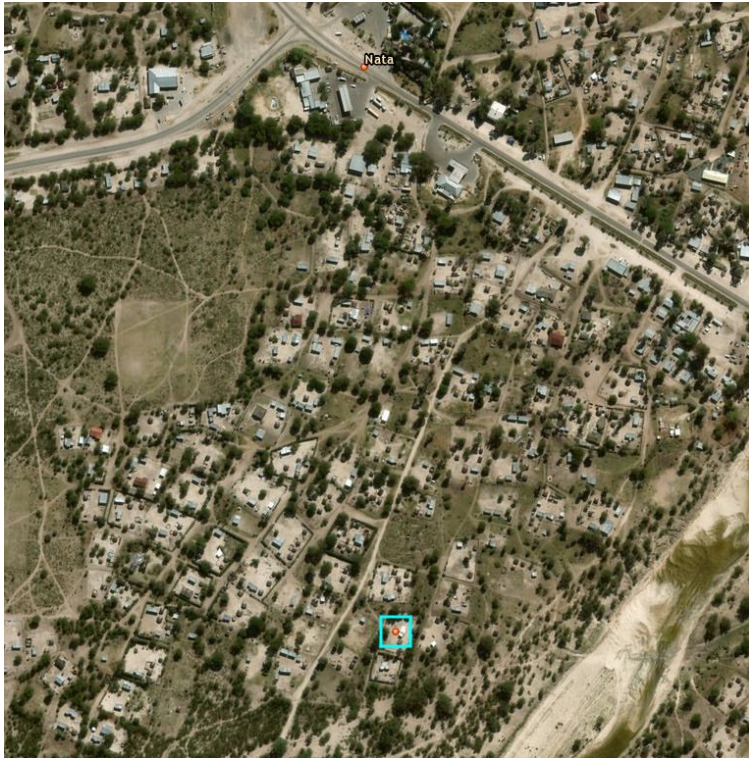
Deployed in Botswana, Ghana, and Kenya in January 2019

- Progress update as of May 2019:
 - 8 additional countries contributing data (Cameroon, Egypt, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, & Zambia)
 - 9 countries have received training and data submission is expected to begin shortly (Benin, Burkina Faso, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Mali, Senegal, Seychelles, Uganda & Zimbabwe)
 - 7 countries are scheduled for training (Angola, Burundi, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar)

Continue to refine the methodology

Library Sites - Challenges

- Internet access and quality can affect submission
- Technical and mapping abilities of the librarians
- Technical abilities of the Champions can impact effective provision of solutions to librarians
- Restrained support for Champions can slow process
- Difficulty assessing the accuracy of submissions



Library Sites - Challenges



nata library

Search Results

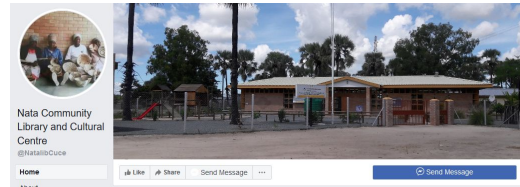
Results from [OpenStreetMap Nominatim](#)

[Building Library, 3., Nata, Central District, Botswana](#)

[Building Library, A3, Nata, Central District, Botswana](#)

Results from [GeoNames](#)

No results found



Library Sites - Challenges

Library Sites - Progress

Date	No. of Sites Approved	No. of Sites Pending	No. of Countries Submitting Data	No. of Countries Invited to Participate
Feb 2019	56	51	3	3
May 2019	186	81	11	38

Dataset is free, open, and available for download in a variety of formats

Updates to the dataset are currently provided every 2 weeks – more frequent updates planned if data submission rate increases

Download dataset here: <https://osf.io/entpf/>

Submissions are ongoing - stop by to learn how to submit your library

Development Stories

Goal: understand what types of data libraries can collect to better demonstrate their value as development partners

What data should libraries collect so that they can think more strategically about their role in development?

What data can they collect to better give voice to the local needs of the community members they support?

How can they weave these data into a persuasive story so that they are more visible to other development partners?

Preliminary list of countries for interviews: Angola, Egypt, Ghana, Namibia, Senegal, Uganda

Development Stories

Phase One: interview development organizations about the types of information they would require in order to consider libraries as partners

Phase Two: interview public librarians about their current data collection practices and capacity

Phase Three: develop data collection methods to overcome gaps between what development organizations want to see, and what libraries currently collect

This will provide libraries with tools and data to think more strategically about how they engage with the development sectors to further their own mission

Future Ideas & Plans

Perform geospatial analysis with library sites data

Increased involvement and training of library staff for data collection efforts

Utilize location data to build out open data available about libraries

Launch a sustainable open access dedicated platform for library sites

Workshops that bring libraries and development partners together in dialogue

Build out AfLIA's technical infrastructure for future data collection efforts

Conclusion

- Collaboration between AfLIA and the University of Washington
- Explores how libraries can better demonstrate their role as development partners
- Library sites workstream is putting libraries on the map
- Development stories workstream identifies key data collection needs for development partnerships
- Primary goal is to develop data and tools that benefit public and community librarians - these tools can be adapted or utilized by other types of libraries

Thank you!

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