Lubuto: preserving Zambia indigenous collections

By Mubanga Lumpa and Jabulani Moyo

TALKING Information is so powerful, we have opportunity to talk to the founder and President of Lubuto Librarian Project June Kinney Meyers, a lifetime member of the Library and Information Association of Zambia (LIAZ, formerly Zambia Library Association) who passionated about this intellectual, cultural and heritage becomes not only the respect children tend to grow up with a poor reading desire but they would rather be entertained by playing video games or watching cartoons on TVs. This then perpetuates their poor reading skills thereby growing up with a poor reading culture and establishment of libraries in rural areas.

Lubuto Library Project has implemented a project called “Mumuni Mumuni Library” in NBCakuwa village, while working in Lubuto Library Project aims to encourage an integrated library programming is very active in identifying their open access spaces libraries in various areas. Traditional architecture is one unique feature of Lubuto Libraries as they are not housed in a modern type of buildings but are round huts with grass thatched roofs to reflect the Zambia indigenous design that looks like a village type of a house. These building house a whole range of literature including stories/fiction of tales/myth, poetry, plays, proverbs, informational books including references, geography, health, life and concepts, culture, art, games, mathematics, science, nature and technology and so on. One interesting feature of this collection is the Zambian language story books of which most of them are out of print and nonexistent in schools or libraries.

“Let’s read Zambia” policy education we need in order literature available in all schools such as in Lubuto Library collection. But the biggest challenge is that many indigenous literatures are inaccessible because they were not been preserved due to inadequate libraries in place. And a library in this respect is said to be a repository of wisdom of great libraries of the past and the present. It is a social institution that fulfills the responsibility of disseminating knowledge to the people without any discrimination. The holdings of the libraries are the priceless heritage of mankind as they preserve facts, ideas, thoughts, accomplishments and evidences of human intellectual and moral capacities in various areas, ages & directions. The past records constitute a national resource invaluable to the present generation as well as the future generations. They loss to such materials is simply incomparable. In regard to this intellectual, cultural heritage incomparable to the academic commitment but also the moral responsibility of the librarians / information scientists, who are in charge of these repositories.

The Lubuto library collects every material they get their hands on be it in English or Zambia local language. For instance there are more than 38 Zambian story books written by Zambians, the first 38 titles were discovered, uncatalogued, in the pamphlet files of the Africa and Middle East Reading Room of the U. S. Library of Congress, and were scanned by volunteers who worked at the library. Lubuto’s Library ideals and digitize these Zambian stories which are long out of print but preserved in their original print forms in libraries worldwide. Such Zambian stories/ as well as in Zambia schools and households. Another large number of additional titles were identified in Lubuto’s collections in Boston University’s African Studies Library and added them to their collection. That is why the Lubuto libraries have in stock.

The Lubuto Library collections are Ze patsezi Malilungu (1954) by D. Chibwela, Shibuta, Sibhumbi Chambudzidzwa (1997) by T. K. Mwanza, Sibweta, Zambian literature (1952) by Vayas Chiman (1969) by Mwiinga Bruno, Jabulani Moyo. For comments send to talkinginformation.liaz@gmail.com

PUBLICATION OF DECEMBER 2014 RESULTS

The Centre Africain de Documentation College wishes to inform all the students that the December examination results have been released from Monday the 27th January 2014

We are therefore requesting all the students to make necessary arrangements to collect them, before the new semester commences.

Results will be sent to all students living outside Lusaka

NOTE: All students interested in our outstanding balances.

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