

NAVIGATOR: COLORADO LIBRARIES AND THE WORLD

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**INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE
INTEREST GROUP / COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARIES**

Laptops to Lesotho Building Dreams

Kokobe Primary School is located in the lowlands of Lesotho, Africa. Kokobe is a very small village drawing students from many surrounding villages. Currently, Kokobe Primary School serves 200 students in seven grade levels with only three classrooms.

Laptops to Lesotho (L2L) has been working with the school since 2012. Students and teachers have learned how to use the XO Laptop through training offered by L2L. The laptops have provided supplemental practice in math, language arts, and more. L2L will be making improvements and upgrades to the existing L2L education project at Kokobe Primary School. The XO Laptops will be available for another village to use and the school will be receiving 40 Kindle Fires. The Fires will be able to access a server that will be loaded with educational material.

The teachers asked if L2L would be able to help them build an additional classroom/library. A dedicated space for the use of the tablets will add to the success of the project. The classroom will be equipped with a permanent solar-powered electrical system including deep cell batteries for power storage and outlets for charging inside the classroom. The new

classroom will also provide space for a library, which the school currently does not have.

Our ultimate goal is to improve educational quality, enhance the development of advanced cognitive skills, encourage more student attendance and participation, and increase the overall academic achievements of students at Kokobe Primary School.

The teachers' request is well on its way to becoming a reality. The floor, walls, and roof of the classroom are in place. Windows, doors, and solar panels will be installed soon.

If you would like to be involved in this project, please contact Kathy Plath at plathkathy@gmail.com



Left to right, Top to bottom: Groundbreaking; Foundation taking shape; Preparing to pour the floor; View from the front.

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Save the dates:

- CALCON 2020 Virtual, September 10-12, 2020
- ALA Midwinter, Indianapolis, IN: January 22-26, 2021 Virtual
- ALA Annual, Chicago, June 24-29, 2021
- IFLA WLIC, Rotterdam, Netherlands, Aug 19-26, 2021

Responding to COVID-19 at the San Juan del Sur Biblioteca in Nicaragua

Pivot. It is a word used frequently as the COVID-19 virus has wreaked havoc across the many nations of the world, including in our partner country of Nicaragua where the San Juan del Sur Biblioteca is located. Just as the library was grappling with a new normal after months of country-wide dissent, COVID-19 reared its ugly head, curtailing services to all who were in need including the library and the mobile library project that brought books to the nearby school.

Under the leadership of the Founder and Director of the Hester J. Hodgdon Libraries for All Foundation, Jane Mirandette, the Biblioteca pivoted and with its partners responded on two very different but important fronts: providing food and sanitation supplies to those in need and printing specialized face shields for medical personnel or other essential workers utilizing the recently installed 3-D printer.

Canastas (basic need care baskets)



With funds channeled through the HJH Foundation and a Facebook fundraiser, the Foundation purchased supplies for care baskets. Included were essentials such as rice, beans, toilet paper, bleach, soap, and cloth masks for 25 families in the San Juan del Sur area. Detailed instructions on safe practices for COVID-19 protection were included in the baskets. These families include people who have disabilities that prevent them from working and widows, many of whom are recipients of the San Juan del Sur Biblioteca's annual Christmas supply baskets. The baskets will continue to be distributed monthly until the need abates.

A similar service was provided to a rural community in Masatepe, outside of Managua, where the impact of the virus is stronger. Over 80 families received supplies. Biblioteca staff practiced social distancing and wore masks.

Face Shields

With utmost precaution, the Biblioteca curtailed library services to the public and followed recommended practices of social distancing, wearing face masks, refusing book donations, and quarantining returned library materials for a minimum of 72 hours.

Once again, they pivoted in order to provide services to the community by making and distributing face shields, cloth masks, and instructions on their use. The headbands for the shields are created on the library's 3D printers. Clear sheets of plastic are cut to fit and attached to the headbands. These, coupled with cloth masks, provide maximum protection to essential workers who may come in contact with those who have been exposed to the virus. Eighty masks were manufactured and offered for sale at cost or given to health care workers.



New Normal

As the number of cases of COVID-19 increased, the Biblioteca closed to the public until a time that the number decreases, but will continue distributing Canastas to those in need and manufacturing Face Shields as conditions allow. Further information can be found on the newly updated website <https://www.librariesforall.org/>

Denver Public Library Featured in IFLA News Release for World Refugee Day

The IFLA Section on Library services to people with Special Needs (LSN) is working on its International Guidelines for Library Services to Refugees, Immigrants, Migrants, and Asylum Seekers. LSN is pleased that IFLA chose to feature the work of the LSN Section to celebrate World Refugee Day.

The Guidelines are being collaboratively developed by the Goethe Institute with the support of IFLA's Sections on Public Libraries, Library Services to Multicultural Populations, and Library Services to People with Print Disabilities, with Despina Gerasimidou as editor-in-chief, Nancy Bolt as Chair of LSN, and Samira Zahra representing Goethe. The proposed Guidelines will provide libraries worldwide with effective methods of serving refugees. The article features results from a survey on how libraries serve refugees, immigrants, migrants, and asylum seekers. It also features the Denver Public Library's ongoing services to this population as well as what the Library is doing during the virus. Nicanor Diaz, the Immigrant Services Manager and Virginia Vassar Aggrey who runs the Plaza Program, described their services under Covid this way:

"The Denver Public Library closed physically, as did most libraries in the state. We quickly began to plan how we could continue to offer services in an online and remote environment. Amongst the solutions we found, people can now schedule a one-on-one appointment with a library staff member to discuss any topic of interest or need, aka questions about citizenship, homework help, and help with technology. One user wanted help in preparing for a driving test. The Library also offers Online English Conversation Groups 5 days a week and an online Citizenship Study Group 1 day a week. These are free and people are encouraged to sign up and participate. But, the two major barriers in providing service during the pandemic are access to technology and how to use the technology. Many people rely on the library for internet access. With the library closed, this access is limited as are computer classes." The Library also offers a Guide for Newcomers offered in 13 languages by the Library's Cultural Inclusivity Services.

LSN is proud to be a part of this international celebration. You can see the full news release at <https://www.ifla.org/node/93156>

Upcoming International Webinars

In-person conferences have gone virtual because of COVID-19 and many library organizations are holding an increasing number of webinars. The following webinars may be of interest to readers.

September 10-12, 2020 CALCON 2020 Virtual Conference. <https://www.calcon2020.org/> See ILCE-IG program on pg. 4

September 16, 2020 10:00 a.m. MDT Joint webinar of IFLA Information Literacy Section and Library Services to People with Special Needs Section on "Universal Design to Teach Information Literacy through Libraries" Nancy Bolt chairs the LSN Section and moderates this session.

September 21, 2020 10:00 a.m. MDT "Transcending Borders: From Librarians Collaborating Abroad to Reconsidering Opportunities in a Virtual World." International Sustainable Library Development Interest Group/ALA. Janet Lee and two other librarians will serve on this panel.

September 30, 2020 11:00 a.m. MDT "African Children's Literature" ALA/IRC/Africa Committee. Panelists include: Brenda Randolph, Africa Access; Dorcas Wepukhulu, African Storybook; Janet Lee, moderator.

STEERING COMMITTEE:

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Who We Are

The International Library and Cultural Exchange Interest Group (ILCE-IG) grew out of the American-Bulgarian Library Exchange Project (1996-2011), which sought to create connections and cooperation between American and Bulgarian libraries. The ILCE-IG has extended its scope to encourage projects that foster relationships between Colorado Libraries and those of other countries, to help build and maintain libraries in communities overseas, and to celebrate non-dominant cultures across Colorado.

We're on the web:
ilceig.wordpress.com/

ILCE-IG at CALCON 2020 Virtual

Show me the Money: the ILCE-IG Grant Explained

Inspired by international librarianship? Are you working on an international or multi-cultural project that could use a little boost? Since 2016, the International Library & Cultural Exchange-Interest Group (ILCE-IG) has awarded small grants that have helped fund projects such as first language children's book publishing, conferences and workshops, exhibits, and multi-cultural festivals. Past awardees with projects in Africa, Central America, and within Colorado will present on their projects with focus on a successful application and the outcomes of their projects. Steering committee members will be available to discuss the timeline and brainstorm projects that might be considered for the grant.

Date: September 10, 2020

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Panelists:

Nancy Bolt, Moderator
Karen Killanxhja, Mesa County Library's Culture Fest
Janet Lee, African Storybook Project in Ethiopia
Jane Mirandette, HJH Libraries for All Conference in Granada, Nicaragua
Sue Keefer, The ILCE-IG Grant Process