

Enabling African libraries to deliver on public access as a development imperative: an AfLIA perspective

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IGF Dynamic Coalition's for Public Access in Libraries (DC-PAL) Panel:

“Delivering an Inclusive Development: How Libraries Help Bring People Online and Reach the SDGs and AU's Agenda 2063”

5th African Internet Governance Forum , 16-18 October 2016, Durban, South Africa

AFLIA

- the trusted African voice for the library and information community
- drives equitable access to information and knowledge for all.
- established in July 2013 and received its registration as an NGO in October 2014.
- **Works with:**
 - Libraries and National Library Associations
 - Governments and Government Agencies responsible for Libraries
 - African Regional and Economic Bodies
 - Global Partners and related organizations

Some actions of AfLIA

- INELI-SSAf: International Network of Emerging Library Innovators – Sub-Saharan Africa. The program is equipping public librarians with skills to provide innovative services for their communities
- works with partners like EIFL and Goethe Institute to build capacity of public librarians to provide access to information that meet community needs.
- advocates with government officials and policy makers to put the satisfaction of the needs of libraries to provide access to information for the community on their front burners.
- works with national library associations to skill librarians to deliver on the SDGs , Cape Town Declaration and AU2063 Agenda.

Africa Literacy Facts

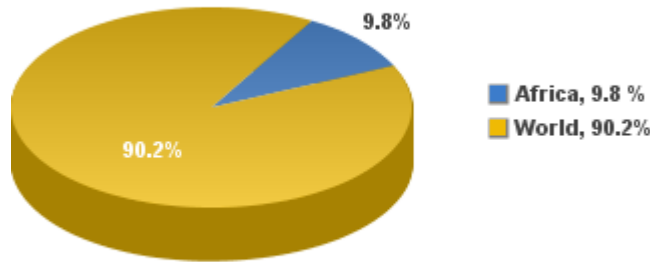
In Sub-Saharan Africa

- More than 1 in 3 adults cannot read.
- 182 million adults are unable to read and write.
- 48 million youths (ages 15-24) are illiterate.
- 22% of primary aged children are not in school.
- That makes 30 million primary aged children who are not in school.

Source : UNESCO Institute for Statistics. UIS Fact Sheet (2012-2014)

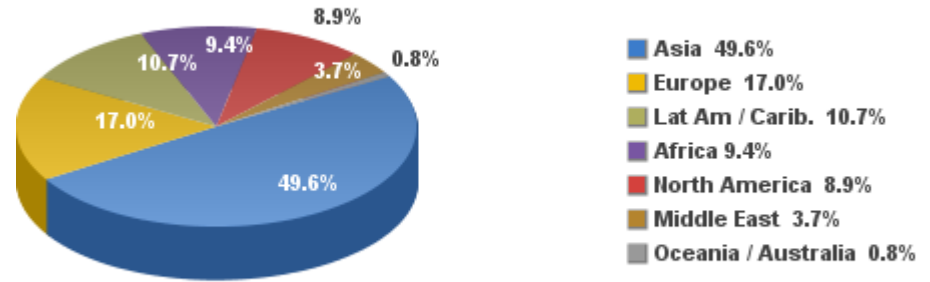
Africa Connectivity Facts

Africa Internet Users November 2015



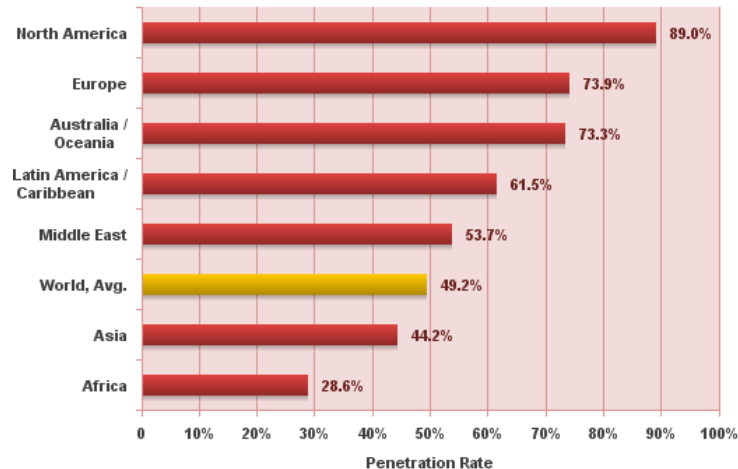
Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com
 330,965,359 estimated Internet users in Africa on November 30, 2015 with a 28.6 % penetration.
 Copyright © 2015, Miniwatts Marketing Group

Internet Users in the World by Regions June 2016



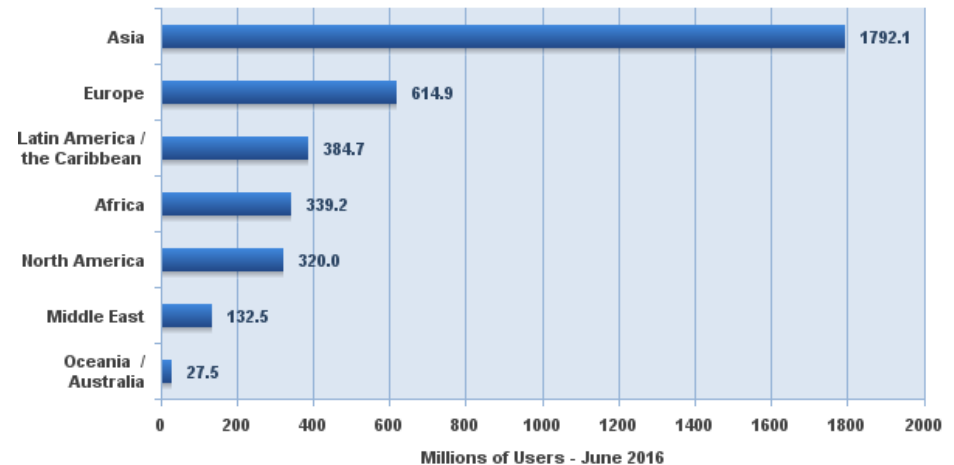
Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm
 Basis: 3,611,375,813 Internet users on June 30, 2016
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Internet World Penetration Rates by Geographic Regions - June 2016



Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm
 Penetration Rates are based on a world population of 7,340,093,980 and 3,611,375,813 estimated Internet users on June 30, 2016.
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Internet Users in the World by Geographic Regions - June 2016



Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm
 Basis: 3,611,375,813 Internet users estimated for June 30, 2016
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A Finding from these data

- These **Literacy facts** + **Internet facts** => it's very difficult to increase development at a basic level. People must take ownership of the National Development plans but most of them haven't the keys to know and to apply or replicate what is thought for them by governments and what they have to do in this sense, because of **NO** or very **LOW** access to information and knowledge for development. (Governmental information, Health information and knowledge, Economical information, Technical knowledge, Scientific Information and Scientific Knowledge, etc.)

AfLIA Strategic Plan 2015-2020

Supports this problem

AfLIA Strategic Themes, Goals and Actions

The following strategic themes provide focal areas up to the year 2020, to enable AfLIA to effectively execute its mandate as well as pursue its vision. AfLIA's intentions under those themes are expressed in the form of strategic goals for the plan period. Given the picture painted through the SWOT analysis and consensus current reality (i.e. AfLIA agreed internal and external environmental picture), the following strategic actions were also agreed.

Strategic Theme.	Strategic Goal.	Strategic Actions
1. Governance	To establish structures and systems to enable effective and efficient running of the association.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen AfLIA as an organisation• Strengthen national and regional library associations.• Enhance internal and external communication within AfLIA and stakeholders.
2. Access To Information	To enhance accessibility, protection and preservation of information and cultural heritage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support programmes that ensure effective access to information.• Provide support and advice to libraries towards protection and preservation of cultural heritage.• Provide best practices on professional practices.• Strengthen libraries to support the development agenda• Organise Library Summits for information and knowledge sharing

http://dl.aflia.net/strategic_plan_2015_2020.pdf

Propositions in line with the strategic action highlighted (1)

- African Librarians should be **mediators** and **champions** of "Development Literacy" by:
 - delivering relevant content in the most appropriate way (print documents accompanied by other services: discussions, forums, presentations, films...using **local languages**, not only official ones, to reach the illiterate audience) → **Libraries as learning centres on Development**
 - learning what is Development in the purpose of being able to teach it (as part of the public services they currently deliver). AfLIA should add such module in the INELI-SSAf curriculum, or build a training course (or workshop) on an annual basis titled: "**Access to information & Knowledge Management for development**" based on the UN2030 and AU2063 agendas (Format: Tot, or wide class). Partnership can be imagined with UNECA, through IDEP which is its training body (more than 50 years of experience). **Continuing Capacity development & professional development**

Propositions in line with the strategic action highlighted (2)

- African Libraries should become the **backbones** of access to information and knowledge by:
 - providing digital content: developing mobile apps in addition to existing local digital libraries and repositories, achieving current projects (AVLIN/ASKIA) at a regional level
 - providing the best connectivity including WiFi and in a **free** way. Libraries in Africa should become **Free Internet Zones**, Free for **ALL**, not only for the Library subscribers. The charge would be supported by the local and national operators (through their Foundations), a kind of contribution to the development of countries where they earn benefits (governments should put in place more taxes for them, specially to fund this freedom of Internet in Libraries). **Exception for Libraries in the Internet Business Model**. Using Libraries (public and democratic places) as gateways to **connect the next Billion**.
 - adopting remote technologies that provide information and knowledge **even with low or lack of Internet**. Examples: **Library Box** developed by an american librarian inspired by the Pirate Box (music), **Koombook** developed by "Libraries without Borders" a French NGO with currently Pilot deployments in **Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire** and **Senegal**. The Principle for both technologies: USB Key or a Box with content connected to an autonomous WiFi Router where people can connect themselves with appropriate devices: desktops, laptops, smartphones, tablets, etc.

Portable Private Digital Distribution

LibraryBox is an **open source**, portable digital file



The LibraryBox Project

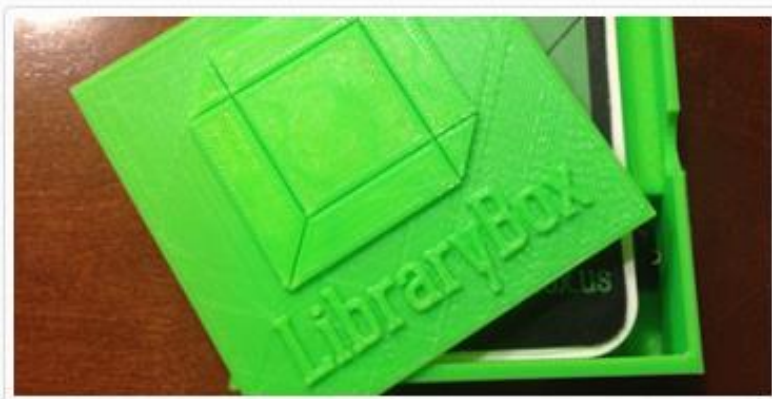
LibraryBox is a fork of PirateBox for the TP-Link MR 3020, customized for educational, **library** and other needs. LibraryBox was conceived and created by Jason Griffey.

LibraryBox v2.1 Now Available!



Why LibraryBox?

LibraryBox is a digital distribution tool for education, **libraries**, healthcare, and emergency response. Anywhere there is a **lack of open internet access**, LibraryBox can bridge the gap of information delivery.



<http://librarybox.us/>

KOOMBOOK : THE AUTONOMOUS AND ULTRA-PORTABLE DIGITAL LIBRARY

Libraries Without Borders (LWB) has created the KoomBook: the digital autonomous and ultra-portable library of the future. The KoomBook works without an internet connection to spread knowledge and information in even the most remote locations.



THE KOOMBOOK, IN A NUTSHELL



The KoomBook emits a close range wi-fi signal.



Users can connect to the wi-fi via their telephone, tablet or computer.



Users easily navigate the server through any existing web browser.



Users can browse content as well as download and upload their own content to be shared.



When the KoomBook is connected to the internet, it updates all locally created content to the cloud.



Comes with up to 5 hours of battery life!

<http://www.librarieswithoutborders.org/index.php/what-we-do/our-programs/abroad/transversal-programs/item/360-koombook-the-autonomous-and-ultra-portable-digital-library>

Partnerships

AfLIA, by developing a dynamical **yearbook of partners**, can mobilize relevant resources to succeed on the issue of access to information and knowledge for Development.

- National Library Associations
- Library consortia
- Governments
- Private sector
- NGOs & International Organizations: (*e.g.* African Library Project)
- ...

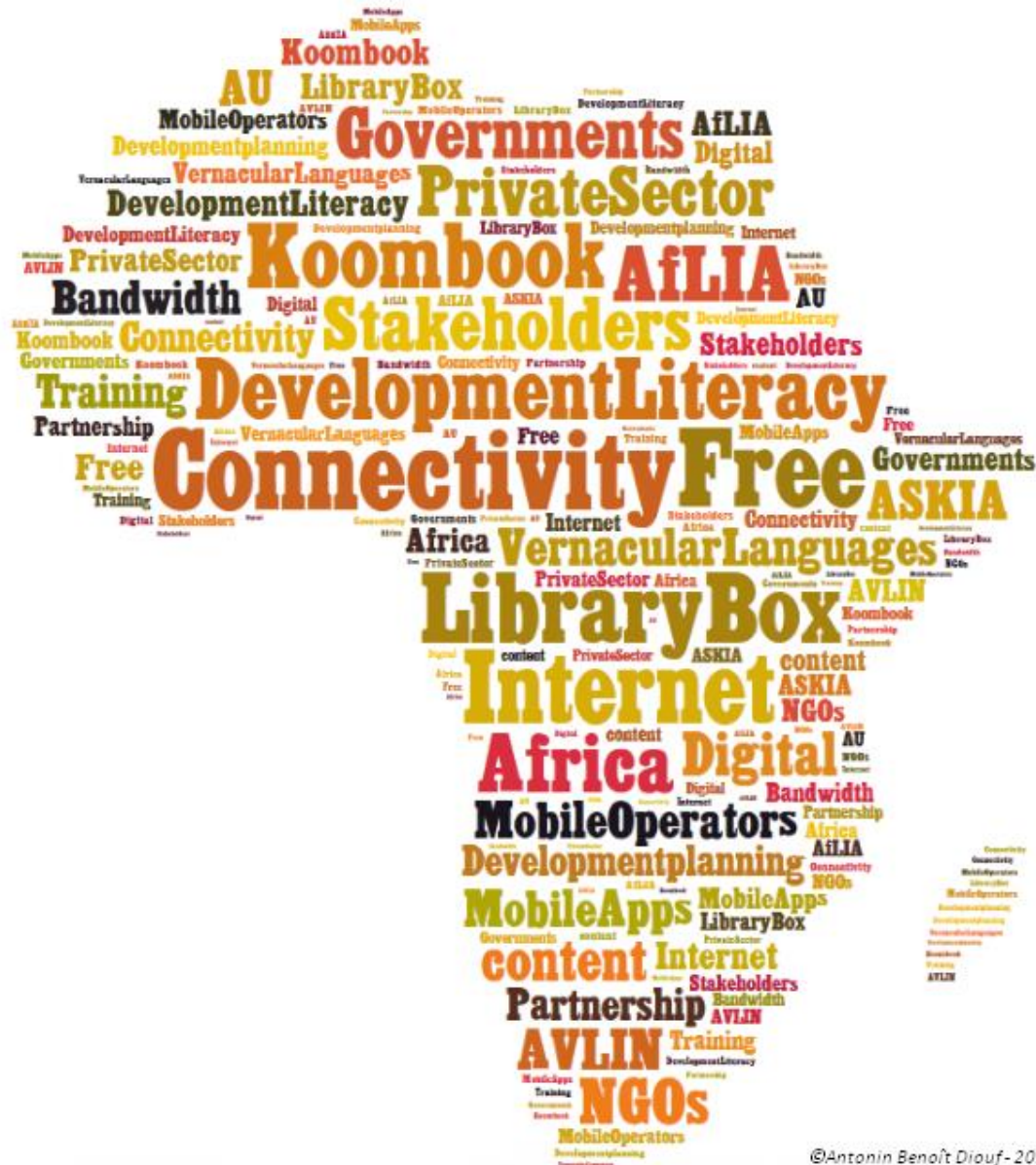
Trends that Create Opportunities For 21st Century Libraries

⇒ To inspire African Libraries and Librarians

Trend	Opportunity
Greater participation in open government	Be the objective, knowledgeable place for public discussion and issue analysis
Digitized books and other materials	Create new perspectives for readers – even new knowledge – through mashups
An economy dominated by knowledge-based services & intangible products	Provide the cost-effective lifelong learning and package the knowledge that people need to make a living in this economy
Innovation is the competitive edge in a knowledge economy	Provide the place where innovators can collaborate
Billions of people produce and consume content – the “prosumer”	Provide the platform, the tools and the skills for people to create their best content
High-quality visual conversations enhances the impact of the net	Establish a network of expert reference librarians with the full communications that people expect in face-to-face conversation
The internet is everywhere	Be able to have the library and library services everywhere
Machine intelligence and machine assistance to human intelligence	Develop non-commercial, semantically aware knowledge tools for people

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[\[http://njacknis.tumblr.com/post/131572189014/8-trends-create-8-opportunities-for-21st-century\]](http://njacknis.tumblr.com/post/131572189014/8-trends-create-8-opportunities-for-21st-century)

Keywords



Thank you!

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<http://antoninbenoitdiouf.com>

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