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THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF UGANDA CELEBRATES WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY.

*The National Library of Uganda (NLU) joins the rest of the World,
today April 23rd in celebrating the “World Book and Copyright Day”*

The NLU a government of Uganda semi-autonomous institution established by the National Library Act, 2003. Its major mandate is to collect, organize and preserve Uganda's documented heritage for present and future use; and to aver see the development of Libraries in the country. Other functions are: to promote a culture of reading among the Ugandan population for individual and national prosperity and to provide standards and guidance for the development of libraries in Uganda. The book remains at the core of all NLU operations and work.

The NLU is the lead agency responsible for organizing the activities of the World Book and Copyright day in Uganda. In collaboration with other book sector stakeholders, a number of activities are organized every year to commemorate the day. These include community reading and publishing industry promotion activities

The theme for this year's celebrations is “Books Bridging the Health information Gap”. This theme was to highlight the role of books and libraries towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal no. 3- Good Health and Well-being. This year's celebration has had the following activities organised by NLU:

- i. Books and the Creative Industry Exhibition (15th to 17th April) at the Constitutional square. (Publishers have exhibited their books, the creative industry- artist, and those in craft making have also had their works exhibited. We have also partnered with some stakeholders in the health sector to offer free medical services).
- ii. A Community Reading Tent at Kigumba Public Library (16th April 2019).
- iii. A Public talk at Uganda Museum (17th April 2019) on the theme; Books: Their role in bridging the Health Information gap for all”.
- iv. A Public Author Reading and NLU Annual Author Award at Uganda Museum (18th April 2019), where we listen to works of some of our best authors and writers as well as rewarding them

for the crucial role they are playing in regard to the development of our book industry.

NLU Services

- Formulation of Library policies
- Consultancy (digitization, research and training)
- Community reading promotion activities
- Issuing of ISBN
- Compiling & Publishing the National Bibliography
- Provision of support and guidance to government MDA's in regard to library services
- Providing Library standards and guidelines
- Provision of access to Uganda's documented heritage
- Development of libraries for the public (including children libraries)
- Legal deposits center (to enforce legal deposit Act)

Current projects:

- (i) Donating books/ information materials to public and community libraries and to selected Training teachers in managing libraries
- (ii) Development of children libraries in Public and community libraries
- (iii) Promoting a reading culture among children through digital features (e-readers) in schools and communities
- (iv) Inspiring Readers/ Book Havens, where focus is mainly on promoting the reading culture through library outreach services to schools.
- (v) Local Content for African Libraries (LOCAL) Project implemented in partnership with World Reader and AfLIA.
- (vi) Establishing Open Access Centers in public libraries. The libraries are equipped with computers fully connected to the internet to train youths, school children and civil servants in ICT usage.



Preserving documented Heritage through digitization at NLU



E-reading brought to the children's library



Children using the e-book