ENRICHING THE JOY OF READING for young adult readers in Ghana

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VISITED - 4 urban libraries and 3 rural libraries (5 community and 2 school)
INTERVIEWED - 7 librarians, 2 teachers and 11 young adults
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GHANA, AFRICA
Population: 26 million people
Life Expectancy: 61 male / 64 female

NGO° and donation research: Interviewed Books for Africa, Worldreader and OSU Library Children’s Fund
Validated book kit requirements and proposal with NGOs and librarians

SOLUTION
provide two forms of the book kit

Books Kits prepare the teacher & librarian for reader services consultation, sparking young adults reading interest and positively impacting literacy.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind
by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

Genre:
Non-Fiction
Targeted Audience & Age:
Young Adult, 13+ years
Publication Date:
September 16, 2009
Where to Shelf:
Non-Fiction by alphabet, author’s last name:
Kamkwamba, William

Summary:
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind is an inspiring true story of an enterprising African teenager who constructed a windmill from scraps to create electricity for his entire community. William Kamkwamba shares his remarkable story of his youth in Malawi, Africa—a nation crippled by intense poverty, famine, and the AIDS plague—and how, with persistence and imagination, he built a better life for himself, his family, and his village.

Discussion Questions:
What life lessons did you learn from William?
Obstacles did he overcome?
What did William do to make himself special?
What life lessons did you learn from William?

Book summary and information from www.amazon.com

WHY THE NEED?

Teachers and librarians receive book donations without a book summary, targeted age/audience, genre, thus a missed opportunity to excite the young adult reader.

NGOs and donation receivers acknowledge lack of two-way communication and process, therefore extraneous donations and poor sentiment.

Irrelevant materials leads to under-valued donations or wasted time and money.

Require an established listening and responding method with prepared resources (book kit) to accompany donations.

literacy rate
88.3% male 83.2% female

young (15-24 yrs) literacy rate in Ghana, Africa 2008-2012

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transform book donations into a practical event for librarian and young adult reader!

NGOs establish a listening and responding process for teachers and librarians to request relevant reading materials for Young Adults.

NGOs integrate Book Kits in all physical or eReader book donations to Africa.

Book Kits include suggested reading age, genre, shelf location, story summary and discussion questions.

77% favorite book was on their eReader

18 month study of 574 students with Worldreader eReaders

INFORMATION PROBLEM

The global book donation process lacks two-way communication thereby missing opportunity to prepare the librarian / teacher and excite the young adult reader.

NGO
• Well intended effort: gather & ship books

Librarian & Teacher
• Books received: minimal relevance & no content information

Young Adult Reader
• Unaware of new book donation

NGOs
• Lack of communication

* Non-governmental Organization (NGO)

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