

COUNTRY REPORT - KIRIBATI

FOR THE 23RD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES IN AISA AND OCEANIA (CDNLAO)

9-12 June 2015 Bangkok, Thailand

Name of Country : Kiribati

Name of Library : Kiribati National Library

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1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:

The Kiribati National Library is also act as a Public library. It is the only library in the country that serves all varied types of clients; kids, school children, students from Junior, Senior and Tertiary or Colleges and Adults, every walk of life. These are some of the major recent Developments:

- **CREATION OF SPECIAL CORNER FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN**

In 2013 the school children' corner is combined with the other sections, like the Adults section and all are situated in one room. There is urgent and important needs for creating a new space as many issues arise such as;

- i) Dramatic increased in number of school children that used the library services.
- ii) Another discouraging problem is noisiness, which is a disturbance for Adults users or researchers.

- **GREEN LAPTOP USAGE - One Laptop Per Child (OLPC)**

The new program on Green Laptop commonly known as One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) is offered for the primary students only. It is introduced to them last year in May. This new program is one of a great beneficial for the National library as many students interested in using them and also they are very smart/expert in using them. It is offered three times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday after school hours (1.00-3.00pm).

- **BOOK READ PROGRAM**

This program first introduced in the last three years but not very active. Now this year's program is very progressing and efficient. This can be confirmed by the rocket number of school children with their parents participated in this program. Also more volunteers, foreigners like Australians, Taiwanese, New Zealanders, Japanese etc are also to involve in this Book Read Program.

It is conducted every Saturday from 10.00-11.00am. The approximate number of school children falls between 50-80 and volunteers from 3-5 every Saturday. When compared to past years, only a few students the maximum of 20-30 and the volunteers, only 1-2 each Saturday.

2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT.

The Kiribati National Library has better relationship to the Government. National Library & Archives is one the division of the Ministry of Education.

3. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

Library users on daily basis:	Approx. 200 (40% Adults & 60 % School Children).
Library members:	Approx. 200 (40% Adults & 60% School Children)
Library collection	Approx. 10,000. (30 % -Junior section, 10% -Young Adults, 60 % -Adults)
Green Laptop Users on daily basis:	Approx. 80-100 school children
No. of Staff	10 (6 Library Staff & 4 Supporting staff)

4. NEW DEVELOPEMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS.

- This year we have subscribed to 14 varied types of Magazines such as Times, National Geographic, Readers' Digest, Women's weekly, Primes, Fitness, and Fortune etc.
- We also subscribe to two new local publishers known as Kiribati Updates, Kiribati Independence.

For this year we have a budget of \$10,000 that we will spend in purchasing new books (Reference book, Fiction, Posters) for the Adults and children. The order will send in second week of March 2015.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS.

The National libraries still use a manual system in managing its collection. We have no software for a Library Management System. However we have created a database from a computer that may provide more efficient and effective searching rather than referring to the Book Register. We also used a Card Catalogue for recording Bibliographic information. The tools that we used for classification and assigning our subject headings are Dewey Decimal Classification and Sears Lists of Subject Headings.

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTION.

The National Library has no computers for all library users. The only service that we provide to clients is Photocopying and User Education on how to locate their searched information on the shelves or a book.

7. EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REPORTING LIBRARY AND OTHER NATIONAL COLLECTING INSTITUTIONS (LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS).

The only way to collaborate to other National Collection Institutions like Schools is when offering a requested service like Library Setting, provision of donated books (used books or magazines). This service can only be provided to schools that are indeed asking for this service. This year there is a plan for a Mobile library service to all schools on South Tarawa (primary and secondary), this will be started this month. For the Archives we have close relationship, as we are administered under one division so every time we have issues for clients like missing information on Kiribati history, clients may refer or visit the Archives section.

8. EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REPORTING LIBRARY AND PUBLISHERS IN YOUR COUNTRY.

In Kiribati there are only four publishers on Local Newspapers known as Te Uekera, Kiribati Newstar, Kiribati Independence and Kiribati Updates. How the National Library collaborates with them is by subscribing to them as there is no Legal Deposit Act where each publisher abided to submit a National library's copy.

There are no book publishers only Bookshops namely; USP Bookshop and Moarerei Bookshop (Private).