

**Document:**  
**PROPOSAL FOR A TRAINING OF TRAINERS  
WORKSHOP FOR LIBRARIANS ON THE WSF AT  
NAIROBI SAFARI CLUB ON 19TH – 22ND MARCH  
2006**

This proposal was written by Esther Obachi, the secretary of Kenya Library Association. The Finnish Embassy in Nairobi decided to grant support for the workshop from its fund for local cooperation, and the workshop was held at the Lenana training centre 3-5 July, 2006.

The World Social Forum is a global movement that addresses global social injustice. It was established in Brazil in the year 2000. It holds annual conferences that bring together groups and individuals that fight for social justice. Social injustices are committed in every community in the world. Highlighting these injustices may deter the perpetrators or even stop them all together. Disseminating information on the same to the population can also empower them to fight the injustice.

The role of librarians is to gather, organize and disseminate information. The current librarians, especially in Africa, have shunned the first step – gathering information and dwelt on the last two. In the 2004 WSF the then president of IFLA, Kay Raseroka promised participants that Librarians would take part in the WSF process. However, no librarian took part in the 2005 conference. In the 2006 WSF conference that was held in Bamako, Mali, NIGD sponsored a library workshop to deliberate on the role of libraries in the WSF process. In the workshop, participants agreed that libraries have a major role to play in the WSF as they are the links between the forum and the world population. It was also noted that just as the Translators call themselves “Babels” the Librarians could also have the “Bibles” so as to collect information, organize it and disseminate it for posterity and empowerment of the people. Unlike journalists whose information is only valid for a few days and there after discarded, librarians could gather information in all formats, store it for posterity purposes and disseminate it to those who the WSF represent in the conference – the marginalized groups.

Therefore, participants resolved that there is a need to sensitize and integrate librarians in the WSF activities so as to be involved fully in the process. The two librarians from Kenya, three from Mali one from Malawi, a journalist and web designer from Nigeria and other friends of the library who were in the forum agreed that a workshop to induct librarians into the WSF in preparation for the 2007 WSF that will be held in Nairobi be organized in Nairobi.

The WSF conference is a mammoth activity that has several workshops and other activities running concurrently for seven days. For librarians to cover all these activities fully, one would need not less than 600 librarians. Since it is not possible to train six hundred people at once, it is necessary to train just a few

who will train others in turn.

It is on this note that Kenya Library Association wishes to take up the challenge and organize a training of trainers' workshop for librarians in Nairobi in preparation for the 2007 conference. The training aims at inducting librarians into the WSF. It will also train librarians on how various activities can be covered and information collected from the forum be disseminated.

1. The training will involve introducing participants to the WSF activities
2. Training librarians on basic journalism skills
3. Basic media technology: Information equipment like digital cameras, and video camera
4. Ethical considerations for journalists and librarians
5. Filtering facts from fiction.
6. Information legislation
7. Management and dissemination of the WSF information

Because the WSF covers topics in all aspects of life, it is not advisable to have any librarian covering any activity. Therefore, subject librarians will be needed to cover areas of their specializations. Kenya Library Association intends to hold this workshop in June 2006.