

**Document:**  
**WSF WORKSHOP FOR LIBRARIANS**  
**AT THE LENANA CONFERENCE AND TRAINING**  
**CENTRE**

**Rapporteurs' Reports**

Rapporteurs: **Jane Sang & Fred Kachero**

**Day 1**

**Session 1**

**10.00a.m. – 1.10pm, Monday, July 3, 2006.**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

After introductions by participants, **Esther Obachi** (KLA Sec.), who chaired the morning session, explained the purpose of the workshop, viz: preparing and training librarians for the coming World Social Forum.

In welcoming the participants, **Rosemary Gitachu** (KLA –Chair) pointed out the mandate of the WSF in the workshop, the need to document WSF information and the importance of librarians being trained and prepared in order to fully participate and gather all necessary information during the WSF conference to be held from 20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

**WSF PART 1**

**Mikael Böök** explained the origins of the WSF and the theme of the workshop, viz: the preparation and training of librarians for participation in WSF conference; help speakers of different languages to understand each other; to train the participating librarians to train other librarians; publish articles and spread news from the WSF to audience.

Böök pointed out that WSF is against the downplaying of the role of the library, Internet laws that hinder flow of information, the imbalance in trade as espoused by the WTO and proposes the Currency Transactions Tax (CTT).

Expectations at the end of the workshop were:

Librarians to participate in the WSF,

Network among those participating in the workshop and their participation in Nairobi 2007 WSF,

Manuals (set guidelines/solutions on participation of librarians in WSF).

Participants wanted to know more about the WSF and its objectives and the role librarians can play in their attainment. It was pointed out that Libraries could play an important role in society by:

Introducing WSF,

Introducing WSF to librarians,

Provide access to information resources,

Create space through communication between readers and books and other non- book materials.

## **THE KENYA SOCIAL FORUM AND THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE WSF IN NAIROBI**

According to the WSF (K) secretary, **Mr. Onyango Oloo**,

WSF: Is a process and an event; Has social justice foundations; Is organized by the International council of the WSF; Emerged as a reaction to domination of the world by the rich nations; Is a forum; not a world political party; not a world revolution; Concerns include equality (including gender equality), empowerment of youths, minority and marginalised groups (such as the pastoralists), the supply side (not just the demand side) of corruption; Originated in South America (Brazil)

### **DISCUSSIONS AND CHALLENGES**

Relevant concerns in Kenya would include: the landless, squatters, Aids victims, the marginalised groups (pastoralists) and increasing poverty, etc.

Social change and justice as advocated by WSF requires information literacy, which infers content and even a change in the information format (such as video, internet, use of CDs and more appealing presentation other than just text), making it more important for librarians.

Where does that place the participant?

Register as a participant in the workshop and be part of the Forum by contributing to discussions on the floor.

**Session 2**  
**2.00pm –4.30pm**

## **INFORMATION AND GLOBALISATION**

In a paper on 'Information and Globalisation", **Shiraz Durrani** said that the WSF fights:

Imperialist globalisation

Inequality in division of power

Unequal exchange of ideas

Unequal trade

The current globalisation is based on exploitation where information is monopolised and driven by corporate interests (profits). Capital and Industries can move anywhere to get cheap labour, but labour movement is restricted. It perpetuates and intensifies exclusion then marginalizes majority.

Its tools are: World Bank, World Trade Organization (WTO), privatisation and de-regulation, divide and rule, home guards, wars and dictators, attacks on organizations such trade unions in addition misinformation.

It results in Control of technology, Economic exploitation and Social oppression based on race, gender, age, disability, religion, unfavourable terms of trade, international corruption with Multinationals, national and international wars, suppression of people's cultures, technologies and industries. Our discoveries are patented in the West.

**Globalisation** is a stage of capitalization driven by corporate interest (i.e. after profits) – "The microchip gives you a society with a global capitalist".

### Characteristics of globalization

Interdependent world – Production anywhere in the world and consumption anywhere in the world.

Capital and industries can move anywhere to cheap labour and resources. But there is restriction on movement of labour

### Globalisation and exclusion

It perpetuates and intensifies exclusion. While it may result into economic growth to some states, it exploits others to poverty.

### Globalisation and contradictions

The world's three (3) richest men own more than the GDP of 48 poorest countries. Thus, there are possibilities of a better life for all yet globalization marginalizes and excludes the majority.

#### Globalisation Resistance ("Returning a stare")

Struggles for power and liberalization

Resistance confronts domination

Combatants are peasants, workers, intellectuals and academics

Ideologies are developed and disseminated

National and international forces unite

Use Information Communication Technology (ICT), traditional and oral media.

#### **DISCUSSIONS AND CHALLENGES**

In the next 20 years, the world will witness the rise of critical countries- Brazil, China, India, and Cuba. China's unique ways, that does not involve going to the West, will be a basis for its strength.

There is another way for handling information for librarians. This is through PALIAct (Progressive African Librarian Activist), which looks at the librarian as an activist.

Activity – Assess the impact of globalisation in the 5 years in your work or personal lives.

#### Ways of organizing Libraries

Librarians as activist – breakdown barriers

It's high time we liberated ourselves.

Librarian/ Globalization – There is a need for librarians to participate in the era of globalization.

#### **Information Society**

Refers to how people live, learn work and communicate. All this is being changed.

Creation, distribution and manipulation of information is the most significant economic (cultural) activity in an information society.

#### Characteristics of information society

Key tools: computers, telecommunication,

It changes people, organizes the social people and personal lives,

Improves economic and social well-being,

It increases productivity.

#### ICT possibilities

While ICT increases productivity, growth, job creation, employability and improves quality of life and promotes dialogue among people and nations, it can also marginalize and lead to poverty resulting in information rich and information poor.

#### Contract

In societies where economies are based primarily on the industries/agriculture, there is need for an emerging network of economic and knowledge based information society.

#### Causes of Digital divide

Inherent in capitalists' societies, information is a commodity for profit. Causes of digital divide include: Cost of communication, Infrastructure, Lack of skills in using technology, High cost of internet and Market trends.

#### Information society and cultural diversity: -

In conclusion, we need to partner and also orientate ourselves.

Libraries can play an important role in society by introducing WSF.

Vision of fair information society (WSIS): It should be people-centred, inclusive, development-oriented.

Activity: Assume you have unlimited resources: what would your ideal information service look like?

## DAY 2

### Session 3

Chairing: Reuben Mwisati

8.35 – 8.40: Rapporteurs' report of the previous day's activities.

8.45 – 10.30am

#### **LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ACTIVIST**

In her paper on 'Library and Information Activist', **Mary Wanjohi** pointed out the role of librarians: To collect and disseminate information.

Type of service and the people to be served:

There's no fixed content for particular groups,

Information needs change from one point to another,

Their needs depend on the division of labour

Current services: Libraries serve the elite and the students who find them important to pass exams. They ignore rural areas and other marginalized groups including the slums in the urban centres. Other poor workers are also ignored despite their plight being highlighted in the media.

Information is available, but librarians are not availing it to those needing it and in a language they can understand. For example:

How can the fisherman, the farmer, and the pastoralist benefit from libraries?

Why should there be famine when researches have been done and are available in libraries to correct this?

A relevant library should serve the needs of the people it is serving. The failure to do that implies that the information availed by the librarian is not in the form suitable to the people; or, librarians do not reach the people to whom the information is most relevant.

Solution: Change the training of librarians and/or the language used to reach the critical people.

**Note:** Information is power; development is based on information, not necessarily resources.

#### Discussions and challenges

Rural does not imply illiteracy, nor does urban imply literacy. All those in disadvantaged positions need access to information. There is need for an information desk in every village, networking with NGOs and for librarians to fight to get information and avail it to those in need of it.

#### WSF PART 2

**Mikael Böök** reiterated the purpose of the workshop in his second presentation.

Purpose: Librarians to be motivated and committed to participate in the WSF conference to be held between 20 – 25 January 2007.

Participation: After the workshop, librarians shall feel obliged to attend the conference.

Set up a network:

- That there shall be a mailing list and a website with all the materials of the forum
- There shall be documentation that shall help those trained to be trainers.
- Manual: guidelines and instructions on how we shall carry out the documentation.

**Session 4**  
(Part 1)  
Chairing: Jane Grace  
2.40pm

**SELECTION, CLASSIFICATION, CATALOGUING, PRESERVATION AND DISSEMINATION WSF**

In the above paper, **Esther Obachi** started by pointing out that:  
Selection - in this context referred to the role the librarian would play concerning existing information at the WSF, January 2007.

That information existed mainly in the Internet thus; it has not been adequately documented.

Librarians should prepare to collect information during the coming conferences.

Hard copies

There are very few copies in libraries.

The World Social Forum (WSF) is not used in our libraries as a subject heading.

Some of the challenges that librarians will face at the conference include:

There are only 30 participants in this workshop at the moment. The WSF conference will have 50,000 participants. The 30 cannot cover all the groups involved. It may require that we determine what ought to be documented.

The January conference will cover many issues, hence the concern will be:

To cover issues that affect East Africans

Identify regional issues\deal with specific local issues

Classification and Cataloguing

Use:

Simple classification system by subject headings

Simple terminologies e.g. poverty, water, incest, etc.

Preferably in-house system

Use boxes for pamphlets

Bigger volumes to be given simple class No

Preservation

Use Polythene, Lamination, Microfilming and Backs-ups

Dissemination

Dissemination centre –e.g. KNLS, University Libraries

Dissemination centres

Publicity (WSF)

Dissemination Centres

Community based organizations (CBO's), Universities Libraries, Social Halls, Churches, Dissemination format, Films, CDS, Videos, Paper format.

**Discussions and Group work**

There were four groups: -

Acquisition and selection

Classification and cataloguing

Preservation

Dissemination

## **Group 1**

(a) Acquisition and selection: -  
Internet

Everything be documented then analysis specific groups (WSF) and get relevant information.

(b) Acquisition

Attend conferences

Visit (WSF) websites /contain relevant information

Visit depository centres, documentation centres

Visit libraries, Academic / special

Publishers

Liase with the NGO' s by forming partnerships alliances for information sharing

Making reviews relevant to social change

## **Group 2**

(1) Classification and cataloguing: Materials are acquired in different formats, such as Pamphlets, CDs, Magazines, Disks/Flash disks, Films /Videos, Photos and Audio cassettes.

(2) How to classify and catalogue

Establish a WSF corner where such information materials are kept

### Pamphlets

Put them in a box

Label the boxes WSF, then subject areae.g WSF: Poverty

Inside the boxes arrange the pamphlets alphabetically according to title

Arrange the boxes alphabetically CDs, films, Videos, Audio cassettes diskettes and Flash disks

Come up with an index of the titles of CDs

Place the list in the WSF corner but let materials in the Virtual sections in the library indicate this in the index.

### Photos

Numbers of photos are put in the volumes and labeled in the cardex showing which album has which photos.

### Books

Classify and catalogue the books the same as general collection. and arrange the books in the WSF corner

## **Group 3**

### Dissemination

Dissemination is the key to this activity. You may have a lot of information but unless it's disseminated it will be useless

Dissemination centres: -

This can be done through a centre or through a group category users: -

KNLS

At provincial level, District level and Community level

Activity centres  
Churches  
Social halls  
Barasas (community gatherings)

University Libraries/ other learning institutions: -  
University, Schools, Colleges and Polytechnics.

NGO Centres (Recognized government approved community based NGO's)  
Environment  
Health based  
Education based  
Gender based

Dissemination formats:-

Electronic formats: -CDS, Audiotapes, Videos, Diskettes, Websites pages/sites

Print formats: - Hard copy reports, Pamphlets, Posters, Newsletters

Oral: -Demonstration, Chief's Barasas, D.Os, Headmasters, principals, Government staff

Media: - Newspapers, Radio and Television

Internet: -Use of websites

### **(3) Publicity**

The way to create awareness in the communities we use is by use of media. This include Radio talk, Talk show, Advertisements, Editorial –newspapers, Oral speakers (lectures) in meetings, Documentaries on T.V, radio, Person to person dissemination, Exhibitions-National /International fairs, SDI-Specific groups, Drama-plays, poetry, music skits.

Group 4 – Preservation

Formats: - There are two types materials to preserved – Printed and Non-print.

1) Printed: - Includes Books, Pamphlets, Fliers, Banners, Reports and Newsprints

2) Non-print: - Includes Tapes, CDS/DVDs, Films/microfilms, Diskettes, Visual Tapes (such as Film, Photographs, Drawings, Artifacts and Oral presentations).

Preservation

Print: -

Books: - In well maintained documentation centres

Pamphlets: - Archival pamphlets boxes fliers

Reports: - Bind and preserve as books

Can microfilm

Can digitize

Posters: - Laminate

Newsprint – Microfilms

Banners - use of drawers

Oral - Film/Photograph

### Non- print

All need controlled environment or environmentally friendly storage

Tapes: - Use cabinets

Microfilm: -Use cabinets

CDS: - Use racks

Whereas most of these can be digitized, there is a problem of keeping up with changing technology.

### Discussions and challenges

There are costs involved in all this and therefore there is need for special conditions.

In most places, there is lack of electricity and equipments. Skilled manpower is necessary but there is also the challenge of rapid technological change.

Costs can, however be shared e.g. costs of microfilming (which makes storage easy and manageable). You can have back- ups and do most of it in groups or consortium..

## **Session 4**

(Part 1)

Chairing: Jane Grace

2.00 2.40pm

### **TAX JUSTICE NETWORK**

In her presentation, **Emma Lochery** stated that tax evasion has its serious ramifications. For example in Kenya (Sunday Nation), Sh. 18b tax was evaded, yet the country set aside 15b for roads – Suppose there was no evasion?

Importance of tax

Revenue - for public utilities such as health schools, etc.

Redistribution – relieving money from the very rich to the very poor, i.e. equality

Political representation – government is held responsible to the people who need accountability of the taxes they pay

### **Global taxation problems**

Only a few people pay taxes. Most Multinational companies (MNCs) and the rich don't. For example, a few people who hold their wealth in countries that have lax tax rules hold \$11.5 trillion. MNCs place their capital in countries that give them a tax haven, but shift profits to their parent countries. Banking secret systems encourage tax evasion and avoidance.

### Goals

TJN wishes to break down financial secrecy especially among the rich and the MNCs and eliminate cross border evasion and avoidance.

### Action

Public disclosures on taxation, national statistics on financial services, exchanges of ideas and sharing between tax authorities and probably have accountants without borders.

### Conclusions and challenges

Papers that disclose this type of information needn't be sold but given to libraries free in order that people can be enlightened. Tax evasion affects usually the powerful, in whose toes it is dangerous to touch, but there still is need for sensitization. There are also countries that will lower the tax rate in order to spur economic growth.

### **HOW TO COVER "A REAL EVENT"**

In his presentation on how to cover a real big event, **Mikeal Book** pointed out WSF has many groups ATTAC (which operates in fifty countries). It concerns matters such as those of World Public Finance, which is emerging initiative that deals with tax justice, debt cancellation, trade and financial crises etc. It concern with education including adult education intellectual property i.e. copy rights, patents indigenous

knowledge, software and commercial services.

Preservation is a potential subject area for librarians in relation to the coming WSF conference in Nairobi, with regard to information society.

#### Group Discussion

Participants broke into groups to discuss about how to cover a real event and came up with different opinions:

Learn about the subject of the event

Arm yourself with necessary tools such pencils and pens, note books cameras etc

Take notes

Record the events

Take photos/ digital

Interview the organizers of the events

This requires skills such journalistic skills, interpretative skills or translators and tele-conferences. It emerged that most groups seemed to have misunderstood the group work.

### **Session 4**

(Part 2)

Chairing: Jane Grace

4. 20 – 5.00pm

### **INNOVATIONS IN MANAGING THE WSF MATERIALS**

#### Innovation and leadership:

In his paper 'Innovations in managing the WSF materials', **Shiraz Durrani** pointed out that innovation relates to new ways of doing things.

A leader needs to provide direction. It is the vision thing. To get a collective definition of success, leaders engage, motivate and animate people in their organizations. It isn't enough just to have the vision; they really have to engage with their people.

Leadership is a balancing act and involves communication. Your ability to lead is only as good as your ability to motivate. You earn leadership from those you lead.

#### Managing WSF material

Organization and management: Establish a WSF Information Resource Centre (IRC), elect an IRC committee, the scope, work plan with dates and tasks, email list of participants, discussion forums.

International aspects: a WSF IRC website content with a list of all participants, i.e. organizations and individuals: publications from each organization, list of all sessions to be held by each organization.

Dissemination: make available IRC information in other forms, e.g. print, email, DVD etc.; issue an IRC newsletter.

Kenya, Eastern Africa, Africa

Pay particular attention that local information and activities are adequately covered

Where a different format is necessary to reach the targeted group, change the format of the material to suit the group, e.g. putting a book on audiotape.

#### Discussions and Challenges

It was noted that creating centres is an important factor, but how to administer, structure and operate had not been exhaustively discussed. However when it is collectively done and liaised with Mr. Onyango Oloo, it will become a small matter.

Libraries need to be integrated into WSF in order to work effectively with it. It is also possible to establish a virtual library.

**Day 3**  
**Session 5/6**  
8.30a.m to 1.00p.m

The venue of this morning session shifted to University of Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library. Mikeal Böök led participants into hands-on practical linkage and connections to the different websites of the WSF and related organizations. Participants were led to WSF pages wikipedia and opened their Email accounts with WSF and also <http://www.nigd.org/libraries>. Blogs, wikis and e- books were introduced.

**Session 7**  
2.00p.m to 3.30 p.m

**JOURNALISTIC SKILLS**

**Mr.Nyakundi Nyamboga** introduced his presentation on journalistic skills in two parts:

1) Covering a major event

What does it take to cover a major event?

Research – Research through the Internet, libraries about the subject (e.g. WSF) to know what it is all about before covering the event. Try to know the organizers and the participants.

Look for news value – Look for what the society would wish to know about the events and its value to the media's role. Media's role is to educate, inform and entertain. This means the technical aspects of the events may be ignored and instead an article may be used to introduce the subject.

Objectivity: - Be objective, which is a result of training, professionalism, and experiences. Look at the pitfalls or some other factors that may not be part of the event.

Interviewing skills – Depends on training and professionalism but should know how to approach persons. Try to know the answers to the questions you ask before hand for example open- ended which elicit more information.

Presentation – Present the information gathered in the best way possible this entails investigating who the audience is.

2) Responsible Journalism: -

Journalists are watchdogs of this society. Therefore they have a responsibility to the society to point out the ills that may be there even if it looks injurious. But don't manufacture or manipulate the power of the pen. Note that news is free, what buys is the adverts. Therefore correct information will earn itself a place

Ethics of journalists:

Journalists are guided by respect for human rights (Chapter 5 of Kenya Constitution) but also work in public interests

**Discussion and Challenges**

Right to privacy- Constitutionally this right is recognized. However the right is not absolute; thus, infringement can be effected without attracting litigation. The public right overrides private rights.

How is public interest measured? Some times journalists talk about public interests when they mean National interests, so that global interests are brought up, the media would be quiet if it is not in the interests of their countries despite the fact that the issue may be harmful to other countries e.g. tax evasion.

Concerning WSF Coverage there is need for sensitization and sponsorship of opinion pages. Note that negative coverage of the same item may have more impact than the positive of the same.

Journalists should be objective but it should be understood that sometimes the human element take over.

### **THE WAY FOREWARD**

The various groups of participants were led by **Mikael Book** to come up with resolutions that could pave the way forward. Their way forward was: -

Local Working committee: Establish a local working committee of information specialists from this workshop to coordinate activities and liaise with the KSF before the conference.

Further training: There should be further training for these participants so that they can go and adequately train other librarians.

Draw a Programme: draw a time frame of what should be done and assign responsibility such as what ought to be covered and who should cover it.

Source for Funds: The proposed committee should look for finances for equipment, stationary, accommodation and transport.

Keep the fire burning: Keep the heat on in discussion groups by talking about WSF

Participation: Librarians, Documentalists, Archivists, Technologists, Information profession students should participate in the conference actively.

Networking: Participants should form networks with journalists, other librarians, NGOs etc. This can be done through discussions lists (e.g. KLA, Uganda Library Association (ULA) and Tanzania Library Association (TLA) – thus locally, regionally and internationally) emailing, list serve, telecommunication, fax letters, meetings, conferences, workshops, seminars etc.

Manual: Have a manual of classification, cataloguing, abstracting and indexing (which will give the key terms) of WSF materials

Coverage: Pre-collect information on social issues from libraries; carry out research; identify various events and venues, collect information in whatever format presented in the conference; collaborate with journalists in collecting information; come with fliers, posters, brochures with objectives of KLA and WSF.

### **WORKING WITH KSF**

Onyango Oloo pointed out that the librarians would need to work with the organizing committee rather than just the Kenya Social Forum during the coming conference.

### **CLOSING OF THE WORKSHOP.**

The workshop was officially closed at 4.45pm after Mrs. Gitachu, having thanked the participants and the Finish Embassy for the sponsorship, introduced Ms Maria, from the Finish Embassy, who gave the closing remarks in which she told the participants that life is a learning process all through. They should learn new skills and technology noting that a function in which new knowledge is generated but not documented becomes useless.