

## India/Nepal

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A regional Interaction Program on School Library Management was held to gather stakeholders to discuss school library's significance in Nepal's education. The group is starting a "No Library No School" campaign, and hopes to include a mandate that every school have a library and professional teacher librarian in the revised constitution (a Parliament representative participated actively in the program). Both grass roots and systemic strategies were voiced: e.g., collecting local information, promoting the habit of reading, increasing collaboration between teachers and librarians, working with publishers and other entities, garnering community support. The need for library and librarian standards was identified, and an idea for TL-focused professional development was discussed.

As the Librarianship Program Coordinator at California State University Long Beach (CSULB), I was interested in talking with fellow library educators about their programs. In addition, the CSULB College of Education has an agreement with Lucknow University to provide teacher preparation training through a train-the-trainer model. In the process, faculty at both institutions would develop Open Education Resources (i.e., free online learning objects such as simulations, web tutorials, assessment instruments) to support teacher preparation programs. I spoke with Lucknow University librarian Dr. Jyoti Misra about the library's role in helping organize those OERs for optimum storage and retrieval. Dr. Misra also teaches in their library science preparation program, so we also exchanged ideas about curriculum and instruction. No librarianship courses focus on education per se, although information literacy is now being addressed. Ideally, teacher preparation programs should include a module on libraries and information literacy as part of their methodology courses.

## News from the Lubuto Library Project

By Jane Kinney Meyers

In 2008 the Lubuto Library Project finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with Zambia's Ministry of Education, identifying the organization as Zambia's national partner in providing professional leadership in library development and book-based literacy programming for orphans and vulnerable children. In turn, the Government will ask its donors to fund construction of Lubuto libraries. We are working with them at the moment to secure funding for one of our next libraries. Other recent accomplishments in fulfillment of this new responsibility have been the establishment of the Zambia Board on Books for Young People, in partnership with the University of Zambia, and recruitment of a Fulbright Scholar to teach children's literature and library services at the University while developing a book-based literacy program for Lubuto Libraries (whose benefits will extend far beyond our libraries' walls).

The Lubuto Library Project was nominated for the 2009 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, the most prestigious international award related to children's literature. The award was established by the Swedish Government in 2002. The annual international prize of SEK 5 million (equivalent to approx. USD 660,000 or 490,000 Euros) may be awarded to authors, illustrators, narrators and/or promoters of reading whose work reflects the spirit of Astrid Lindgren. The object of the award is to increase interest in children's and young people's literature, and to promote children's right to culture on a global level. The award is administered by The Swedish Arts Council. More information: [www.alma.se](http://www.alma.se).

The 2008 year recipient of the award is the Australian author Sonya Hartnett. Earlier award winners are: 2007, the Venezuelan institution Banco del Libro; 2006, the American

author Katherine Paterson; 2005, the Japanese illustrator Ryôji Arai and the British author Philip Pullman; 2004, the Brazilian author Lygia Bojung; 2003, the Austrian author Christine Nöstlinger and the American illustrator and author Maurice Sendak.

Lubuto Project volunteers will be introducing the One Laptop Per Child XO laptops in their first library in February 2009. Also in February, the children who have participated in our Visual Arts program during the past year will be exhibiting their paintings at the Henry Tayali Gallery in Lusaka, Zambia. Final plans are being made for the next two Lubuto Libraries, one construction in Lusaka's Garden Compound to be funded by Dow Jones & Co. (whose employees are also building the complete 4,000-volume collection for that library) and the other in the rural town of Nabukuyu. The latter construction will be carried out with funding from Oprah's Angel Network, other generous donors, substantial contributions from the community and businesses in Zambia and bilateral funding mobilized by the Government of Zambia.

Two recent articles in ALA journals by Drexel University i-School Professor Denise Agosto, an internationally recognized expert on library services to disadvantaged youth, explore the Lubuto Project's model libraries. "The Lubuto Library Project as a Model of School Library Media Services for Disadvantaged Youth" is in the September/October 2008 issue of AASL's Knowledge Quest (v. 37, no. 1, p. 38-42). "The Lubuto Library Project and the Universality of Public Library Services for Youth" is in the November/December 2008 issue of PLA's Public Libraries (v. 47, no. 6, p. 56-60).

*Ms. Meyers is President of the  
Lubuto Library Project*