



Lubuto Library Project

Bringing knowledge and enlightenment to Africa's most vulnerable children and youth



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Newsletter #25 - [Click here](#) for PDF version

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CREATING COMMUNITY

Prof. Anthony Bernier of San José State University's School of Library and Information Science, and a member of Lubuto's Collections and Programs Advisory Council, contributed a short article to the July 11 issue of School Library Journal's e-newsletter *SLJTeen* that highlights the unique approach taken by Lubuto libraries in serving marginalized youth. In the article, "[What Africa's Lubuto Library Project Can Teach Us](#)," Bernier notes that the approach taken by Lubuto "emerges from an institutional vision in which libraries play integral roles in building community," which he calls "a radical vision for library service."

FINDING A PLACE TO THRIVE IN THE LUBUTO LIBRARY

Dow Jones Factiva sponsored a photo contest with the Special Libraries Association looking for photos that illustrate SLA members' "professional agility." The idea was to illustrate how information professionals move outside their comfort zones into new career areas, learn new technology, respond creatively to emerging ideas and concepts, questioning the way they think about their work and requiring agility and openness to change and new opportunities. In an acknowledgment of Lubuto's pioneering creativity, President Jane Kinney Meyers won the photo contest with the photo at the top of this newsletter, called Creating "Community and Opportunity in Africa."

The \$1,000 prize (and one year's free membership in SLA) will, appropriately, support Lubuto's work to build community among the disadvantaged youth in Zambia.

In another illustration of professional agility, Jane was recognized by the legal research firm Fastcase, along with other luminaries, including Judge Jed Rakoff and Slate Senior Editor, Lithwick, as one of their 2012 [Fastcase 50](#). The Fastcase 50 recognizes "the smartest, most courageous innovators, techies, visionaries, and leaders...."

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY PROMOTION SUPPORTS LUBUTO

At this summer's Special Libraries Association annual conference, the American Chemical Society decided to depart from usual promotional activities at the ACS Publications booth (saying "how many conference t-shirts, bags or water bottles do you really need this year?") and donated \$15 to each conference attendee who spent 15 minutes participating in their activities. Their goal was to bring 100 participants to their booth, generating a \$1,500 donation to Lubuto, and they reached it — thanks to the wide support of our colleagues in SLA!

MEET THE LUBUTO COMMUNITY: Grace

Grace, a little girl enrolled in grade 1 in the Fountain of Hope's informal community school, comes to the library every day and reads to herself or looks at pictures in the books. She jumps on librarian Nikki's back and reads with her, or sits in the talking circle chatting away to herself, even when she is surrounded by children involved in a library program. Grace is quite mischievous and the others are always telling her to be quiet but she is also regarded by all with a great deal of affection. Her library friends are aware that she has difficult conditions at home, and everyone embraces her as a member of the Lubuto community.

LUBUTO MODEL ACCLAIMED BY CHILDREN-YOUTH LIBRARIANS INTERNATIONALLY

At the 78th World Library and Information Congress of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in Helsinki, Finland this August, Jane Meyers made several formal presentations of Lubuto and our work to librarians from all over the world. She was joined by Lubuto's partner, Robinson Bwato, head of the Zambia Library Service, who also made a presentation about public library services in Zambia and our new partnership to bring high quality library services to Zambia's children and youth.

PLEASE JOIN US AS A SUSTAINING SUPPORTER

As a Sustaining Supporter, you will receive an email with each donation to keep you informed of Lubuto's latest developments, of which you are a key supporter. And as you know, this support gives thousands of children, who may otherwise never see the pages of a book, the opportunity to learn, communicate and grow in beautiful, safe and welcoming libraries, making a real and lasting difference in their lives. A modest donation charged to your credit card each month or quarter helps Lubuto tremendously.

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