

## STATUS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN UGANDA 2017

The National Library of Uganda (NLU) is a semi – autonomous body established by the National Library Act 2003, responsible for coordinating the development of public libraries in Uganda, collecting and preserving the national cultural heritage in print, offering leadership in the field of library and Information provision and promoting the reading culture in Uganda.

Currently the National Library of Uganda works with a network of 46 public libraries and over 100 community libraries spread countrywide. The public libraries are as follows

<b>Library</b>	<b>Region</b>
1. Adumi Sub County public library	North
2. Arua public library	North
3. Bileafe Sub County public library	North
4. Budaka public library	East
5. Bugiri public library	East
6. Bundibugyo Public Library	West
7. Busia public library	East
8. Buhimba Sub County public library	West
9. Entebbe public library	Central
10. Gulu public library	North
11. Hoima public library	West
12. Ibanda public library	West
13. Jinja public library	East
14. Kabale public library	West
15. Kabarole public library	West
16. Kabwoya Sub County public library	West
17. Kagadi public library	West
18. Katwe-Kabatooro public library	West
19. Kampala public library	Central
20. Kamuli public library	East
21. Kiboga public library	Central
22. Kitoba Sub County public library	West
23. Kisoro public library	West
24. Kitgum Public library	North
25. Koboko public library	North
26. Lira public library	North
27. Masaka public library	Central
28. Maracha public library	North

29. Masindi public library	West
30. Mbale public library	East
31. Mbarara public library	West
32. Moroto public library	North East
33. Moyo public library	North
34. Mubende public library	Central
35. Nakaseke Tele center	Central
36. Nakapiripit public library	North East
37. Nebbi public library	North
38. Omugo Sub- County Library	North
39. Paidha public library	North
40. Packwach Public Library	North
41. Panyimur Sub- County Library	North
42. Pajulu Sub- County Library	North
43. Pallisa public library	East
44. Soroti public library	East
45. Tororo public library	East
46. Zombo Public Library	North

Of the 46 public libraries 17 have electricity, only 11 of them have professional librarians managing them and 14 of them have computers. Public libraries in Uganda were decentralized in 1997 and are managed by local governments. Kabarole and Hoima public libraries receive the highest number of users monthly. Kabarole receives more than 4,100 users while Hoima receives more than 2, 500 users, Nakapiripit public library receives the lowest number of users monthly.

At the local governments they are under the departments of community development and Education. The government of Uganda supports the libraries with a small grant for the development of the library service.

Book Aid International in partnership with the National Library of Uganda has established fully fledged children's libraries in 22 of the public libraries so far. Ten of the children's libraries have introduced e-readers

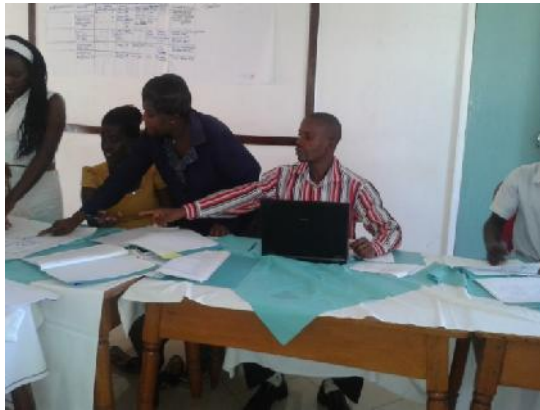
Most of the books stocked in these libraries are got from Book Aid International through the National library of Uganda.

Public libraries in Uganda have partnered with organizations like EIfL, Global libraries, Beyond Access, Good Steward Global Initiative, NABOTU, Children International, Read International, Book Aid International to develop the library service.

Librarians who work in these libraries are trained by the National Library of Uganda at least once a year in different fields that NLU feel are essential to the development of libraries. So far librarians have got skills in proposal writing, management of information materials, promoting reading, marketing of public libraries, Advocacy, communication and awareness raising, ICT and Internet searching.

NLU works with community libraries as well, although they do not receive government grants. Community libraries in Uganda are over 100 and unite under the Community Libraries Association of Uganda. The most successful are Nambi Ssepuyya community library in Jinja, Ceazaria community library in Buyikwe and Zigoti in Mityana

NLU aims at establishing a public library at least every two years.



Librarians in one of the training sessions



Soroti Children's Library