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Library Associations and Institutions

BOTSWANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 2010 - 2012





Botswana Library Association, Introduction

- Botswana library association
 - founded in 1978 as a national body representing information workers
 - Membership; individual librarians & information services providers as well as institutions that maintain or are interested in libraries and information services.
- Was vibrant through 90's – journal published until 1994
- BSLA programme started 2010





COUNTRY PROFILE: BOTSWANA

- A democracy, gained independence from Britain in 1966
- Huge, 581 730 km², but sparsely populated
- Population = 2,098,018
- Economy largely dependent on diamonds but there is also sale of beef and tourism industry
- Languages: Setswana and English, several other local languages (e.g. Kalanga, Seyei, Sembukushu, Sekgalagadi)
- Literacy rate, 83%





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IFLA, BSLA, Botswana Project Goals

- **Visibility:** To raise the visibility of the association amongst its key stakeholders
- **Governance:** To work toward a more engaged and active BLA executive committee
- **Advocacy:** To identify a role of BLA in advocating for libraries in society and community as part of the new National Library Act and Vision 2016 strategy





Project Activities, 2010 – 2012

- Stakeholder Summit: November 18-19 2010
- Presentation at SCECSAL Conference: December 2010
- Workshop 1: Partnerships, May 2011
- Breakfast Seminar, November 2011
- Workshop 2: Advocacy and partnerships for Vision 2016, November 2011
- Review meeting: May 2012
- Final Report





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Stakeholder Summit, Palapye, Nov. 2010

Why a Stakeholder Summit?

- Breaking down silos
- Inclusion of BLA and the other library stakeholders in the development/nation building in Botswana





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Stakeholder Summit, Palapye





Outcome, Stakeholder Summit, 1

- Consent that Botswana Library Community needs a common forum to share ideas
- Consent that BLA needs to be supported by the entire library community in Botswana





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Workshop 1, Gaborone, May 2011





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Workshop 1, Gaborone





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Workshop 1, Gaborone





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Workshop 2, Gaborone



Focus group meetings

- Objectives: to find out views of the participants on BLA and what they think could be done to improve the performance of the association
- Five groups consulted: Gaborone, Francistown, Maun, Kasane and Ghanzi
- Common concern: lack of communication
- Others concerns included: involving members in association activities, use of social media, empowering members to be active in the association



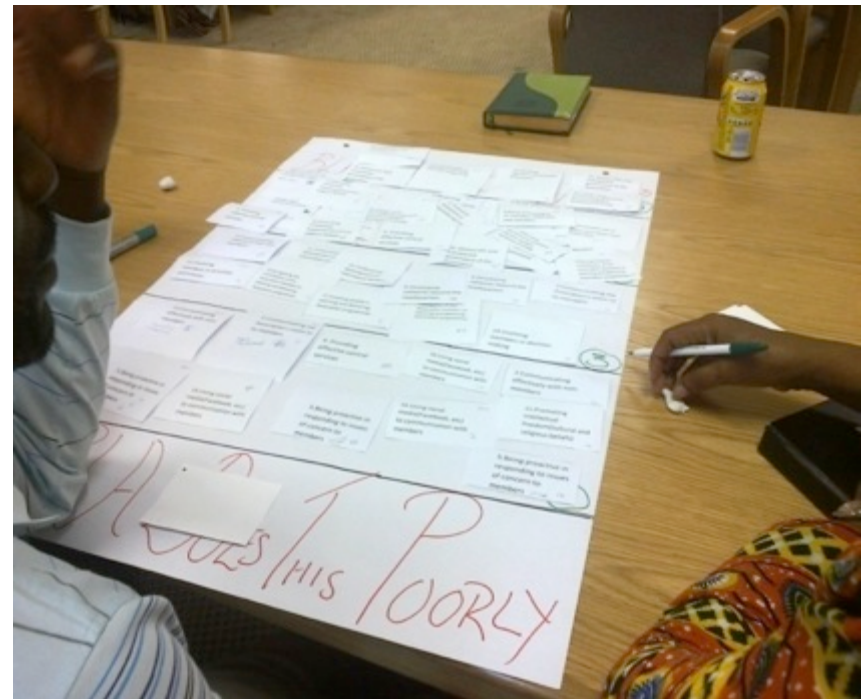


Focus group meetings

- What should BLA focus on?
- Advocacy
- Professional development of members
- Improve communication
- More interaction with members



Focus group meetings





BSLA, Botswana, Success Stories

- BLA membership has increased 3 folds
- BLA received substantial government grant – P170,000.
- BLA arranged the 3rd annual conference in September 2011 with 270 participants – biggest number of participants ever
- 4th Annual Conference, fewer participants, 106, but equally successful in terms of impact.
 - *6 sponsors: Emerald, Libwin Library Systems, Springer, DumaFM, WeekendPost newspaper, WorldWide Information Services (WWIS).
 - * Media coverage in DailyNews newspaper
- Strategic Plan – 2009 (reviewed February 2012)



BSLA, Botswana, Success Stories

- BLA Ex. Committee has met at a very frequent basis since project started
- Work has been delegated
- Annual Action plan (2012) to guide process
- New stakeholders (e.g. Secondary Education)
- Leadership skills workshop – 24 July 2012
- Copyright seminar – 27 July 2012





BSLA, Botswana, Success Stories

- Activities for other key stakeholders
 - Paper presentation at School heads conference; Presentation at College Librarians meeting; Meeting with stakeholders in Francistown
- Position statement on school libraries
- Overall increase in visibility
- More commitment from executive committee and sub committee members





Forth coming activities - 2012

- ILS workshop for teacher librarians – September 2012
- Librarian of the year Award – April 2013 – first announcement in November 2012
- Customer satisfaction survey – Final report September
- Establish the library stakeholder forum – first meeting in October 2012





BLA's Greatest Challenge

- Keep the momentum
- Involvement of new members and leaders
- Funding
- Visibility
- Vast, sparsely populated country





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Botswana

