

Developing strategic partnerships for national development: a case of Botswana

Priti Jain
Senior Lecturer
Department of Library & Information Studies
University of Botswana
Gaborone
Botswana
E-mail: jainp@mopipi.ub.bw

R.B. Nfila
Senior Librarian
Department of Library Services
University of Botswana
Gaborone
Botswana
NFILAR@mopipi.ub.bw

Abstract

Purpose - The purpose of this paper is to explore how libraries and information centres can play a key role in national development through strategic working partnerships with Government and other stakeholders.

Methodology - The paper is based on literature Review and practical examples

Findings - The paper finds that Botswana Government has formulated Maitlamo policy for the development of public libraries and through this policy partnerships have been established by the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP) through the Sesigo Project, and another partnership has been between parastatal organizations such as Botswana Technology Centre (BOTEC) and Botswana National Library Services (BNLS).

Originality - The paper suggests the potential areas of partnerships that include community development, youth development, music and sports, cultural activities and indigenous knowledge.

Keywords - Libraries, Information Centres, Government, Partnership, National Development, Botswana

1. Introduction

It is a well-known fact that information is power in all spheres of our lives including national development and libraries are the original owner and protector of that power. The role of Libraries and

Information Centres in national development cannot be over emphasized. The role of libraries in national development has been topical for almost 40 years, which is evident from the SCECSAL conference themes starting from 1976 to date. Most of the SCECSAL conference themes have focused on issues of information and knowledge in national development. The purpose of this paper is to explore how libraries and information centres can play a key role in national development through strategic working partnerships with Government and other stakeholders.

All developing regions, including Africa need developed Libraries and Information Centres for the purpose of dissemination of timely and relevant information to both urban and rural communities. Africa is currently facing a challenge to achieve millennium development goals of eradication of poverty, ensuring health for all, and educated and informed nations. Achievement of these goals and sustaining economic and social growth development among communities can be realized only with full active participation of community members in national development. Emphasising the value of Libraries and Information Centres in national development, Nkiko and Yusuf (2008) note that "information is vital resource in stimulating socioeconomic development" and that "a society without developed libraries is tantamount to a person without a brain and memory". Unagha and Okon (2006) note the role of Libraries and Information Centres in disseminating information needed for formulating development programmes, addressing development problems, and informing communities, as beneficiaries, are crucial for national development programmes. Thus Libraries and Information Centres are vital in National Development.

According to Msiska (1998) "information is a very precious resource and a necessary pre-requisite for national development". He further notes that effective dissemination of information is needed for achievement of balanced economic, social, and political development amongst both urban and rural communities.

2. Libraries & Information Centres, Democracy and National Development

Libraries and Information Centres are by their very nature democratic in terms of disseminating and providing access to information to all people without discrimination and censorship. Libraries and Information Centres exist to provide access to all types of information, in all different formats, to all individuals to support teaching, learning, research, eradication of poverty and diseases, sharing of knowledge and skills, sharing of information in order to achieve participative democracy and national development. Thus, there is a "link between development, democracy, respect for human rights and good governance" (Nkiko and Yusuf, 2008). Access to timely, relevant and accurate information empowers individuals and communities to actively participate in economic, social, and political development resulting in sustained national development. Advocates of Open Access (OA) movement promote free accessibility online, by all, to publicly funded research output for the purpose of providing information to everyone for improving economy and policies that affect everyday life. By making information freely available without restrictions and charges libraries and information centres can accelerate dissemination of information for use by communities.

In order to promote access to information as a national resource for all citizens, African Governments need to invest in establishment and development of libraries and information centres. Initiatives have been taken by some of the African governments who have factored development of Libraries and Information Centres in their national visions. According to Msiska (1998) Malawi vision 2020 document

included “provision of library materials and facilities” and the “promotion of the use of information technology” to enhance transmission and dissemination.

Botswana’s vision 2016 document includes “an educated, informed nation and proud nation” by providing quality education and training to enable individuals to contribute to national, social, and economic development (Vision 2016 for Botswana, 2004). Through implementation of Maitlamo policy the Botswana government has planned the effective use of information and communications Technology (ICT) to achieve social, economic, cultural and political development. As outlined in the policy, “an efficient and effective ICT training system is crucial to Botswana’s economic development”. Development of community ICT centres are designed to “meet the specific needs of all Botswana in terms of easy access to information services relating to healthcare, jobs, education and government services. Government has also planned to connect all public libraries to high-speed network access by December 2010 to promote access to online information such as e-health Botswana, agriculture, mining, manufacturing and tourism using Internet, radio and television (Maitlamo Botswana’s National ICT Policy, 2004).

It has been established that lack of or poor access to information causes marginalization of communities (Maitlamo Botswana’s National ICT Policy, 2004). An enhanced access to information would improve the lives of individuals in communities in terms of providing relevant information related to livelihoods such as agriculture, livestock rearing, markets for goods and services and government policies in general.

3. Partnerships Defined

There are many forms and meaning of partnerships. However, the authors prefer Edwin S. Clay’s (2009) definition, who defined partnership as “the state or condition of being a partner; participation; joint interest.” This definition suggests that there is formal and mutual agreement between and amongst participating organizations or institutions in pursuing the same goal. In this kind of collaborative relationship the partners contribute equally towards developing, improving and sustaining libraries and information centres.

For the purpose of this paper partnership shall be defined as a formal and mutual agreed working and productive relationship between libraries and information centres, government, private sector, and public sector in developing, improving, and managing libraries and information centres, as well as enabling provision of seamless access to resources and information services for national development.

In this era of financial cutbacks and the need for libraries and information centres to prove their existence to governments and societies, it is imperative to establish a number of partnerships between the public sector and the private sector for the purposes of financing, management and sustaining information service projects, as well as disseminating information to a wider public.

3.1 Benefits of Partnerships in Developing and Providing Libraries and Information Services

Partnerships between Government and stakeholders in developing libraries and information centres bring a number of benefits including the following:

- Partnerships amongst Government, Institutions and organizations/stakeholders ensure the provision of one-stop point of access to information for all members of the community. Through

the partnership libraries and information centres receive enough funding to provide relevant resources and services.

- Partnerships enables libraries and information centres to share cost of providing services resulting in no financial cutbacks (Badgett, 2010). Sharing costs result in construction of spacious libraries and information centres as well as their staffing.
- Libraries and information centres can undertake a number of marketing activities and advertising for their services to the general public. Through the partnerships libraries gain in terms of resources and expertise that can expand the library's impact and outreach in a community through provision of information and communication technologies and networked personal computers.

4. Libraries' Partnerships with Stakeholders

Opportunities abound in terms of innovative partnerships between Libraries and Information Centres, government and stakeholders in democracy, national development and good governance. Quite often Libraries and Information Centres do not play an active and proactive role in national development issues owing to lack of initiatives to prove their existence to government and communities. Through consultative meetings and forums partnerships can be developed to enhance access to information for national development.

Achitabwino (2007) identified a number of roles that libraries can play towards national development through partnerships with other stakeholders as follows:

- Libraries serve as crucial repositories of knowledge and information accumulated over time and disseminated to all at point of need.
- Libraries serve as pivotal point in democracy promotion and socio-economic development in a country through provision of information that empowers citizen participation in the democratic process, allowing public debates, and informing policy-making process.
- Libraries play a vital role in the health sector by organizing and making health information accessible to all users. Libraries provide people with appropriate information on diseases and prevention measures, health care, side effects of premarital affairs, dangers of early pregnancies and any other health related information.
- Libraries provide information to problems related to population increases, among them being land degradation, food shortages, deforestation, drying rivers, drought, etc.
- Libraries play a great role in national development through the support to the education sector by means of information dissemination.
- Libraries contribute to national development through supporting agriculture sector by harnessing information on different areas of agriculture that include farming methods, marketing, and crop diseases.

4.1 Examples of Library Partnerships with Stakeholders

According to Aguolu (1989:17) "libraries have functioned as instruments of political and social change, and as guardians of intellectual freedom" and given the rapid change in use of various technologies libraries now look for opportunities for partnership with stakeholders in information dissemination. There are a number of successful examples of partnership between libraries and various stakeholders. At this stage it would be appropriate to look at some of the examples.

- York Council's Libraries developed a partnership amongst the public and private sectors that brought together "York Council's Libraries and Adult Learning teams and one of the city's biggest employers, Aviva" into an innovative partnership that has resulted in development of policy on improvement of library services. Through this joint venture libraries were able to source and manage funding for services provided (Jeeves, 2010).
- Cornell University Law library developed a partnership with Government Printing Office (GPO) "in developing ways to provide the American people open and transparent access to the documents of our democracy" which started a project in February 2010 whereby Cornell University Law Library " began a yearlong pilot project to evaluate a conversion process of *The Code of Federal Regulations(CFR)* in XML (extensible mark-up language) format" by converting various titles into XML and made accessible through the University's Web site. This became the first initiative towards open access Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) to all government documents (Somerset, 2010). This project has also resulted in development of Government Book Talk blog that provides wide and open access to Government publications (govbooktalk, 2010).
- The Library of Congress, the California Digital Library, the University of North Texas Libraries, the Internet Archive and the U.S. Government Printing Office announced on 14 August, 2008 a collaborative project to preserve public United States Government web sites at the end of the current presidential administration ending January 19, 2009. This harvest is intended to document federal agencies' online archive during the transition of government and to enhance the existing collections of the five partner institutions. The Library of Congress, the world's preeminent reservoir of knowledge, is leading a nationwide program to collect and preserve at-risk digital content of cultural and historical importance. The program, formally called the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program is building a digital preservation network of partners. The California Digital Library leads the NDIIPP funded Web-at-Risk project, which is developing tools that enable librarians and archivists to capture, curate, preserve, and provide access to web-based government and political information (Gavin, 2008).
- The Hamilton Public Library's first partnership was "an adult literacy partnership" that started in 1983 and is still going today. Library's department of Resource Centre for Disabled partnered with social and health care providers and the Community Information Service and established the Disability Information Services Helpline to provide efficient and sufficient services to the disabled people of the community. As a result Hamilton library emerged with five Career and Employment Resource Centres, which created a Hamilton Business Directory, a multi-agency public-private partnership, of which the Federal government was one of the partners (Barrie,

Clinning, and Dalgetty, 2007). Hamilton public libraries have come up with 40 developmental assets principles for youth development.

- Partnership between Edith Cowan in Western Australia and the Maldives College of Higher Education in India: This was an established partnership between the libraries of Edith Cowan University (ECU) and the Maldives College of Higher Education (MCHE) in India. The partnership included exchange visits, provision of advice, information and resource sharing over a period of two years. The Maldives-Australian partnership was established to produce more local qualified librarians and to bridge the division between developed and developing libraries. This partnership was funded by World Bank. It proved a successful partnership, which produced qualified local librarians.
- Australian National library partnership with a leading Australian digital music provider: This was a partnership with Destra Media and meant to enhance the MusicAustralia online service hosted by National library to showcase Australia's musical culture and provide people of Australia with access to all types of Australian music. This partnership has enabled MusicAustralia to be digitized to allow online access and in-copyright recordings through legal download. Australian music is managed through the use of rights management technologies to allow artist to derive maximum benefits from their creativity.
- Bahamas Public Library Service's partnership with UNESCO helped promote information literacy clubs and recruit library cadets in Bahamas in order to stimulate an interest in librarianship and to sustain this profession within the country (Aballi & Williams, 2009).

All the above examples of partnerships between libraries and stakeholders indicate opportunities and strengths of partnerships in providing information services to communities.

5. Partnerships in Developing Libraries & Information Centres in Botswana

The growth of democracy and good governance is highly dependent on well developed Libraries and Information Centres in any given nation. Achitabwino (2007) argues that Libraries and Information Centres play an important role in promoting democracy and socio-economic development in a country and therefore "no nation can prosper without information". Given undisputable role of Libraries and Information Centres in providing relevant information for social, economic, and political sectors and for all citizens, it would be decisive for any government to partner with private sector, non-government organizations and other stakeholders to develop public libraries and information centres within reach of all communities. Development of public libraries, and through this policy partnerships have been established by African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP) through the Sesigo Project, and another partnership has been between parastatal organizations such as Botswana Technology Centre (BOTEC) and Botswana National Library Services (BNLS).

5.1 Established Partnerships in Botswana

There are already a few established partnerships in Botswana as follows:

Maitlamo policy: The Botswana government has taken an initiative through Maitlamo policy to develop public libraries in communities around the country. This policy forms a framework that guides development of public libraries within the country in line with Botswana's national vision 2016. This initiative has led to development of partnerships with other stakeholders in Botswana.

Partnership amongst ACHAP, Ministry of Youth Sport and Culture (MYSC) & BNLS:

Amongst the strategic partnerships developed is the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP) through the Sesigo Project to establish and maintain public libraries in the country. The partnership amongst ACHAP, Ministry of Youth Sport and Culture (MYSC) and Botswana National Library Service (BNLS) is meant to develop ICT enabled public libraries to enhance access to information directly linked to social and economic improvement of lives of communities in Botswana. This partnership brings funding from various stakeholders such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Global Libraries initiative, Botswana Government, and Microsoft Corporation to ensure sustainability of services to communities (ACHAP, 2009).

Partnership between Botswana Technology Centre (BOTECH) & BNLS: Partnership has also been established between parastatal organizations such as Botswana Technology Centre (BOTECH) and Botswana National Library Services (BNLS), by developing Libraries and Information Centres in the country in Letlhakeng village. BOTECH's partnership with libraries, for example, can help strengthen its information sharing with communities in terms of expertise and areas of innovative technologies that can improve life.

Opportunities abound in areas of partnership between BNLS and stakeholders in Botswana. Such stakeholders may include among others, Botswana Export Development & Investment Authority (BEDIA); Botswana Institution of Engineers; Botswana Innovation Hub; Somarelang Tikologo, and non-governmental organisations to make available and provide access to relevant information to individual members of the society at point of need. Libraries and Information Centres can take active role in preserving and disseminating information from all stakeholders to all users within the country.

In these times of financial constraints and lack of resources it is advisable for government to consider bringing together all information providers to harness the available resources towards developing Libraries and Information Centres for the purpose of providing access to timely, accurate and relevant information to communities. The result of such partnership and harnessing of resources will ensure development of central information points within communities where individuals will have access to information related to their livelihoods. This should provide communities with one stop information service centres where communities can access information on government policies, education, agriculture, democracy, poverty eradication, business opportunities, tourism, and demographics among others. Central information service points will have the benefit of eliminating competition amongst information service providers.

Taking this route should see departments and stakeholders such as ACHAP, Government Ministries, Foundations, Departments of Information, Television and Radio coming together to develop Libraries and Information Centres in the country as places where information will be well managed, made freely accessible, and information use skills provided. Developed Libraries and Information Centres should have all information resources and services from all information service providers and from all departments and sectors of the economy, including information from various organizations, companies and institutions.

5.2 Areas of possible Partnerships in Botswana

Libraries and information centres in Botswana are still at development stage, with a number of the developed libraries needing some improvement in structure and information service. This situation offers many opportunities for partnership with various relevant stakeholders. There are several areas which can be explored for partnership in developing and providing information services for national development in Botswana. The authors propose the following:

5.2.1 Partnerships in Community Development

All information service providers make a claim to the fact that they want to provide relevant information for the betterment of livelihoods of communities or society. Their energies, efforts, and resources, therefore, must be channeled towards community development. The government of Botswana through Maitlamo National Policy (2007) identifies community information about livestock rearing, markets for goods and services, government policies, national news, Health information, business information, marriage laws, domestic violence, information about adoption, and political representation in parliament. Achievement of availability of these different information services within communities can be realized with effective strategic partnership amongst government departments, public Libraries and Information Centres and other stakeholders. Public libraries can play important roles by partnering with communities and serving as community information centres for a number of activities. Public Libraries and Information Centres can provide information resources or publications in all formats and for all members of the community including people with special needs. In addition to providing information services and training in information skills, public Libraries and Information Centres can partner with Ministry of Education to provide counseling services for special needs, education, career, and employment counseling (Hovius 2005). The availability of ICT networks and community portals in community information centres can be developed as one-stop service source of information for community members to access any information be it health, education, agriculture, business, customary law, elections etc.

Libraries and information centres can also serve as community centres in addition to providing access to relevant information resources. Public libraries and information centres can serve as places where topical issues affecting community are discussed or shared. Indigenous knowledge could be collected, preserved, and disseminated through websites or community portals and show-cased during celebrations. Both libraries and information centres and the Media can partner to work together in capturing, preserving and disseminating information on cultural activities and indigenous knowledge.

5.2.2 Partnership in youth development

Public Libraries and Information Centres have always taken an active role in developing activities and programmes that support the educational and career development of young people. Partnerships have been developed between Public libraries & Information Centres and schools and communities to develop appropriate programmes to support young people at different stages of development. According to Bego (2003) while public libraries are among the valuable institutions to young people's education and development, "many have not realized their tremendous potential".

The Botswana government has recognized the need to focus on youth development through the establishment of Ministry of Youth, Sport, and Culture to address emerging issues relating to youth development.

Public Libraries and Information Centres can provide an environment for formal and informal learning where youth can receive assistance with their homework, technology training, career development, and professional development. Contribution to youth development should start with active engagement in a number of activities that help bring about positive development in society or community. According to Meyers (2003) development of youth for success must take cognisance of all key areas of cognitive, social, physical, emotional, personal, civic and vocational in order to realize desired outcomes of competence, confidence, character and contribution. Meyers (2003) states that Libraries and Information Centres provide a conducive environment for youth development by providing valuable resources to enhance learning and active participation in communities. In line with Botswana government initiative of developing and empowering youth through internship programmes in various government department, Libraries and Information Centres can develop partnerships in youth development by providing all information resources relevant to all functional areas and stages of youth development. Libraries and Information Centres can contribute to youth internship programmes by actively engaging youth in activities and programmes such as teaching information skills to members of the community, developing websites and portals for specific community information, participation in community projects. Engaging youth in providing relevant information services as well as participation in environment cleaning campaign, poverty eradication, health promotion, learning projects can help prepare youth as future leaders in both family and community. It also serves to provide youth with knowledge, skills and competencies needed for survival.

Libraries and Information Centres partnership in youth development can serve to bring youth into close contact with community members, and various government departments where youth can receive support in all functional areas of life. Libraries and Information Centres, as free public areas, encourage independent and group learning and bring together peers, adults, youth organizations and family members to share experiences. Bringing youth into planning, development and running Libraries and Information Centres also contributes to positive development of youth as such developments take into consideration the needs of youth. Bego (2003) notes that Libraries and Information Centres developed with input from youth provides opportunities for "career development, technology training, mentoring and home assistance".

5.2.3 Partnership in Music and Sports

Development of partnerships between Libraries and Information Centres and music industry, as well as partnership with private sector and stakeholders can go a long way to develop and promote music and sporting activities. Libraries and Information Centres have the capability and knowledge of capturing, storing, preserving and disseminating information about different music, artists and sporting activities. In this era of digital technologies music can be recorded and digitized for preservation and accessibility.

Libraries and Information Centres can build and manage music collections, both print and electronic, in the form of "manuscripts, pictures, performances, sound recordings, books, journals" (National Library of Australia 2007). Libraries and Information Centres in Botswana can partner with government departments such as Radio Botswana, Botswana Television (BTV), and Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture to develop and promote the music industry. Partnership can also be developed with local communities, cultural societies, Botswana Folk Music Associations and music recording companies to have all music produced by local artists captured through recording, collected and digitized as national heritage. Collecting, preserving and dissemination of music can serve to promote Botswana's cultural heritage within and internationally. Libraries and Information Centres can develop a website through which music resources can be accessible and from which digitized music can be legally downloaded for

sale. With the development of partnership between Libraries and Information Centres and Music Associations, digital rights management systems can be put in place to manage copyright issues related to digitization and downloading of music for sale and hence protect illegally copying of music.

Libraries and Information Centres in Botswana can develop partnerships in sporting activities where information on sports can be collected, preserved and disseminated. Such information can also be captured, recorded and digitized as national heritage. Libraries can play an active role in disseminating information on sports through community websites from which communities can access information and watch live sporting activities. Partnerships can be developed with departments and stakeholders such as Botswana Football Association (BFA) and individual teams to develop game simulation websites from which Botswana's youth can learn more about football, volleyball, softball, netball, swimming, and other sporting activities. Through established partnerships with organizations working with sport, Libraries and Information Centres can help to disseminate information about local sports clubs and opportunities available for different age groups within community to participate in sport.

5.2.4 Partnership in Cultural Activities

Libraries and Information Centres are known for their commitment to collection and dissemination of information on culture of the local communities. As a result they have served as one stop information resource showcasing cultural activities of communities, which include cultural music and dance recordings, language, oral tradition or customs, and display of artistic works. Botswana has diverse cultures from the different communities that include Babanderu, BaHerero, Hambukushu, Kalahari San or BaSarwa (Khoisan), Ba-Kalanga, Batswapong, BaYei/Wayeyi/Bayeyi, BaKgalagadi, BaSubiya, (Lydia Nyati-Ramahobo, 2004) and Tswana speaking communities among others. Cultural activities are reflected in indigenous knowledge of communities and therefore any strategic partnership that may be developed to capture cultural activities can still result in capturing indigenous knowledge. Libraries and information centres in Botswana can develop partnership with traditional kgotla to capture, preserve, and disseminate information on the different cultures. Information on cultural dances, oral tradition, artifacts, health, and agriculture can be collected and digitized.

Indigenous languages are very crucial for national development especially when it comes to educating communities to eradicate poverty. BAGWASI (2006) says that language is very crucial in reducing poverty since it is used as medium of communication and "determines who has access to educational, political and economic resources" and therefore can be used in all adult-education programmes. Community members can actively participate in community programmes and projects if they use their indigenous languages. Libraries and Information Centres can actively partner with communities to disseminate information in different languages for the benefit of members of the community.

5.2.5 Partnership in Indigenous Knowledge

The goals of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) are meant to "accelerate socio-economic development across the region" through prioritization of information and communication technologies enhanced programmes that build sustainable information society in African countries (Soltane, 2007). The development of information society in Africa can be realized through availability of indigenous knowledge that has been captured through recordings, stored and preserved in different media and made accessible to all members of the society.

Libraries and information centres are well known for collecting, managing and facilitating access to information relevant to the lives of community or society members and therefore are appropriately positioned to manage indigenous knowledge in various media and formats which include video recordings, audio recordings, photographic pictures, digital images (Nkatha, 2002). The indigenous knowledge stored and accessed through these formats relate to lives of local people in terms of using that information for health (medicinal plants), agriculture (food & crop production), handicrafts, environmental conservation, and education in order to solve the socio-economic problems.

In order for Botswana to have a sustainable information society where local people can use indigenous knowledge to reduce poverty, it means that there should be a strategic partnership between National Museum, National Archives and Libraries and Information Centres established within communities. Such a partnership will bring together library and information professionals who are knowledgeable in repackaging and managing information and people from National Museum and National Archives who are knowledgeable in capturing oral tradition and cultural activities. The shared knowledge and skills emanating from established strategic partnership should enhance availability of indigenous knowledge in Botswana. Through the use of information and communication technologies, libraries and information professionals can develop knowledge management systems and websites to preserve and disseminate the indigenous knowledge.

6. Conclusions

The general condition of most libraries found in Botswana communities is that they are small & non-existent in other communities, do not have enough space, there are no computers, and the libraries are underutilized. The Botswana Government and other stakeholders need to establish a strong and productive partnership in developing and improving libraries and information centres in the country. Such partnerships should have the advantage of harnessing the available resources together to build spacious libraries and expand the existing ones, providing PCs and network connectivity and ensuring that each community in Botswana have access to information. Libraries and information centres need to be built within reach of all communities.

Given decreasing financial resources, development of strong partnerships between Libraries and Information Centres and various stakeholders will ensure a coordinated allocation of resources that will benefit communities at large. It will also ensure coordinated access and dissemination of information to all citizens from one stop service centre. A working partnership between Libraries & Information Centers and stakeholders results in needs-based approach to provision of information emanating from information needs surveys undertaken by all partners. It will be highly advantageous for Botswana Government and stakeholders to establish libraries and information centres which provide information based on needs across community interest. Therefore, in this era of economic crisis there is a need to establish strong and productive partnership to share facilities, share knowledge and skills, and costs of providing resources and services. Through such established strong and productive partnerships, libraries and information centres in Botswana will develop and contribute towards national development and realisation of Vision 2016. Communities will be provided with one stop information service centres from which individuals will access specific, relevant and timely information related to their daily lives.

7. Recommendations

This paper explored how libraries can add value to national development through working partnerships with Government and other stakeholders. The paper recommends five types of partnerships in developing libraries and Information centres in Botswana to contribute towards national development.

- Partnership in Community Development
- Partnership in Youth Development
- Partnerships in Music and Sports and,
- Partnership in Cultural Activities.
- Partnership in Indigenous Knowledge

References

Aballi, I.F. & Williams, K. (2009), "Caribbean information literacy programmes discussed at international conference". Available at: http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=28415&URL_DO=DO_PRINTPAGE&URL_SECTION=201.html (Accessed 15 May 2010).

ACHAP (2009). "ACHAP Phase II Implementation Plan Development Workshop". *ACHAP Update*, Issue, 15, August 2009. Available at: <http://www.achap.org/doc/newsletters/ACHAP%20Update%20Issue%2015.pdf> (Accessed 16 May 2010).

Achitabwino, P. (2007), "Libraries and National Development". Available at: <http://pachitabwino.blogspot.com/2007/03/libraries-and-national-development.html> (Accessed 16 May 2010).

AISI (2007), "African Information Society Initiative (AIS): An Action Framework to Build Africa's Information". Available at: <http://www.comminit.com/en/node/213874> (Accessed 16 May 2010).

Aguolu, C.C. (1989), "Libraries, knowledge and national development: inaugural lecture" delivered on 29th March, Maiduguri, Nigeria: University of Maiduguri Press.

Badgett, T. (2010), "How public libraries can overcome budget cuts through cultural, educational, and business partnerships". Available at: <http://www.2mapa.org/how-public-libraries-can-overcome-budget-cuts-through-cultural-educational-and-business-partnerships.html> (Accessed 15 May 2010).

Bagwasi, M. (2006), "The Role of Language in Adult Education and Poverty Reduction in Botswana", *International Review of Education*, Vol. 52, No. 3-4, pp. 333-341

Barrie, L. Clinning, S. and Dalgetty, C. (2007), "Developmental Assets and Youth: How libraries can give teens the tools they need to succeed!". Available at: http://www.accessola2.com/superconference2007/fri/1416/assets_youth.pdf (Accessed 22 May 2010).

Bego, D. (2003), "Public Libraries as partners in youth development". Available at: <http://www.forumforyouthinvestment.org/files/PublicLibrariesYD.pdf> (Accessed 22 May 2010).

Clay, E. S. (2009), "The Partnership between Public Libraries and Public Education". *Virginia Libraries*, April/May/June, 2009 Vol. 55, No. 2. Available at: http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/VALib/v55_n2/clay.html (Accessed 22 May 2010).

Gavin, J. (2008), "Library Partnership Preserves End-of-Term Government Web Sites". Available at: <http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2008/08-139.html> (Accessed 22 May 2010).

Gibson, A.N. Bertot, J.C. and McClure, C.R. (2009), "Emerging Role of Public Librarians as E-Government Providers," *hicss*, pp.1-10, 42nd Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences. Available at: <http://www.computer.org/portal/web/csdl/doi?doc=doi/10.1109/HICSS.2009.697> (Accessed 15 May 2010).

Govbooktalk (2010), "Government Book Talk". Available at: <http://www.fdlp.gov/component/content/article/19-general/658-govbooktalk> (Accessed 22 May 2010).

Gross, J. And Riyaz, A. (2004), "An academic library partnership in the Indian Ocean region". *Library Review*, 53, 4: 220-227.

Hovius, B.(2005), Public Library Partnerships which add value to the Community The Hamilton Public Library Experience. Available at: <http://archive.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/papers/041e-Hovius.pdf> (Accessed 23 May 2010).

Jeeves, P. (2010), "Innovative library partnership wins Government recognition". Available at: <http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/localnews/Innovative-library-partnership-wins-Government.6198119.jp> (Accessed 22 May 2010).

Maitlamo National Policy (2004), "Maitlamo Botswana's National ICT Policy: Legislative Framework and Change Report, Final Report December 2004". Available at: <http://www.icegate.ca/PDFs/Maitlamo%20Legislative%20Framework%20and%20Change%20Report.pdf> (Accessed 23 May 2010).

Meyers, E. (2003), "How Libraries Contribute to Young people's development". In *Public Libraries as partners in youth development*. Available at: <http://www.forumforyouthinvestment.org/files/PublicLibrariesYD.pdf> (Accessed 22 May 2010).

Msiska, A. W. C. (1998), "Libraries and National Development in Malawi". *Information Development*, Vol. 14, No. 4, pp. 193-197.

National Library of Australia (2007), "Partnership between government and business helps Australian music". Available at: <http://www.nla.gov.au/pressrel/PartnershipbetweengovernmentandbusinesshelpsAustralianmusic2.html>. *Music Australia*. Available at: <http://www.musicaustralia.org/> (Accessed 22 May 2010).

Nkhata, B. (2002), "Setting up an information resource centre and the management of indigenous knowledge at the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre". In *SCECSAL 2002 From Africa to the world – the globalisation of indigenous knowledge systems*.

Nkiko, C. and Yusuf, F.O. (2008), "Library and Information Support for New Partnership for Africa 's Development (NEPAD)". Available at: <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~mbolin/nkiko-yusuf.htm> (Accessed 23 May 2010).

Nyati-Ramahobo, L. (2004), "The Language Situation in Botswana", In *Language Planning and Policy in Africa*, Africa Vol. 1, Botswana Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa, edited by Richard B. Baldauf, Robert B. Kaplan. Available at: http://books.google.co.bw/books?id=nVrsAmyjNQC&pg=PA21&lpg=PA21&dq=languages+botswana+Lydia+Nyati+Ramahobo&source=bl&ots=hfxv6HspqU&sig=qvFa-B8th03-LAUW78KsmaztKE&hl=tn&ei=511TTcCEDcrDswa57ljoBg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CBoQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=languages%20botswana%20Lydia%20Nyati%20Ramahobo&f=false (Accessed 22 May 2010).

Somerset, G. (2010), "GPO and Cornell University pilot open Government Initiative". Available at: <http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/news-media/press/10news07.pdf> (Accessed 15 May 2010).

Soltane, K.B. Ben (2007), "African Information Society Initiative (AISI) An Action Framework to Build Africa's Information". Available at: <http://www.comminit.com/en/node/213874> (Accessed 23 May 2010).

Unagha, A.O. and Okon, H.I. (2006), "Sources of Information on New Economic Partnership for African Development (NEPAD)". *Library Philosophy and Practice*. Vol. 8, No. 2 (Spring 2006). Available at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1083&context=libphilprac> (Accessed 29 May 2010).

Vision 2016 for Botswana (2004), "Long-Term Vision for Botswana Vision 2016: Towards Prosperity for all". Available at: http://www.vision2016.co.bw/html/about_vision.shtm (Accessed 15 May 2010).

Biographies

R.B. Nfila: Senior Librarian at University of Botswana Library. He holds a Masters in Library & Information Studies and has published extensively in international journals.

Priti Jain: Senior lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Studies at the University of Botswana. She teaches knowledge management and user studies courses. She holds D Lit. et Phil (Doctor of Literature and Philosophy) UNISA, South Africa. Current areas of interest are: Institutional Repository, Digital Scholarship, and Knowledge management.