Public libraries rise to the challenge to connect the next billion
Parallel Session 7, Sharm el Sheikh (Egypt)

Time: 5 December 2017, 9am – 11am

Venue: Regency Room III, Hyatt Regency Sharm el Sheikh, Gardens Bay

A majority of those around the world who remain offline are covered by 3G mobile networks. Alongside the lack of resources to buy devices, low skills and a scarcity of relevant local content are two major blocks on the full use of the Internet as a means of accessing information. Overcoming these – through providing the physical tools necessary for connection, as well as developing skills and supporting the production of local content – will make a major contribution to realising the potential of the Internet for development.

In developing countries, public libraries are well positioned to expand the numbers of people connecting – and seeing the value of the Internet – with minimal cost and maximum results.

The workshop will focus on practical examples of how libraries and librarians are contributing to helping achieve the objectives set by the UN SDGs and AU Agenda 2063. What makes the activities of libraries unique? What challenges have public access projects helped to overcome? What needs to be done to deliver on the WSIS +10 target of connecting all libraries?

With representatives from the International Federation of Library Associations, Electronic Information for Libraries, the African Library and Information Association, and Egyptian libraries, the workshop will focus on local and global efforts to highlight the central role of libraries and librarians in this effort to promote internet access and understanding.

Session Format: Workshop (Panel talk and Q&A)

Description

Each speaker will discuss the situation in their countries and through their own experience, exploring how the unique characteristics of libraries as public access points makes for meaningful connectivity. They will also explore the specific challenges faced in their own contexts, in order to contribute to thinking worldwide about how to make universal public access in libraries a reality.

Moderator

- Dr Sarah Kaddu, Uganda Library and Information Association (ULIA) President

Welcome

- Mr Mahmoud Khalifa, Cybrarians.org, IFLA International Leaders Programme

Contributors

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