Positioning Library and Information Services to Achieve Sustainable Development: Innovations and Partnerships

Day 4 – 26 April 2018

Broadening LIS partnerships to Achieve SDGs

- *Session Chairperson: Inna Smith*

- 08:30 - 09:00

- **Keynote Address 3:**

- **Whose Access? Whose Tools? Whose Information?**

- **Creative LIS Partnerships to achieve SDGs.**

- By Rev. *Dr. Cornelius Wambi Gulere*

SDG GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

- As Library Information Services providers we have the obligation to innovate, renovate and activate new and old partnerships. You have to reach out to individuals, communities, nations and corporations in the global village to harness their knowledge and information for the common good.

Questions

Whose access? Whose Tools?

Whose Information?

By the end of this address, I hope to have made the point that creative LIS partnerships are critical to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals .

WHOSE ACCESS

There are no limits to whose access. Young and old, rich and poor, male and female, literate and illiterate, transgender and straight, the sick the hungry the prisoner, the poor the devout, the business guru, the vendor the officer and as many as there are people on earth born and unborn.

St Mark the Evangelist Community Library

Child at a loss finding the right book at the right moment.

Remember!

All the world's a stage,

*And all the men and women **merely** players;*

They have their exits and their entrances;

*And one man in his **time** plays many **parts**,*

*His acts being seven **ages**.*

William Shakespeare, Jaques, *As You Like It,* Act II, Scene VI

Access

Equal access to information is enshrined in the UN charter of Human Rights and it is the substance of the **SDG no 16:10 public access to information**. We therefore consider **access to library services a key role and factor in the development of individuals and society**.

Gravity of the problem

Death, literary occurs, when a society and its people are uninformed.

Wambi Gulere: Materials Development

Whose tools?

Language, form and style, wall **paintings, charts, signposts, banners, placards, statues, monuments, tombstones, walls of fame, road name, signage, storybooks and textbooks of all kinds, museums, names**, ...

Whose access?

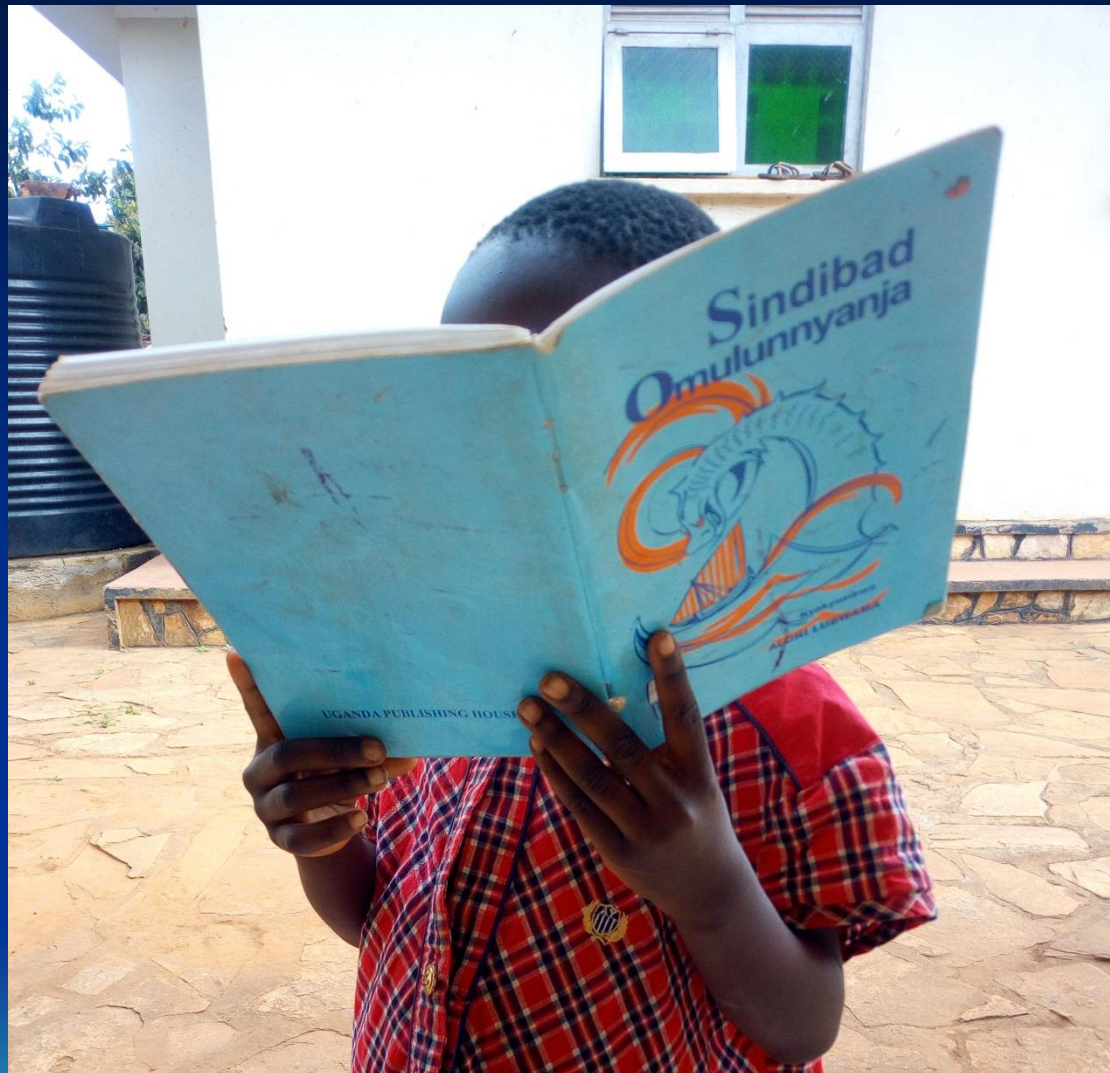Wambi Gulere: Materials Development

What and where?

LIBRARY

You know the saying, "when an elder dies in Africa, a library dies too".

We need to **diversify the tools of our trade by going oral, digital, photographic, audio visual, and graphic through statues, walls of fame, pavement stories**, ...

Wambi Gulere: Materials Development

Whose cost?

turn every corner on the face of the world into the library that it was meant to be

Public places including hospitals, public buildings, State Houses, places of worship, lodges, public offices, courts of law, health service centres, petrol stations, banks, telecom centres, hotels, bridges, bars and restaurants, textiles, supermarkets, food stores, public markets, taxi parks and bus stations, rail and harbours, game parks, road sides, schools, private, community, and national libraries as well as the private phones and e-mails are some of the places where library information services are expected to be served.

Whose tools?

Wambi Gulere: Materials Development

Why do we capitalized on school libraries, community libraries and national or public libraries?

Whose information?

Wambi Gulere: Materials Development

- Get closer to people of repute
- Appoint or assign researchers
- Document their lives

Presidential , parliamentary, traditional leaders, clan heads, totems, clans, school heads, teachers, cooks, farmers, traders, drivers, and all kinds of people, athletes, thieves, preachers.

Uganda Christian University

Gaining creative writing skills & Making storybooks as coursework.

- 11 BA Education and BA Languages Year III students were trained to use the two platforms
- Mastering the art of translation.
- 20+ native speakers in UCU as peer reviewers
- Each book was printed for assessment.
- 87+ published online & read 1000+ times; downloaded 300 times in 3 months.

UCU Poetry Class in a creative writing session

Writing poetry about self and the community is an important way of reflecting on society and creating materials for reading about that community.

Uganda Community Libraries

- 10 librarians were trained to collect folktales and write books for ASb.

- 40 books were developed in Lusoga; translated into English and peer reviewed by the researcher.

- 12 books were illustrated & uploaded www.africanstorybook.org by ASb project.

- A further 120+ books were evolved from these 12 through translations and adaptations.

Librarians at Inhebantu Alice Muloki enjoying storybook in Lusoga

The books have raised the morale of reading and writing in Lusoga. The second week of November 2017 has been dedicated to reading and writing in Lusoga at the Inhebantu library.

Places to go!!

In six months over 340 stories from UCU have been written and published in over 15 languages including Yoruba and read over 3000 times and downloaded 1300 times from www.storyweaver.org.in .
This would be unthinkable where these books to be located in a physical library in a school or community.
Thesame group of students has contributed on www.africanstrorybook.org.

Partnerships that have worked

Friends of African Village Libraries (FAVL), South African Institute of Distance Education (SAIDE), UgCLA, Book AID International (BAI), Comic Relief, EIFL, Pratham Books India, DFID, USAID/RTI, Irish AID, EBSCO, CPA, NLU, EIFL,SIDA/SAREC, Hewlett, Neil Butcher and Associates (NBA), UCU Community Service project

Bishop Willis Core PTC

- 22 Year III primary teacher students were trained to use ASb platform.

- 60 storybooks in Lusoga, Lango, Lusamia, Ateso, Lukenyi,… have been produced so far.

- The books were
  - reviewed by the researcher
  - Uploaded on ASb platform by researcher
  - Printed for peer review
  - Read for feedback.

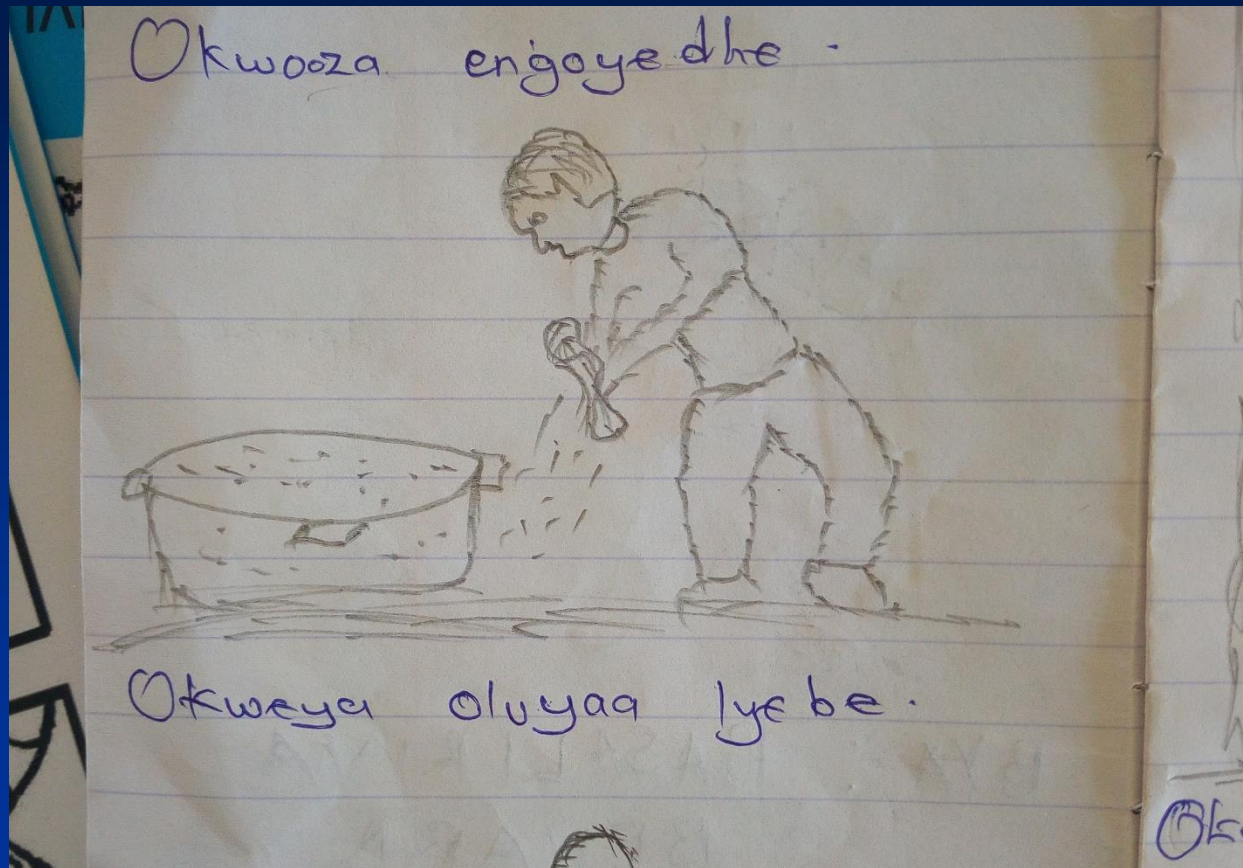# Amabuga

Gano mabuga matono?
Gano amabuga nga mangi!

Aye, olwendo no oluba no
olukoto.
Olukoto lwo olwendo luba
lughanvu.

Eibuga lyo liba na ibunda inene.
Ate olwendo luba na ibunda
itono.

Bino byendo ti mabuga.
Amabuga gaba mabba.

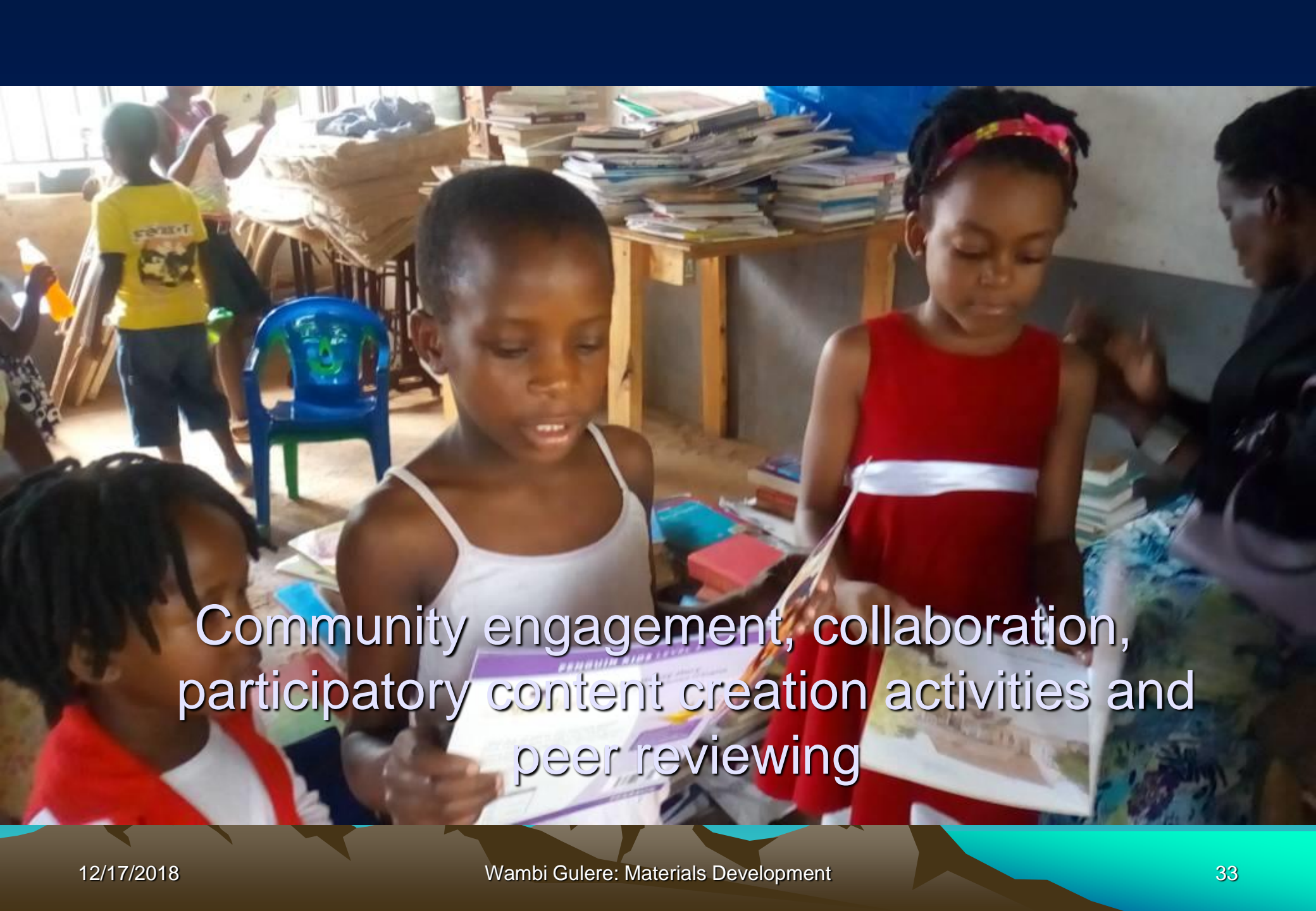**Picture illustration by a child in Kidiki Community Library**

Many schools have such stories written and illustrated by children which are often thrown away without ever being developed into complete storybooks. The dream of the child and teacher is left unrealized.

Aga Khan Primary School

Wambi Gulere: Materials Development
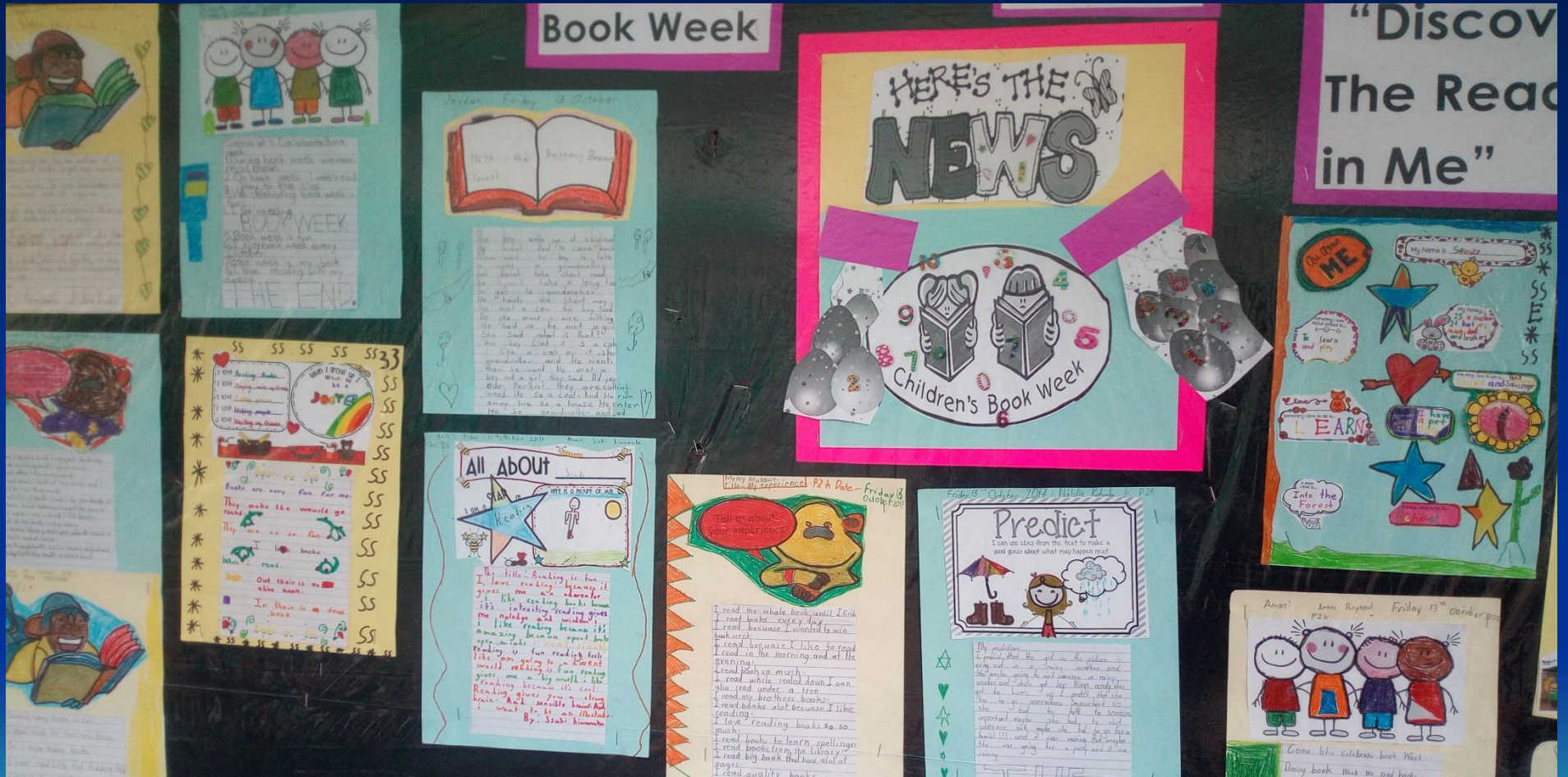
Conclusions

- Digital libraries are proving to be effective tools for information access. That is why Government of Uganda is contemplating taxing WhatsApp and Facebook.

- As library information services providers, you have the triple role of informers, educators and lobbyists or advocates in society.

Community engagement, collaboration, participatory content creation activities and peer reviewing

Recommendations

- Materials development in all the living world languages through collaborative writing.

- Instilling creative writing and creative reading skills to parents, teachers & teacher trainees.

- Instituting community libraries at every village to increase reader's access to materials.

- Embracing open licensing and publishing on Creative Commons platforms.

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thank you all