

Libraries Across Borders Annual Report: 2011-2012

By Marilyn MacPherson.

About Libraries Across Borders

Libraries Across Borders' (LAB) mission is to support community based library initiatives both locally and internationally. These initiatives range from building libraries, creating local collections, and training librarians, to providing expertise and advice. To support these initiatives, LAB has a sub-committee, the Assistance to Libraries Fund (ALF). ALF is responsible for fund-raising, selecting library projects and ensuring that the project is using the funds appropriately. The majority of ALF's funding comes from monthly donations and local fund-raising events. Currently, LAB's administrative structure consists of a convenor, a webmaster, and interest group members.

2012 Funding Initiatives

In 2012, LAB supported the Busolwe Library in Uganda. In accordance with its guidelines of granting money to projects with Canadian partners, LAB granted \$3,000.00 to the project's local partners Douglas College, Douglas College Foundation and Coquitlam Public Library. Despite a naming issue, the donation was noted in the Vancouver Sun <http://www.vancouversun.com/health/KUDOS+CORPORATE+GIVING/6179945/story.html>. The BCLA website is updated to report this funding initiative and to notify that the 2012 funding cycle is now closed.

2012 a Year of Change

2011 and 2012 have been years of change for LAB. Questions about its sustainability, mission, and potential have arisen. In particular, the sustainability of LAB's fund-raising model needed to be addressed.

To do so, LAB's convenor gathered information from other associations and conducted research about fundraising and other funding models.

Research is also currently being undertaken regarding LAB's partnerships – how they can be revisited and the potential for new partnerships.

During 2012, LAB's BCLA webpage experienced change. Content has been and is being added to reflect LAB's educational role. Members and non-members alike who are interested in international employment, issues in international librarianship, and library associations worldwide are invited to explore.

During 2012 a new website will replace LAB's current public website. The new site will have increased functionality and capacity to tell LAB's story, the stories of the libraries that it has funded, and to offer potential donors the resources to make an informed donation.

Key to making these changes successful is building LAB's capacity. In this respect, in 2012 LAB will explore ways to develop its administrative functions, membership, and committee structure.

Further Information about LAB

Interested in LAB? To contact LAB please email the group at librariesacrossborders@gmail.com.

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