

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Book Donation Programme of the ITC Faculty Library

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The ITC Faculty Library embarked on its book and journal donation programme in May 2010. Within the framework of ITC's mission statement, the Library has the task of improving access to scientific information, and that's why it is involved in institutional strengthening and capacity development projects in developing countries and emerging economies.

The Library has partnerships with scientific libraries all over the world, in most cases at partner institutes of ITC or at partner institutes where ITC's joint education programmes are conducted. Books and libraries are a crucial resource in all academic institutes throughout the world. They are vital to the quality of education and research: they raise literacy levels and they provide information and underpin development.

The Library participates in capacity building and institutional development projects in developing countries and emerging economies. Within these capacity building projects, it was noticed that many libraries lack important textbooks and other materials that could support research and education. The reasons for this are many and various, and not always financial. The ITC Faculty Library not only regularly receives material in duplicate but also removes printed publications from the collection if there is electronic access, and so the idea of a donation programme was born. To avoid the accusation that "donation programmes make libraries grow but not develop", we wanted to approach the notion of a donation programme from a

different angle: offering literature for each participant to choose from rather than sending unsolicited boxes of literature.

So the principle is that the ITC Faculty Library offers books and journals via a website, the libraries of our partners choose which publications they are interested in and what fits into their collections, and the materials are sent only on request. We hope the available materials will be a welcome addition to their respective collections and will have a positive influence on the quality of education and research.

We invite you to visit the database of the donation programme and select materials that will be useful to your library and its users. You can also sign up to the RSS feed and receive updates when new items are added to the database. And we add materials to the programme on a regular basis!

Currently, we have 39 registered users and all are university-related institutes and faculties. To date, we have received 25 orders and have shipped 282 items to Ghana, India, Venezuela, Nigeria, Kenya and Rwanda (Figure 1).

The website can be found at www.donationprogram.nl and we have a special e-mail address for the programme: librarydonationandexchange@itc.nl.

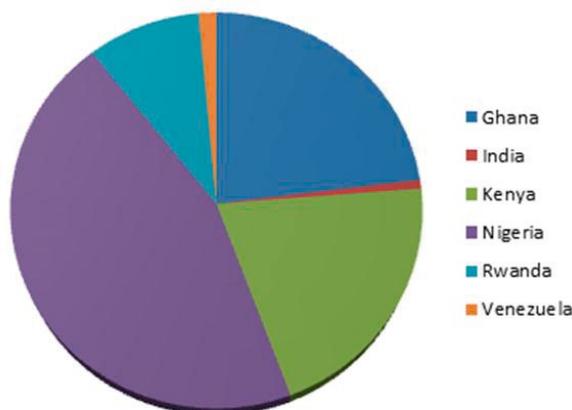


Figure 1

Experiences with the ITC Donation Programme *OIC Library, RCMRD, Nairobi, Kenya (Jimmy K. Warah)*

The ITC Faculty Library Book Donation Programme has proven to be one of the most exciting experiences in my information management career. My name is Jimmy K. Warah and I happen to be the officer in charge of library services here at the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Nairobi, Kenya. The vision and mission of the organization is “to be a premier centre of excellence in the provision of geo-information and information technology applications in Africa and beyond” and “to provide quality geo-information and allied ICT products and services in environmental and resource management for sustainable development in our member countries and beyond”.

In June 2011, I was perusing page 16 (second paragraph of the middle column) of *ITC News* 2010-4. We do occasionally receive this and other publications from ITC through the Director-General’s Office. Your Book Donation Programme caught my eye immediately and I went to the website mentioned for more information. Through reading and following the simple

instructions on the site, I registered and ordered some publications, which arrived last week. The 65 items – mainly books, congress literature, CDs, etc. – have already enhanced the collection of our fast-growing special/academic library here at RCMRD. This library was established in 1978 to help to acquire, process, organize and finally disseminate information concerning our institution, which was founded in 1975. Although the library originally focused purely on geo-information (e.g. geographical information systems, remote sensing, global positioning systems, photogrammetry, environmental issues, natural resources management), over the last ten years the mandate of the library has expanded to include information technology and other management-related fields.

The library here is quite important in assisting users to achieve their respective targets. The materials received through your donation programme will thus be of great use to our users, who comprise the staff and students often visiting the organization from various countries and institutions, including ITC, the Netherlands, who is one



OIC Library, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Nairobi, Kenya

of our main partners. They will assist users in research, and thereby in the implementation of the various projects RCMRD is engaged in with member states and beyond (read more on our website www.rcmrd.org).

To me, the ITC Faculty Library donation initiative is of great importance in assisting upcoming libraries of similar scope to develop their collections. I would urge the programme to share not only print materials with its partners but also electronic resources where possible.



Ag Head, Dr Nuga displaying books in the Departmental Library of the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria (Dr Babatunde Olusegun Nuga)

In 2006 and 2008, I was privileged to be part of the Certificate programmes in Principles of Spatial Data Handling: Databases, GIS and Remote Sensing and in Application of GIS and Remote Sensing to Natural Resource Management, respectively (both sponsored by the Netherlands Fellowship Programme). During my stay at ITC, one of my favourite places was the Library – to study and also to walk among the shelves to “feed my fatigued eyes”. It was during my visit in 2006 that I noticed some piles of books near the Library exit points, with a sign indicating that they could be taken without charge. From then on, I began to compile collections of books relevant to my faculty back in Nigeria from these free books. By the end of my 2006 programme, I had already collected over 70 kg of books, which I shipped back home. Again in 2008, I was able to collect more from the Library, which again I shipped back home after my study, with the shipping charges being paid by my department.

Back in Nigeria, I was always quick to check out my alma mater, especially the Library page on the internet, where I discovered the Book Donation Programme. I immediately registered, enabling me to make selections on the library donation programme webpage, and it was with great pleasure that I took delivery of several cartons of books at different times between 2010 and 2011, freely shipped by ITC to my department in Nigeria. All these books acquired from ITC since 2006 have made up the bulk of the collection in the departmental library project. Hence the ITC Book Donation Programme has gone a long way not only in helping my university to save money but also in providing one of the essential resources needed for quality training and manpower development in Sub-Saharan Africa. ■