



THE RTP NEWS

THE READING TENT PROJECT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE No. 2 NOVEMBER 2002



Excitement as RTP takes Computer Skills to Pupils in Rural Primary Schools in Njoro.

Computers were incorporated in the Reading Tent Project during the 2nd phase of the project. The main objective of the I.T component is to expose children to the computer and the emerging I.T. skills. Children have had an opportunity to work independently using computers. They read stories from a wide variety of Compact Disk Read Only Memory (CD-Roms) to acquire proper reading skills.

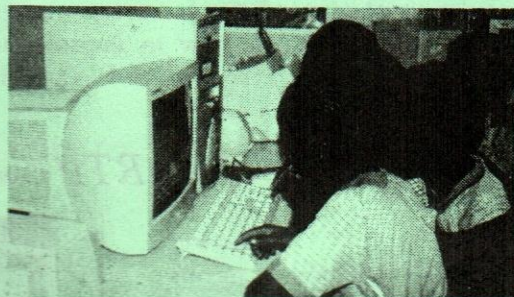
Termed as the I.T. phase of project, its implementation has been through:

- Establishment of an I.T. lab at the project library;
- Having I.T. corner during the mobile library events;
- Regular I.T. lessons in primary schools.

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IT corner in the mobile library



Pupils at the IT lab

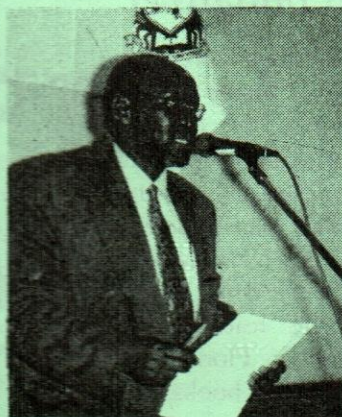
RTP Launches the First Local Council of IRA in Kenya.

Egerton University launched a Local Council of the International Reading Association (IRA) on September 25, 2002. The Local Council is a professional non-profit making association of individuals and corporate organizations concerned with the promotion of literacy and enhancement of reading in Kenya.

The council is an affiliate of IRA whose head-

quarters are in Newark USA.

The guest of honour was the Vice chancellor Egerton University Prof. Ezra Maritim. He officially



Prof. E. Maritim the VC Egerton University Launches the Local Council

launched the Council at Sarit Centre during the Nairobi International Book Fair.

The vision of the council is to be the leading, accessible and practical resource on reading, to enhance literacy and to ensure curiosity and critical thinking in Kenya.

The council's mission is to develop and nature the love and culture of reading and literacy by mobilizing resources to enhance personal development, reading skills and access to information.

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RTP IS A PROJECT OF EGERTON UNIVERSITY IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ROCKEFEL-

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RTP Gets a Nod for a Bridging Period

The continued support of RTP by the Rockefeller Foundation, was once again proven when the project was allowed to embark on a bridging period. This period was aimed at ensuring sustainability of the project. During this period both school teachers and communities were trained in the management of project activities. A hand book on establishment and management of school libraries also prepared (in press).



QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Books are the frozen foot-prints found in the landscape of scholarly and literary achievement. In order to see far enough, we ought to stand on the shoulders of the giants whose books we should love to read and refer to, as often as we can."

- Anonymous

"Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom and understanding."

- Proverbs 23:23

The Holy Bible (NKJV)

RTP Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Exercise

Participatory monitoring and evaluation has been the mode of operation of RTP. Both the school authorities, the teachers and the project staff participate in the evaluation process of the project's activities. During the participatory monitoring evaluation exercises, the project's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are evaluated using SWOT analysis as our analytical tool. After



Participants in discussion during PM & E exercise

these exercises, strategies project's activities are laid on how to improve and down. strengthen specific

JOKE

A man escaped jail by digging a hole from his cell to the outside world. He emerged in the middle of a nursery school playground and shouted "I am free, I am free!". A young girl spotted him and retorted "So what, I am four".

The I.T. Component of the RTP Cont. from Pg. One

The I.T component was received with a lot of excitement in rural schools. Since most of these schools are not supplied with electricity, generators were used in such schools as the source of

power. The pupils were first introduced to computer models before the actual computers. This dispelled all fears that the children had.



Pupils enjoy a feel of a model computers

Visit to RTP by Maneno Children's Magazine Publishers Marks the Start of a collaborative Venture Between the Two Initiatives.

In April 2002, Ivy Mwai and Jane Gatonye of the Maneno children's magazine visited the Reading Tent Project. Maneno is a popular pictorial magazine which focuses on children. During the visit, they donated copies of the magazine to the

project library. Their visit was also covered in one of the issues of the maneno magazine.

This visit marked the start of a collaborative venture with the project. Earlier on the Kenya Library Association (KLA) had in collaboration with the project organized a successful children's

reading tent event at Ngano Primary school in Njoro.

Other with whom the project has collaborated include Collin Lohide of USA. She established a link between the project and the teachers and children in Florida. She also donated books, CD-ROMs and stationary



Maneno publishers donating copies of their popular magazines

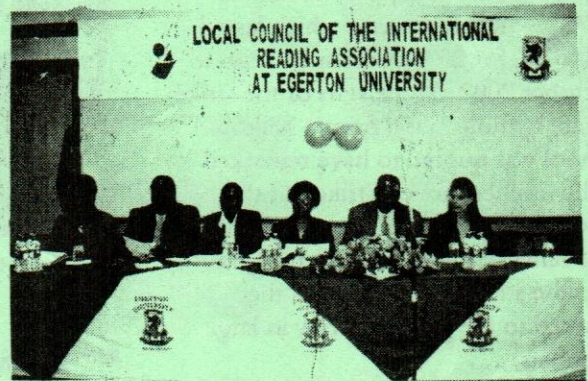


Launching of the First and the only IRA Local Council in Kenya.

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During the launching ceremony, IRA was represented by Mrs. Loy Tumusiime of the Reading Association of Uganda (left). The other distinguished guests included, Mrs Janet Njoroge the Chairperson Kenya Publishers association, Mr., Henry Chakava the Chairman east Africa Book Development Council among others.



Distinguished guests at the Launching of the IRA Local Council

Parents Agree to Cost Share to Sustain the RTP's Holiday Camps

In an effort to sustain reading skills and habits in pupils, the RTP has been organizing reading/I.T holiday camps for children during school vacations.

The holiday camps avail a conducive environment and resources to the children. During the last Au-

gust reading/ I.T holiday camp, parents were called for a meeting to discuss ways and means of sustaining this endeavor. The parents then agreed to be paying a minimum registration fee which will go towards paying the teachers who work with the pupils, purchase of materials as well as maintenance of the facility.

A poem

*Am a book
You will find me seated happily on a bookshelf
Or squeezed in an overloaded school bag
Being ferried back and forth from home to school.
In the beginning I was a seed, I germinated and became a healthy plant. One day a paper factory owner saw my trunk. He cut me am fed me in the grinding machine. I was chopped into different sizes to become paper and eventually books.
I'm happy to serve my master but hate those who tear my edges, use me as waste paper or cut out my pages worse those who burn me and cause my death*



Relaxed reading during a holiday camp



Letters.

1. I would like to congratulate you for your attractive and informative newsletter. I have never known that photos can tell so much.
Brian—Machakos School.

2. Congratulations for the RTP newsletter. I enjoyed the relevant quotes and verses from the bible. Keep it up.
R. Muniyva-University of Nairobi.

"Add to your faith virtue and to your virtue knowledge"



RTP's Project Library Becomes a Haven for Pupils as the National Strike for Teachers in Kenya Bite.

Kenya was hit by a national teachers strike which lasted for 23 days from 22 Sept. to October 2002. At the start of the strike an anonymous pupil from a Nairobi school was quoted to have remarked "the teachers are on strike but the books are not". As if in response to this remark, the Reading Tent Project became a haven for pupils as they flocked to the project library in large numbers. .



Retrieval skills at an early age



Reading at the project library



Relaxed reading at the project grounds

UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. December Reading/IT camp.
2. 3rd Pan Africa reading for All Conference 18-22, August 2003 Kampala-Uganda..

Project staff

1. Margaret Makenzi - Project co-ordinator
2. Raymond Ongus - Project officer
3. Susan Bukbala - Project Officer
4. Francis Njenga- Program officer
5. Mwebia Karimba - Project Assistant
6. Ann Musalia - Project Assistant
7. Andrew Njuguna - Project Assistant
8. Agness Nalantei- Office assistant

POSTAGE
STAMP

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 Phone: 254-37-62577 E-Mail: rtp@africaonline.co.ke and printed by Egerton University Press
 Text editing and design layout by P.M. Makenzi - (RTP's voluntary consultant).
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