

# The Social Forum goes to the library

The Library Project of the [NIGD](#) \*

## Project Purpose

The project took off at the World Social Forum (WSF) event in Nairobi 2007 after preparatory seminars at the WSF events in Mumbai 2004 and Bamako 2006. The project is of vital importance for the the future of the WSF, the library profession, and the democratization of information. Its purpose is twofold:

1. to create a professional and permanent documentation of the global, regional and local Social Forum process in public libraries and archives around the world; and,
2. to link two open spaces, the Library and the Social Forum, permanently to each other.

## Project Agenda, Autumn 2009

- Form an international steering group for the project;
- Apply for project financing in the name of the Network Institute for Global Democratization (NIGD);
- Start planning librarians' and documentalists' activities during the upcoming WSF event in Dakar 2011; engage librarians in West Africa;
- Inform the participants in the WSF strategy seminar in Dakar 16-18 November 2009 about the project;
- Finish the manuscript of *The Library Takes Up The Case* (a forthcoming book which includes chapters on the ideas behind the WSF Library project; see <http://libraryjuicepress.com/ltc.php>).

## Highlights of the project 2004-2009

- The workshop *Democratization of Information with a Focus on Libraries* with the participation of the (then) chair of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), Ms Kay Raseroka , during the WSF event in Mumbai, January 2004. Hyperlink: [Workshop Proceedings](#)
- NIGD's workshop on "The Role of The Library in the WSF Process" in Bamako, Mali, at the polycentric WSF in Bamako, Mali, January 2006. [Introduction in English](#) ; [Introduction en francais](#) ; [Report in English](#)
- Publication of the Special Issue of Information for Social Change (No. 24, Winter 2006 - 2007) on *Libraries & Information in World Social Forum context* (<http://libr.org/isc/toc.html>) ;
- During 2006 and 2007, librarians from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda educated themselves on the WSF process and trained their Internet skills. Ca 70 East African librarians participated in the collecting of documents from the WSF event in Nairobi, January 2007. See [Founding a library - another report from the WSF in Nairobi](#)
- As a result of the activities before and during the WSF in Nairobi 2007, the project set up a dedicated webserver for the "training of the trainers" and for the beginning online documentation. The server, which is found at [www.wsflibrary.org](http://www.wsflibrary.org), is owned by the Kenya Library Association and hosted by KENET at the University of Nairobi. The training and the acquisition of hardware for the project were funded by the Finnish Embassy in Nairobi.
- In December 2007, these activities were followed up with a workshop in Nairobi on [Improving wsflibrary.org. preserving WSF documents and founding a proactive public Library.](#)
- Coinciding in time with the Librarians' Workshop at the 1st United States Social Forum in Atlanta, June-July 2007, a special collection of documents on the Social Forum process was started at the University of Michigan Library, USA. The collection is part of the [Labadie Collection](#)
- [Librarians for informational commons and another Europe](#) - network-building at the European Social Forum in Malmö, Sweden, September 2008. [ESF collection at ARBARK.](#)

\* The project is managed by [The Network Institute for Global Democratization \(NIGD\)](#) in partnership with Library Associations and other organisations. CONTACT: Mikael Böök, 07750 Isnäs, FINLAND. Email: [book\(at\)kaapeli.fi](mailto:book(at)kaapeli.fi) Mobile +358-445511324.