

Kenya Project Final Report

Jax Skorich, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
San Jose State University
INFO 298 Little Free Library Special Projects
December 4, 2025

Project Summary

The Kenya Book Ecosystem is a pilot literacy initiative led by San José State University's School of Information in partnership with the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), Knowledge Empowering Youth (KEY), Books for Africa, and Little Free Library (LFL). This project is designed to support early literacy development for children ages 4–8 living in underserved communities near Nairobi, Kenya, particularly at Kenyatta National Hospital and local shelter homes.

The primary goal is to increase access to high-quality children's literature by installing 6 Little Free Libraries. Each child will be given 25 books, selected by KNLS to reflect both cultural relevance and reading level needs. The initiative aims to foster a lifelong love of reading and provide young children with safe, reliable, and welcoming literacy spaces.

Books and LFL boxes will be donated and shipped to Kenya by Books for Africa, helping to reduce local production costs while leveraging an existing infrastructure for international book delivery. Each LFL box will include QR codes linking to rotating digital book collections that highlight global events, holidays, and new titles. KNLS will maintain and restock the boxes in collaboration with local libraries and schools, with supplemental support from Scholastic.

Additional activities include the development of an open-access literacy training program by SJSU for aspiring Kenyan librarians and service providers, designed to support long-term sustainability. KNLS will also conduct regular evaluations to assess reading outcomes, usage patterns, and opportunities for expansion. This effort combines global partnership with local impact, providing a replicable model for building literacy-rich environments in resource-limited settings.

Project Partners

Name	Role	Contact Info
[REDACTED]	Programs Manager, Knowledge Empowering Youth (KEY)	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Kenya National Library Service (KNLS)	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Acquisition Section Head- CD&BD, Kenya National	[REDACTED]

	Library Service (KNLS)	
[REDACTED]	CEO, Books For Africa	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Distribution Manager, Books For Africa	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Knowledge Empowering Youth (Head Librarian)	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Little Free Libraries (Executive Director)	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Developing OA Educational Program (Open Access) SJSU	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	CEO, Books for Africa	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Media Consultant, Books for Africa	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Head of Marketing, Kenya National Library Service (KNLS)	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH)	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH)	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Director at Shelter home Ngong	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	St John's The Baptist Riruta Academy	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	St John's The Baptist Riruta Academy	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	HGM Primary School Mrs Ngugi	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Edel Quin Academy	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Edel Quin Academy	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Lewa Conservancy	[REDACTED]
Kenya Utalii College		[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	CSUSB grad	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	SJSU Social Media Mailbox	[REDACTED]

Things Accomplished

- Created a [Google Map](#) for our Soma Safari Book Ecosystems Initiative
- [Research & Content Gathering](#) for Steward Training Video
- Organized "[Project Overview & Contacts](#)" section of Project Management Spreadsheet
- Drafted [social media marketing copy](#) for Soma Safari promotion
- Conduct a comprehensive [project file review and inventory](#) for Soma Safari Initiative
- Created a [Nairobi Partner Questions/Information Points Shared Google Doc](#) that lists the questions and information points we need to collect from each Nairobi partner site.
- Updated location and contact information on the [Kenya \(Soma Safari\) Book Ecosystem Project Management Sheet](#), as well as created a separate sheet for [ALC Contacts](#).
- Created Timeline Summaries in each of the archived material folders for [Fall 2024](#), [Spring 2025](#), [Summer 2025](#), and [BookEcosystem Timeline for 2024-2026](#).

Issues

- Missing contact information for Shelter [REDACTED], [REDACTED]; this was not provided by [REDACTED] in her email correspondence with J [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated in her email to [REDACTED] "For shelter homes, do we add them here or since they're being supported by volunteers, we leave them out." On October 27, 2025.
 - If the email continued past this date, interns were not cc'd.

Current Project Status

Phase 2: Shipment and Initial Setup (August - November 2025)

- **Book Container Shipment:**
 - Once the **\$22,500** fundraising goal for shipping is met, BFA will begin the container packing and inspection process, which is expected to take four (4) weeks.
 - **November 3-8:** A delegation from the Kenyan National Library Service (KNLS) and members of the Kenyan Parliament will visit San Jose State University. A fundraiser event co-sponsored by Books for Africa and SJSU will be held during this time.
 - **November 2025:** The container was shipped from the U.S.
 - The container's transit time is estimated at six to eight weeks. BFA will provide real-time tracking updates.

Next steps and timeline:

Phase 2: Shipment and Initial Setup (Continued)

- **In-Country Setup and Training:**
 - Upon arrival at the port of Mombasa, the container will be cleared by KNLS, and the books will be transported to KNLS storage.
 - The six (6) Little Free Library boxes will be installed in their designated locations. A budget of **\$2,000** is allocated for this.
 - **November:** Launch a Facebook or WhatsApp steward network to facilitate communication.

- **November:** Conduct a virtual training session for 6–12 local stewards, utilizing the pre-recorded videos and checklists.
- **Steward Training Program Development:**
 - Develop a two-hour virtual training session for Little Free Library stewards. This will cover LFL maintenance, book tracking, and QR code troubleshooting. The session will be recorded for future use.

Phase 3: Distribution, Monitoring, and Capacity Building (December 2025 - Onward)

- **Book Distribution:**
 - KNLS will organize a press event to mark the arrival and distribution of the 80,000+ books. The books will be distributed to schools, hospitals, and other community locations.
- **Steward Monitoring and Reporting:**
 - **Monthly:** Stewards will submit tally sheets to track books circulated and provide photo updates on the condition of the LFL boxes and community engagement.
 - Draft an initial impact report using the data collected by the stewards.
- **Open Access Certificate Program:**
 - **Early 2026:** Launch the open-access certificate program for Kenyan teachers and librarians. This program, with an annual instructor cost of **\$7,500**, will train local educators to be "book advocates" and improve library management.
- **Long-Term Strategy:**
 - **Ongoing:** Explore opportunities for annual book shipments to Kenya and potential expansion to other counties or countries. The goal is to establish a sustainable, long-term partnership that continues to foster a reading culture throughout the region.

Links to Recent Correspondence

Soma Safari Timeline & Updates: [Timeline: Soma Safari Project](#)

SJSU School of Information Invitation to Clerk of the National Assembly, Parliament Buildings, NAIROBI: [SJSU School of Information Invitation \(1\).pdf](#)

Lessons Learned and Suggestions

- **Clear Communication** - clear communication can keep assigning tasks transparent and efficient. Setting clear roles and expectations of task deadlines can reduce work-load throughout the week, especially if other members may be busier.
- **Ask Questions** - ask questions so you are not out of the loop. There is a lot of information in the drives, so ask questions to ensure you are looking at the right document/correspondence or if there are missing files that need to be added. This can let project managers know what is available, if assignments need to be reworked/expanded on, or provide information that has recently been obtained.
- **Use the Kenya File Spreadsheet** - Update the Kenya File Review & Inventory

spreadsheet to reflect all the most and least important documents within the files. The spreadsheet also contains tabs that separate active folder files and archives folder files for convenience. Use this if you want to locate something quickly for research purposes.

- **Google My Maps** - Great online application to visualize target counties in Kenya versus the definite LFL locations. Pins can be filtered to view or hide through layers. The program is easy to use.

Links to Important Documents

Active Kenya Folder: [Kenya](#)

Kenya File Inventory Spreadsheet: [Kenya File Review & Inventory](#)

Soma - Book Ecosystem Map: [SOMA - Book Ecosystem Map](#)

Soma Steward Training Research: [Phase 1: Research & Content Gathering \(Soma Safari Steward Training Video \)](#)

Project Management Spreadsheet with Location Tabs: [Kenya \(Soma Safari\) Book Ecosystem Project Management](#)

Project Timeline: [BookEcosystem Timeline 2024-2026.xlsx](#)

Kenya Public School System Info: [Kenyan Public School Basics](#)