

## **AFRICAN LIBRARY PROJECT**

### **BEST TYPE OF BOOKS TO COLLECT:**

- \* Mix of children's fiction books with universal themes (friendship, animals, love).
- \* Children's nonfiction - Scientific books for students, reference materials like dictionaries.
- \* Children's books teaching life skills about topics such as health, hygiene, adolescents and careers.
- \* Books about Africa or African-Americans.
- \* Children's books with diverse characters.
- \* Children's educational magazines and National Geographic magazines less than five years. Old.
- \* Encyclopedias less than 15 years old
- \* Teaching resources, educational posters and flash cards.

### **NOT THESE TYPE OF BOOKS:**

- \* Books filled with small, dense print or lots of slang.
  - \* Books for young children that have many references to appliances and electronic gadgets.
  - \* Books written in any language besides English
  - \* Adult paperback romance novels.
  - \* Books that are heavily focused on United States history or government.
  - \* Books about North American or religious holidays (Easter, Halloween, Christmas, 4th of July, etc.).
  - \* Anything that evangelizes or promotes a particular religion.
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### **LITERACY STATISTICS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (From the African Library Project Website)**

- \* **More than 1 in 3 adults cannot read.**
- \* **182 million adults are unable to read and write.**
- \* **48 million youth (ages 15-24) are illiterate.**
- \* **22% of primary aged children are not in school.**
- \* **That makes 30 million primary aged children who are not in school.**
- \* **More than 75% of all children (age 5-9) that don't go to school live in Sub-Saharan Africa.**
- \* **The 13 countries with the lowest literacy rates are all found in Africa.**

Literacy rates are improving globally, but in terms of raw numbers, there are more people who suffer from illiteracy than there were 20 years ago. In sub-Saharan Africa, youth literacy rates (ages 15-24) have increased over the past 20 years, which suggests that adult literacy rates will increase as those youth grow. However, youth literacy rates in sub-Saharan Africa (70% in 2011) are the lowest of any region. For adults in sub-Saharan Africa, the rates have improved by 10%, but there is a disparity between literacy for women and men. While 7 in 10 men can read, only half of the women can do so. One of the largest barriers to increasing literacy is the lack of books, especially in rural areas.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zOV\\_Jhecnk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zOV_Jhecnk) (Good 3 minute overview of the project)