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Rural Community Libraries in Africa: Challenges and Impacts

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Rural Community Libraries in Africa

Challenges and Impacts

Part of the Advances in Library and
Information Science Series



Valeda F. Dent, Geoff Goodman, and Michael Kevane

Part of the Advances in Library and Information Science Book Series

Valeda F. Dent (Long Island University, USA),
Geoff Goodman (Long Island University, USA),
and Michael Kevane (Santa Clara University, USA)

Around the world, in developed as well as developing countries, libraries play an important role in the dissemination of knowledge. The availability of information resources can often mean the difference between poverty and prosperity, particularly in underdeveloped African communities.

Rural Community Libraries in Africa: Challenges and Impacts investigates the relationship between local libraries and community development. From the historical roots of rural libraries to their influence on the literacy, economy, and culture of the surrounding region, this book will present academics, researchers, and, most importantly, librarians with crucial insight into the tangible benefits of rural community libraries and the obstacles they must overcome.

Topics Covered:

- Economic Development
- Cost Analysis
- Borrowing Patterns
- Community Enrichment
- Educational Impact
- Growing Libraries
- Literacy Programs
- Rural Library Services

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Market: This premier publication is essential for all academic and research library reference collections. It is a crucial tool for academicians, researchers, and practitioners. Ideal for classroom use.

Dr. Valeda Dent is currently Dean and Chief Operating Officer for the Long Island University Libraries in New York. She previously served as Associate University Librarian for Research and Instructional Services at Rutgers University, and as Project Director for the eLib/JISC MALIBU digital library project in London, United Kingdom. She holds an M.S.W. and M.I.L.S. from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from the Palmer School at Long Island University. Her research interests include information literacy, rural libraries in Africa and related literacy and reading habits, and ethnographic approaches to understanding the user experience. She has published two books, *Keeping the User in Mind: Instructional Design and the Modern Library* (2009) and *Qualitative Research and the Modern Library* (2011). She is the author of numerous articles, and has been published in journals such as *Library Hi Tech*, *New Library World*, *Libri*, and *Oral Traditions*. Valeda's longitudinal research on rural village libraries in Uganda and elsewhere in Africa has spanned more than eight years. Valeda and her husband, Dr. Geoff Goodman, have been selected as Fulbright Scholars for 2014 and will spend almost a year in Uganda continuing their study of the rural village library. In her spare time, Valeda enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter Carlyn.



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