

What is the Library EcoSystems Research Project?

This is a research project that seeks to understand the current state of Kenyan libraries and their collections by visiting each library and gathering data on the history, architecture, patronage and collection content of each one. It is structured as follows:

- A eight week period of desktop research and outreach to help map the travel.
- Two research interns embark on follow up face-to-face research to fill in knowledge gaps on Nairobi's libraries after the COVID-19 lockdown.
- Pilot research on Nairobi County libraries starting with all libraries within a 200-metre radius from the McMillan Library. Includes interviews with management staff; questionnaire distribution, participatory-observation all reported on a monthly basis.
- A creative, interactive overview of Nairobi's Library ecosystem map published at the end of 2020 and showcased at the Annual Gala depending on when lockdown eases..

Research Application

- Plug the data gap. There is presently insufficient data on Kenyan's libraries
- Data on collections, facilities etc informs Book Bunk's collections and architectural work on local libraries.
- This is a useful piece of the *blueprint*.
- Inform future post-McMillan projects

What does impact look like for this research?

- Curation of an informed library catalogue that considers materials present in all of Nairobi's libraries.
- Job creation for three full-time researchers and the teams that supervise them.
- Community building with other libraries allows us to begin to create a symbiotic network
- Policy?? (taxes on books etc).

(Desktop library research - KNLS, community libraries and others). Desktop tech spaces ([IDEOS libraries' toolkit](#)). Makdadara wishlist research for young adults, teenagers, etc. A

Timeline

ACTIVITY	DUE (2020)	STATUS
Complete structure and contracts for research interns	Mar 11th	In Progress
Desktop research on libraries in Nairobi county begins	July 13th	
Follow up fieldwork on libraries in Nairobi county begins	Sept 14th	
Research on libraries in Nairobi County concludes	Oct 31st	
Review of Nairobi Libraries' data and research plan for country research and Go or No Go deadline for nationwide libraries' research	Nov 6th	
Overall Data Review and Evaluation	Dec 11th	

Research Reporting/Going live on the website?	Dec 20th	
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Costs:

Total Cost: KES 2,100,000

Budget [here](#).

Growth Strategy

- 2020: Research will first commence in Nairobi county because of budget constraints. This will also help with fine-tuning the structure and methodology for the research outside of Nairobi.
- 2021: In-depth research of all libraries (national, public and community) in all Kenyan counties.