

Developing the Global Digital Library

Developing the Global Digital Library will be a two-stage process. Phase One will be a proof-of-concept stage to identify key opportunities and challenges, including scale of volume, copyright and licensing issues, curation, and searchability. Concurrent with Phase One, we will begin design planning for eventual Phase Two expansion based on lessons learned from Phase One.

Key Steps: Phase One

Hire Technical Consultant (July 2016):

Through USAID's REACH contract, the University Research Co. (URC) has hired a dedicated consultant to provide technical oversight for the development of Phase One. The consultant will work with partnering organizations to rebrand the initiative, create overview materials and compile materials.

Compile Selected Materials (July–September 2016):

USAID is partnering with URC to gather content for use in the Global Digital Library prototype Phase One development.

- In this initial stage, content will be collected from USAID-funded programs and additional selected organizations focused on early grade reading.
- The process will include creating standards for the quality review of materials, transferring titles to compatible formats, copyright and licensing determination, and cataloging content for searchability.

Pilot a Common Platform (November 2016):

As content is collected, URC will identify a temporary platform to host content for the Global Digital Library and link to existing sites. The pilot will allow partners to identify technical and other programmatic issues, set benchmarks and specifications, and estimate the volume of available materials. Phase One also will determine parameters for search engine optimization as part of this common platform design.

Key Steps: Phase Two

Partnering organizations will use Phase One information to determine costing estimates and next steps in the development of the Global Digital Library. Key action steps (*Winter 2016–Spring 2017*) will include:

- Assessing the Phase One pilot platform for full development, including market demand, scaling and sustainability.
- Developing external Library stakeholder working groups to focus on technical issues, financing and set common standards.
- Increasing content through donation, advocacy and Enabling Writers' software¹ and other material development campaigns.

Partnership Opportunities:

1. Serve on Phase One technical advisory board
2. Serve as lead host for Global Digital Library Phase Two platform
3. Work with the Library advisory committee to identify long-term sources of support

¹ Enabling Writers' is an initiative aimed at increasing the number of titles in languages children need. It includes software for title development/authorship and associated workshops supported by the All Children Reading Grand Challenge for Development (ACR GCD) partnership, the Global Reading Network (GRN) and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA).

BOOKS FOR EVERY CHILD: THE GLOBAL BOOK ALLIANCE

Global Digital Library

The Global Challenge

Around the world, 250 million children are unable to read. Along with inadequate instruction, a scarcity of reading materials in schools is a leading cause. The Global Book Alliance (GBA) is addressing the shortage of books in languages children need to ensure that children have books to learn to read and read to learn. The GBA will seek to ensure that:

- Instructional sets of titles (leveled and decodable readers) exist in all official languages of instruction
- Instructional sets of titles are publicly available to maximize use
- Book financing is optimized across funding sources to maximize available funds
- Book procurement is more standardized and stabilized in order to increase quality, increase access and decrease unit cost
- Book supply chains are strengthened so that all books reach all children at the right time
- Book management is improved at school level to optimize use

Making Books Easily Accessible

As an integral part of the Global Book Alliance, the Global Digital Library (Library) will increase the accessibility of books in languages children need, particularly print-ready materials. Its web-based platform will allow organizations and individuals around the world to access high quality books in a range of languages for small or large-scale printing or accessibility in other formats. A key component of the Library will be the ability to search material by learning level, language, themes. The Library will also link to materials available on other websites. The ability to upload and download content will vastly improve the quality and quantity of available books, reduce costs, and increase the number of children learning. The Library will include open source materials as well as copyrighted materials, pending agreements with publishers for the latter.

What will the Global Digital Library do?

1. Serve as a central location to **collect and house titles** in a range of languages.
2. Provide **links to other, similar sites around the world**.
3. Allow authors, governments, development partners, and organizations to **upload** reading materials.
4. Promote the use of Creative Commons licensing to maximize content accessibility.
5. Allow governments, development partners, organizations and individuals to **download** print-ready and digitally accessible reading materials.

