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130,000 CHILDREN NOW READ WITH LIBRARY FOR ALL
THE GLOBAL LITERACY CRISIS

Without access to culturally relevant, age-appropriate books in a language that they understand, millions of children face a lifetime of illiteracy and its consequences, including discrimination, inequality, poor health and low opportunity.

These children are often trapped in a multi-generational cycle of poverty without the ability to take action.

But it doesn’t have to be this way.

250 million children around the world won’t learn to read despite attending school. (UNESCO, 2019)

If we can help every child currently enrolled at school in a low-literacy country to read, we can lift an estimated 171 million people out of poverty (UNESCO, 2014). In turn, global poverty would reduce by 12%, and individual earning capacity would increase by 10%.

And that’s just the beginning.

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear friends,

The end of each financial year is an opportunity to reflect on our successes and challenges. My sincere thanks goes to our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and supporters from across industries and backgrounds, all of whom played a valuable role in the growth and achievements of Library For All in FY2019.

We have taken significant steps towards delivering a digital library to 20 million users by 2030. The official launch of the Library For All Digital Library Application in Papua New Guinea has given over 130,000 readers access to our Library. 500 original, culturally appropriate books were created and Spark Digital Library Kits were deployed to 12 pilot schools.

In FY2019 we also created 100 ‘Books That Travel’, a cross-cultural ‘starter set’, with the support of the English Family Foundation. We successfully tested this through our Laos program when 35 BTT books were translated as part of a more extensive library of over 85 culturally relevant books.

We also secured support from The Funding Network to publish books in some of Australia’s many Indigenous languages, bringing our library ‘home’ to Australia while we continue to scale internationally.

Our expanding team of expert staff matured the organisation across all facets of our operations. We have established a foundation for sustainable revenue; improved core operating systems, processes and governance; improved technologies, cohesive branding, content strategy development; and streamlined record-keeping and transparency.

Looking ahead, I have full confidence in the growth and scalability of our impact. Our research shows that improved literacy helps lift people out of poverty and provides a range of social and economic opportunities for their future. To do this for one child would be reward enough, but to do this for 20 million children is looking more and more possible.

Rebecca McDonald Founder and CEO

My 2019 highlight was meeting a young girl named Lovely, who is learning to read using our Digital Library Application. A year ago, Lovely wasn’t able to read at all, but now she reads with confidence and ease. When I asked her what she wanted to be when she finished school, Lovely said it was her dream to be a helicopter pilot. I was so excited that this young girl in a remote Papua New Guinean school had such strong aspirations, and suggested that she read a book we had published about a female pilot. Lovely replied “That’s where I got the idea”.

I’m delighted that our readers are inspired and motivated, and I’m incredibly proud that over 50% of our fast-growing collection has a female lead character highlighting women in traditional and non-traditional roles.

#lettheworldread

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

LIBRARY FOR ALL
Every day we are guided by our Mission and Vision.

Glenn Scott - Board Chair, Director

Our Vision
Creating and delivering a digital library for the world to provide relevant content to 20 million users by 2030.

Our Mission
To make knowledge accessible to all, equally.

Our Values underpin everything we do. They are the essence of who we are and our guide for transparency and inclusion.

Rebecca McDonald - Founder and CEO

Innovation
- We experiment and create, and grow from our mistakes
- We are attuned to change within our own field and beyond

Agility
- We pursue new opportunities and embrace change
- We adapt to advancements in technology and infrastructure
- We respond and adapt to our clients’ needs

Humility
- We are eager/willing to learn from others
- We seek wisdom and understanding from the communities we serve
- We strive to show a deep respect for staff, partners, clients and the communities in which we operate

Partnership
- We aim to add value to all of our partners, their teams and their mission
- We actively seek partnership with like-minded, values driven individuals, organisations and corporations

Accountability
- We steward our resources carefully, exercising a thoughtful and cost-effective use of time, skills and finances
- We are accountable to all stakeholders for the impact we create
- We seek to promote best practice in every aspect of our work
- We are honest, transparent and act with integrity at all times

Respect
- We aim to fully value each person we encounter and to affirm personal dignity and uniqueness
- We respect and empower our team and our partners to excel
- We value close relationships with our host communities and schools
Our library has revolutionised the dissemination of knowledge, while being engaging and accessible to all, equally. It helps develop skills and economically empower people in the communities we serve. This we call our R.E.A.D. model.

By employing the R.E.A.D. model (Revolutionise, Engage, Accessibility and Development) we remain focused on delivering our Mission and Vision while ensuring our journey is measurable and engaging, relevant and accessible on a global scale.

R.E.A.D. Model

REVOLUTIONISE
We’ve developed and launched a ground-breaking and revolutionary globally available digital library to provide books to communities where history, poverty or remoteness are everyday barriers to accessing knowledge.

ENGAGE
Our library serves a unique, curated collection of engaging content created by our international publishing team. We work tirelessly to publish children’s books that are high quality, age appropriate and culturally relevant for the communities that we serve.

ACCESSIBILITY
We’ve made our application freely accessible to anyone through the Google Play Store. We also partner with leading development organisations to deploy our Spark Library Kits to classrooms and communities. Additionally, we print and deliver physical books to create libraries in communities wherever we are needed.

DEVELOPMENT
We’re economic empowerers. To grow our innovative digital library, we provide training development and economic sustainability for educators and micro publishing sectors in the international communities where we operate.
OUR IMPACT AND GROWTH

Our impact continues to grow exponentially. Four key markers are employed as instruments to measure our impact, success of programs and R.E.A.D. model alignment.

1. Readership Growth
Our Vision is to help 20 million people read with Library For All and we are well on our way.

2. Publishing Growth
Demand for developing original content continues to grow as our library serves an increasingly diverse global community.

2018 2019 2020

151 new books published
449 new books published
623 new titles already under contract to be published

3. Economic Impact
Each year we invest in training and development, employment opportunities and payments to our global contributor network. In 2019 this was valued at $AUD259,616.

2018 $AUD54,900
2019 $AUD259,616
2020 $AUD303,144
*Based on existing 2020 commitments.

4. Revenue Growth
The contributions of our program partners, donors, and supporters is increasing year-on-year alongside our work to generate sustainable revenue sources for the organisation’s future.

2018 $AUD1.7 million
2019 $AUD2 million
2020 $AUD861,000
*Estimate
A GLOBAL NETWORK

Our vision is to deliver our digital library to more than 20 million readers by 2030, but our impact goes beyond encouraging children to read.

Our impact extends to our global contributor network and the local staff we employ to work directly with schools and communities, ensuring our technology is understood and its benefits realised. We offer workshop training and payments to authors and illustrators in communities where there is no publishing industry. We work with a global network of more than 350 paid and volunteer creatives to continually expand our collection.
Over the next twelve months we will build on our existing geographic footprint in Papua New Guinea and Laos to begin investment in new programs in West Papua, Timor-Leste, the South Pacific islands, and an Indigenous program in Australia.

SUCCESS STORIES

We create impact for readers, and also for writers...

Writers enjoy seeing their words make a difference to education and fostering the joy of reading. Caroline Evari is an emerging writer from Milne Bay Province in Papua New Guinea. She has been a keen writer since childhood, but didn’t have the opportunity to publish her stories until she discovered Library For All.

With over 20 stories now featured in Library For All’s PNG collection, Caroline has grown in confidence as a writer. She recently released her own collection of poems, and looks forward to growing her writing career.

She is passionate about authentic representation of village life, and sharing reading materials that are relevant to PNG cultures and traditions.

“Most of the reading, writing and learning materials in our schools today are foreign materials that do not really resonate with us. Our culture is slowly fading. Library For All is helping to preserve it.”

Caroline Evari - Author

SUCCESS STORIES

Our digital library sparks the imagination.

In addition to creating books for our free digital library app, we work closely with education partners to deploy Spark Digital Library Kits into carefully selected schools. In Papua New Guinea, these ‘deployment days’ are a cause for celebration. Teachers, parents and community officials show appreciation for the delivery of their ‘instant library’ with traditional dances, regional food and heartfelt speeches.

Our teams have walked our kit box through a guard of honour, and been thanked with gifts of everything from handmade bilums to livestock. At the same time, our teams also find the experience of library deployment really moving, leaving us in no doubt of the benefits of working collaboratively with communities to reach our mutual literacy goals.

Scaling up our print publishing service.

Library For All has firmly established itself as a printed book publisher, in addition to its role as a digital library provider. Our primary deliverable is to create quality ebooks for the Library For All app, but having a print-on-demand facility means we can also send printed book packs into schools that are not part of our programs, or who are working towards securing a Spark Digital Library Kit. Additionally, we thank our authors with a complimentary copy of their book to keep.

In the past 12 months, we have delivered over 75,000 printed copies of books into schools and community groups thanks to partnerships with leading development organisations like World Vision, ChildFund and CARE International. We have also made our collection available globally through our retail partner network, with funds raised from thousands of sales helping to support our Mission.
At Library For All we are very grateful to our partners who support and back our Vision and Mission. Their contribution helps to ensure an end to the global literacy crisis is possible along with the alleviation of poverty and missed opportunity in some of the world’s most disadvantaged and remote communities.

Denise Nichols OAM - Library For All Program Committee Chair, Director
A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Dear friends,

It has been my pleasure to oversee another year of growth, development and global impact with Library For All. In 2019, the organisation successfully completed programs and fearlessly expanded into new territories. As ever, I congratulate the indefatigable team of expert staff, enthusiastic volunteers, and the worldwide network of supporters who have brought the year’s Mission-driven goals to fruition.

This year Library For All firmly established itself as a publisher, as well as a digital library provider. With over 500 original books made available to readers for free via the LFA app, and in print-on-demand, Library For All is one of Australia’s most prolific publishing companies. This is an impressive contribution to children’s educational reading by any measure, but is additionally significant because of the organisation’s commitment to diversity. Library For All is a carefully curated collection fully aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Together For Education partnership in Papua New Guinea saw great progress, with an estimated 130,000 readers accessing Library For All in the classroom and at home. This represents many dedicated hours of book production, in-country training, monitoring and evaluation of school programs. In addition to reader impact, the data the LFA app supplies around who is reading, and how they are reading, provides crucial, previously unavailable, benchmarking opportunities for schools and educational programs.

Library For All also expanded into Laos in 2019, producing a combination of original and translated books for sharing via classroom programs. The second half of the year will see the roll out of similar training and evaluation projects to those deployed in Papua New Guinea.

Glenn Scott, Director and Chair

One question Library For All has often been asked is how this innovative digital library might be used to benefit Australia’s remote communities. 2019 saw Library For All acquire a substantial commitment from The Funding Network to support an Australian Indigenous library. Research and development is currently underway, with appropriate community partners coming onboard.

Highly significant this year has been the shift of Library For All from a wholly grant-dependent organisation to a partially self-sustaining not for profit. Publishing sales, along with other innovative revenue raising projects, have put Library For All in a strong financial position. This has, in turn, resulted in impressive corporate collaborations as partners feel confident in Library For All’s ability to deliver impact and value.

Library For All has been an innovative, agile and ethical organisation since its inception, but 2019 saw this unique library truly embrace its Mission, Vision and Values, with measurable outcomes and profound impact on the global literacy challenge. I am proud to be associated with Library For All and look forward to making knowledge available to all, equally, in 2020.

#lettheworldread