

Ghana Book News



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GBPA renamed Ghana Publishers Association (GPA)

On 8th November 2019, the amended constitution of the Ghana Publishers Association was ratified by the General Assembly and the name of the Association was changed from **Ghana Book Publishers Association (GBPA)** to **Ghana Publishers Association (GPA)** to expand the scope of publishers to include the publication of serials which constitute journals and magazines; as well as online platforms or website organizations that deal with books, journals, and other educational materials. This decision by the members is in tandem with international convention and also in line with the primary purpose of publishing which is to educate, inform and entertain. Thus, removing the word 'Book' provides the opportunity to expand the scope of publishers beyond book publishing to include the publication of other educative, informative and entertaining materials such as serials and electronic publishing.

With reference to the history of the Association, the original name was the Ghana Publishers Association until 1978 when a new constitution was adopted by the members to change the name to Ghana Book Publishers Association (GBPA). One of the main reasons for the GBPA was to direct the Association to emphasise on the book aspect of publishing. This still holds with the new name, The Ghana Publishers Association.

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GPA Inaugurates New Council Members into Office



The Ghana Publishers Association held its handing over and swearing-in ceremony on 28th January, 2020 at GNAT Hall, Accra to inaugurate its newly elected council members into office. The swearing of oath was administered by Her Worship Eleanor Kakra Barnes-Botchway, District Magistrate of Kaneshie District Court.

The current Council Members of the Ghana Publishers Association are:

Name	Organisation	Designation
Mr Asare Konadu Yamoah	Managing Publisher, Adaex Educational Publications Ltd	President
Mr Edward Yaw Udzu	Operations Director, Allgoodbooks Ltd	Vice President
Dorcas Gyamfuah Gyabeng	Assistant Editor, Afram Publications (Ghana) Limited	Honorary Secretary
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Ms. Pamela Aba Woode	Director, Sam-Woode Ltd	Ex Officio Member
Mr Reuben Agbelengor Glover	Head, Department of Publishing Studies, KNUST	Co-opted Member

In his inaugural speech, the President, Mr Yamoah, underscored that the concern of members must be how we work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for our association. He invited members to collectively focus on the broad objectives of the association and work together for a successful outcome in the next three years.

The Publishers' Association has over the years encouraged its members to fully indigenise. The textbooks and other reading materials used in schools from basic to secondary, are mostly written and published in Ghana by Ghanaian publishers.

In 2004, government through the Ministry of Education liberalised the textbook market and for the first time in the history of Ghana, publishers could write, develop and own the rights to their textbooks. This was a major factor in the growth of the book industry that we have witnessed in the last 15 years. Between 2004 and 2016, the Ministry of Education through the Ghana Education Service procured teaching and learning materials in excess of US\$800m. That is a respectable investment. However, in spite of this investment, the country is yet to attain the one textbook per child policy. It is even harder to achieve when it comes to readers and early grade materials.

The only way publishers can strengthen our association is through advocacy. The vibrancy of the book industry will be determined by investment stakeholders put into advocacy. This should be able to expand the book industry's influence. So far, we have been looking at the small picture when indeed the larger picture shows that we have a lot of space in the market to increase our scope and output.

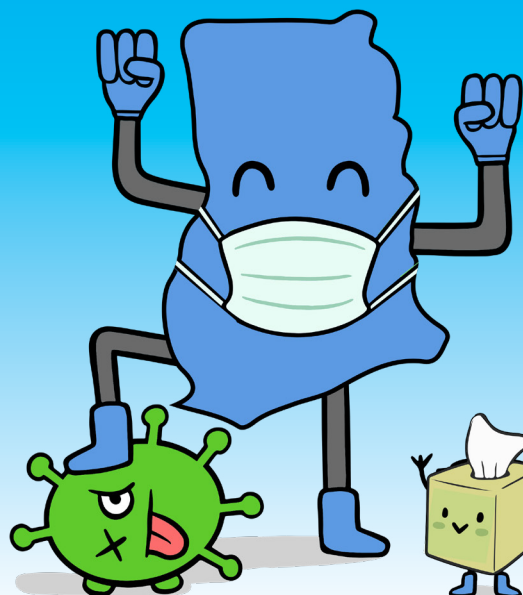
The excellent opportunities that the Department of Publishing Studies at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) offers cannot be wasted just because as a country we do not appreciate the value of books and culture. We are unable to absorb the publishing graduates into the industry because of the slow growth of the industry. This has gradually emboldened the school to dilute the programme. Today, it is providing manpower for other businesses rather than their core responsibility. This is at a time that the book industry in Ghana with the right investment and policies could be able to employ or offer career opportunities to

these young graduates.

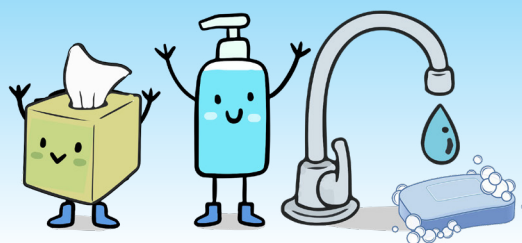
The GPA President concluded that there is the possibility of publishers putting hearts and minds together and developing a common sense of purpose to make sure that:

- » Books are considered to be an important cultural product worthy of state preservation.
- » The book industry is viewed as an important cultural heritage that provides an excellent opportunity for the promotion of history and culture.
- » Develop national strategies regarding books and library development.
- » Develop guidelines for the promotion of books in indigenous language.
 - » Make books and authorship one of the cornerstones of our cultural heritage.
 - » Develop a country strategy to promote books as an export resource and a revenue generation component. (The United Kingdom and other countries have been able to work in achieving that over the years. Ghana has the advantage to earn revenue from the export of our brand of literature and education).
- » Encourage the publication of books on history, culture and human development.
- » Work to improve on our literary development and book standards. (We need the right legal framework and enabling policies such as a national book development policy, a national book procurement strategy and a national reading and literacy programme etc).
- » Create an enabling business environment with the view to attracting new investments into the Ghanaian book industry. (Ghana has the edge over many countries in Africa to become the publishing hub for the continent. Without state support and cooperation it would be difficult).

“
Between 2004 and 2016, MOE through GES procured teaching & learning materials in excess of US\$800m



The Current State of the Ghanaian Publishing Industry in the midst of Coronavirus



Publishers in Ghana have undergone a lot of challenging times even before April 2019 when the new curriculum from Kindergarten to Primary 6 (KG-P6) was introduced by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA) under the Ministry of Education (MoE).

Schools, both public and private, were directed to suspend the purchase of existing textbooks before the new curriculum and it was intensified as soon as the new curriculum was introduced. NaCCA repeatedly pointed out that, old textbooks written for the outcome-based curriculum are fundamentally different from standard-based curriculum textbooks (new). Textbooks worth millions of Ghana Cedis are still stocked in warehouses; they have become a waste and a great loss to the publishers and the state. Since April 2019 to date, no textbook for the primary level has been sold and the new textbooks are yet to be assessed and approved by NaCCA. In other words, for over a year now there are no textbooks in primary schools because the new textbooks are still not ready.

Following the recent Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and its devastating global effects on life, health and economy, the publishing industry as a service industry has been greatly affected. Lockdown of two regions: Greater Accra and Greater Kumasi which are the leading regions with the highest commercial activities in Ghana has been lifted. Firms including publishing houses and individuals are working now but social distancing is being practised — social gatherings, big business meetings, public events etc. are not allowed. All educational institutions remain closed until

further notice by government. Bookshops are open now but book purchasing of story books is extremely low because not all people even move out of their houses for fear of the coronavirus pandemic. Selling and distribution of printed books to schools is halted because schools are closed and that's a huge loss to publishers since schools are the main clientele.

The expectation of publishers was to sell supplementary readers and other books to compensate for the accumulated loss of old primary textbooks since 2019 to date. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 has dwindled revenue from sales of textbooks and has worsened the already challenging times of publishers since 2019.

E-books

Very few Ghanaian publishers have e-book portals on their websites to sell their e-books to Ghanaians. Other publishers sell e-books on international online bookstores to the global market. The Ghana Library Authority (GhLA), a government agency in charge of public libraries and reading under the Ministry of Education has launched digital online reading platform and some publishers, authors and owners of literary rights are donating reading materials for people to read freely. The GhLA is also buying some e-book licenses. Reading of e-books is not as high as reading of a physical book due to e-book challenges such as lack of e-book exposure to many readers and parents, poor knowledge on usage, inadequate access to electronic devices such as e-book readers, computers and advanced phones.

Generally, reading habit is not that bad in Ghana though pupils/students read more

textbooks than supplementary readers but there is more room for improvement. Children and young adults need direction and influence from teachers and their parents. Poor influence makes one child develop a poor reading habit but a good influence results in a good reading habit.

The COVID-19 pandemic is adversely impacting the publishing industry as follows:

- drastic decline of revenue due to little or no sales of books and decline in remittances;
- disruptions in national and global supply chains with drops in value creation and delays in shipments of major printing materials, books and other publishing materials;
- stoppage of ongoing publishing projects and reduction of the quantity of published titles due to the attendant disincentive to publish;
- slowdown in investments and the potential lay-off of workers if this unfortunate situation persists;
- significant job losses for businesses — big and small;
- unanticipated increases in health spending and high prices of other goods and services; and
- higher debt burden on publishers and stakeholders in the publishing industry.

Currently, the confirmed cases of the coronavirus is gradually increasing due to the infections of affected persons entering the country. The government is instituting measures to contain the disease and help achieve quality health for Ghanaians. Other government initiatives include tourist site and border closures, fewer international trips, cancellation of cruise line, airline suspensions, and cancellation of regional and global events. These initiatives are to help achieve the five (5) key objectives Government seeks to achieve in the fight against the pandemic –

- limit and stop the importation of the virus;
- contain its spread;
- provide adequate care for the sick;
- limit the impact of the virus on social and economic life; and
- inspire the expansion of our domestic capability and deepen self-reliance.

The publishers have had a fall in the economic activities of publishing and are predicting a

further fall due to this coronavirus pandemic. It will be difficult to ascertain a specific percentage decrease of economic value in the publishing industry but it is just in line with the prediction of some international bodies for Africa.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) predicts that the Africa 2020 projected GDP growth will drop by 1.4 percentage points from 3.2% to 1.8 % as a result of the coronavirus. The World Bank estimates that a 1% decline in developing country growth rates traps an additional 20 million people into poverty (Ministry of Finance's Statement to Parliament of Ghana, March 30, 2020).

Incentives from government

The government has prepared a Coronavirus Alleviation Programme (CAP) to address the disruption in economic activities, the hardship of our people, and to rescue and revitalise our industries. The Central Bank of Ghana has made available a minimum of one billion two hundred thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1.2 billion) to households and businesses, particularly small and medium scale enterprises. Out of this amount, GH¢600m (equivalent to US\$109,000) is channeled to businesses, particularly small and medium scale enterprises in the form of soft loans.

The commercial banks are, in addition, responding to the Bank of Ghana's 1.5% decrease in the policy rate and 2% in reserve requirement with a three billion-cedi (GH¢3 billion) facility, to support industry especially in the pharmaceutical, hospitality, service and manufacturing sectors. Publishing is a service-oriented industry which falls under the service sector; the Ghana Publishers Association has applied for these economic stimulus packages.

The government has provided additional relief, such as extension of the tax filing date from April to June; a two per cent (2%) reduction of interest rates by banks, effective 1st April, 2020. Other beneficial interventions for the general public include free water for three months from April to June and 50% reduction in electricity bill for 3 months (April to June), free for electricity users with 50kilowatts or less.

The Ghana Publishers Association encourages everyone to adhere to the directives of government as the country fights against COVID-19.



GPA holds its 43rd Annual General Meeting

Participants at 43rd GPA's Annual General Meeting



Advocacy thrives on numbers and it is important to have many followers yet a common voice

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The 43rd Annual General Meeting of the Ghana Publishers Association (GPA), which was on the theme: ***“Building an Effective Stakeholder Engagement for the Advancement of the Ghanaian Publishing Industry”***, was on 12th December, 2019 at the Miklin Hotel, Shishie, East Legon.

It brought together members of the GPA and other stakeholders like the Ghana Writers Association (GAW), the Ghana Library Association (GLA), Ghana Culture Forum (GCF), Ghana Book Development Council, (GBDC) the Ghana Printers and Paper Converters Association (GPPCA), the Copyright Office, CopyGhana and other participants in the publishing industry.

The AGM had two sessions. The plenary session brought together stakeholder organisations and speakers to speak on the theme. The second session was business which constituted the presentation and discussion of 2018 Audited Financial Report and elections of new Council members.

The President of GPA, Mr Elliot Agyare delivered the welcome address to cover industrial challenges against publishers and the Association; possible remedies and the justification of the change of name of the Association.

Highlighting some of the challenges that had plagued the industry over the years, Mr Agyare, said the advent of new media technology was having a toll on the industry and that such challenges called for the reinvention of the publishing industry if it was to remain relevant. “It is important to rethink how we do what we do because whether we like it or not, whether we are aware of it or not, our industry is being changed beyond recognition. What used to be a traditionally stable, predictable industry is being disrupted by forces beyond our control,” he added.

On the change of name from Ghana Book Publishers Association to Ghana Publishers Association, the President indicated that: “Bloggers are publishing, writers are publishing, and everyone can actually become a publisher. The entry standards have been lowered and there is no traditional protection anymore. Our business practices are changing and the traditional means of selling books are becoming outdated. Bookshops are closing in some places and publishers are no longer comfortable holding huge stocks and inventory,” he lamented.

The Chairman of the National Media Commission (NMC), Mr Yaw Boadu-Ayebofoh, who chaired the AGM called on Ghanaian publishers to increase their production capacity to meet market demands. “We must encourage the capacity of our local printers such that the situation where it costs cheaper for books to be imported rather than the importation of

the material to produce books internally, may be averted. This would help develop the capacity to print and publish all the books required in this country,” he added.

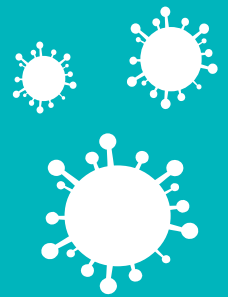
The Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), Mr Seth Twum-Akwaboah, charged the GPA to build an effective stakeholder engagement for the advancement of the country’s publishing industry and also use evidence-based advocacy to get its issues addressed.

“Advocacy thrives on numbers and it is important to have many followers yet a common voice in putting across your views to policy makers. Advocacy today is evidence-based, therefore, your advocacy should be research-based. This is one sure way to provide empirical evidence to support positions that you take,” he advised.

Mr Twum-Akwaboah further urged the Association to support local printers, saying, “their concerns have implications for your business as well. The policy that allows textbooks to enter Ghana duty-free poses a challenge and unfairness to local printers whose raw materials attract some duties. The printers who are also members of AGI need to be supported. We need to galvanise our efforts to fight a common cause.”

Election of new council members was conducted smoothly – four (4) executive members and five (5) non-executive members were elected by members at the General Assembly. Mr Asare Konadu Yamoah emerged as the president of the Association. The names of the current Council members are listed in the report on page 2, GPA Inaugurates New Council Members into Office.

Coronavirus: International Publishers Make COVID-19 Research Content Freely Available



In an instance of world publishing responding to the coronavirus crisis, scholarly publishers and associations are pooling COVID-19 content for free professional and public access.

In a letter circulated Friday (March 13), the chief science advisers of 12 nations are calling on publishers “to voluntarily agree to make their COVID-19 and coronavirus-related publications, and the available data supporting them, immediately accessible in PubMed Central and other appropriate public repositories, such as the World Health Organization’s COVID data base, to support the ongoing public health emergency response efforts.”

The reference to PubMed Central is to the repository of biomedical and life-sciences journal literature run by the National Library of Medicine at the United States’ National Institutes of Health.

The letter’s text indicates that it’s “sent on behalf of the chief science adviser or equivalent representing” Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) president and CEO Maria A. Pallante has made a statement of the organization’s support for the Trump administration’s “leadership in convening researchers, funders, and publishers in the global emergency to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Her statement reads:

“Publishers purposefully and continuously contribute to the advancement of science and medicine by investing billions of dollars in producing and disseminating high-quality, peer-reviewed journal articles.

“In this urgent and serious environment, we are grateful to the many publishers who are doing their part to communicate valuable discoveries, analyses, and data as quickly as possible, including by making their copyrighted articles pertaining to the virus freely available for public use during this crisis, in both text and machine-readable formats.

“Many publishers—both commercial companies and non-profit societies—have been doing so for weeks.”

In mentioning publishers engaged in content sharing for weeks, she’s referring to an agreement among academic journals, societies, institutes, and companies “to make research and data on the disease freely available, at least for the duration of the outbreak,” as reported by Emma Yasinski at The Scientist in mid-February.

And what’s playing out here is another example of the international book business engaging in responses to the mushrooming coronavirus emergency, as in the cases of the partnership between Gruppo Mondadori and Rakuten Kobo in Italy and the newly offered free access by Publica.la to its services for publishers and nonprofits facing conference cancellations.

Source: Publishing Perspectives
by Porter Anderson





GPA Council Pays Courtesy Call on NaCCA's Executive Secretary

Benjamin Tawiah Klu

Council Members in a meeting with Executive Secretary of NaCCA at head of table

On Thursday, 20th February, 2020, Council members paid a courtesy call on the Ag. Executive Secretary of NaCCA, Dr Prince Hamid Armah. In attendance were the Head of Finance and Head of Curriculum of NaCCA. The meeting addressed the following issues.

Relationship

The Executive Secretary of NaCCA acknowledged NaCCA's existing relationship with publishers and pledged to protect it with objectivity in any deliberations. He emphasized his outfit's commitment to engage publishers on issues relating to the industry to reach a common consensus. He added that he was working selflessly and would not compromise his position to the advantage of any stakeholder but would rather remain neutral to all players in the book industry.

Assessment and Approval of Books

The Executive Secretary said they are still in the process of assessing books as publishers keep submitting them. He added that no single book has been approved yet because the assessors are being extra careful not to produce any shoddy work. He requested that publishers should pay more attention to their books

to minimise basic avoidable mistakes.

Drafted Common Core Curriculum for Basic 7-10

The Executive Secretary said the development of new curriculum for JHS is in progress hence their intention to engage all stakeholders for inputs. He said the content of this new curriculum would strengthen and improve skills and logical thinking of the students. He urged publishers to download the drafted Common Core Curriculum for basic 7-10 from the NaCCA website. He said the Ministry was expecting that the curriculum would be finalised by the end of June, 2020 to enable its implementation in September this year.

Short Code System

The NaCCA boss said they are developing a code system which may be ready in March this year to help book buyers determine the approved books they should be buying for their wards. He noted that this would sanitise the industry to the advantage of publishers doing genuine business.

Training of Publishers

The Executive Secretary said it would be organising a series of paid training workshops on the Common Core Curriculum for Basic 7-10 for publishers

to adequately equip them to develop the books after the release of the curriculum by Ghana Education Service.

Examinations

The meeting was informed that the following classes would not be required to write end of term examinations-- classes 1, 3, 5, J.H.S 1 & 3. This implies that only classes 2, 4, 6 and JHS 2 would be writing a standardised test. In the new scheme of things, basic education will cover from KG to SHS 1. Therefore, there will no longer be BECE. It will be replaced by WASSCE when the learner gets to SHS 1. He also noted that the new system will allow open book examinations for students.

Note on languages etc.

- French starts from P4 - JHS 3 from next academic year (2020/2021).
- Arabic is going to be taught in schools given that Arabic is global language. However, no specific date has been set for commencement of teaching.
- There will be compulsory one-hour extra-curricular activities, viz., clubs, talks, sensitisation, guidance & counselling as well as NGO activities.

NaCCA Holds Stakeholder Engagement Meeting on the Common Core Programme (CCP) Curriculum

Benjamin Tawiah Klu



The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA) held Stakeholder Engagement Meeting on the Common Core Programme (CCP) Curriculum on February 28, 2020 at GNAT Hall, Accra. The meeting involved publishers, writers and other stakeholders in the publishing industry and it was chaired by Prof. Dominic Fobih, MP for Assin South, Central (Parliamentary Education Committee Member). The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, Deputy Minister in charge of Basic and Secondary Education.

Dr. Prince Hamid Armah, the Executive Secretary of NaCCA made a presentation on the CCP Curriculum. The CCP is a four-year education programme designed to offer learners Basic 7 to Basic 10 (JHS 1-SHS 1) the opportunity to prepare for higher education and the world of work. The objective of the meeting was for NaCCA to give an exposition on the CCP curriculum and solicit for inputs from stakeholders.

Why the CCP?

- Prepare learners adequately for a career pathway or further academic progression.
- Focus on assessing knowledge, skills, attitudes and values with emphasis on what learners can do.
- Produce a new generation of high school graduates with the requisite 21st century skills, workplace ethics and employable skills.
- Ensure a seamless progression for all learners from JHS to SHS.

The CCP Curriculum (JHS 1- SHS 1)

- » Languages: (English, Ghanaian language, French, Arabic)
- » Culture, Arts and Design
- » Science
- » Computing
- » Religious and Moral Education

Continues on pg 11

GBPA renamed Ghana Publishers Association | cont'd from pg 1

The Ghana Publishers Association (GPA) is a non-profit making, trade association of book publishers in Ghana. It is a registered company limited by guarantee and without share capital.

It is the only collective voice of book publishers in Ghana which serves as a rallying point for all book publishers in the country and provides a forum where publishers come together to deliberate on various issues affecting the industry at large. The Association promotes policies for the growth and development of the knowledge sector for national development.

Below are just some of the most common benefits of membership in the Ghana Publishers Association, and there are many others that are specific to each industry or business.

- Networking
- Training and Education
- Influence/ Advocacy
- Certification
- Information sharing
- Best practices
- Exchange of ideas
- Building relationships
- International exposure

Call for Digital Contents for Ghana Library App

Source | Ghana Library Authority

The Ghana Library Authority (GhLA) is inviting publishers, authors and owners of literary rights to donate reading materials (fiction, non-fiction and journals) to their digital online reading platform. The online platform is another department that has been created to make available to the reading public reading materials in digital format.

This is to increase the available platforms for the public apart from the physical libraries in schools and communities across the country. It is also to increase the number of Ghanaian published e-books in the e-book market.

This e-library is an ongoing project and publishers who desire to be part should submit their e-books to the Ghana library authority for upload unto the platform. Though some publishers are responding to the call of GhLA, the responses will increase when the Ghana Library Authority is able to generate some funds to buy e-book licenses from publishers, authors and other owners of literary rights as a way of minimising their financial risks especially when the online reading project will last beyond COVID-19. For instance, the National Municipal Library is buying 10 million CZK worth of books (e-books inclusive) of Czech publishers. It



is an equivalent of EUR 370,000.

The Ghana Library Authority recently declared 2019 as a Year of Reading to boost reading habits among the youth and students. They have followed this up by launching a digital library app towards meeting this objective.

The Ghana Library App, which is free and available on iOS and PlayStore, is a digital collection of classical and some current books which have been collated through collaboration with organisations and communities such as WorldReader, Britannica and FreedBooks. There are different genres of books from fiction to non-fiction, children's books, thrillers and others available on the app.

Digital collections of books by William Shakespeare, H.G Wells, F. Scott Fitzgerald, as well as several African writers including Efua T. Sutherland, Akosombo Nyantakyi, Abenaa Korama, Delali Avemega and Edward Mwangi, can be found on the app.

Here's an overview of how the app works:

Account Creation

As a user, you need a library card number to register. New users will sign up with their name, email address, location, and the library number which is issued automatically and sent to the user's email after completing the requested fields. A temporary password is also sent via email which the user can change afterwards in Settings.

The Ghana Library App, which is free, is available on iOS and PlayStore

Find My Library (Library Locations)

The Find My Library function is located under the My Account page. All library locations in the country have been mapped to this function so that no matter where you are in Ghana, you should be able to search and find the closest library in your vicinity. There are currently 63 libraries in Ghana and they have been mapped to the app. Clicking on the region you are in shows you where you can locate the nearest library.

Display

It's a relatively clean app with more focus given to the book covers. Readers can also switch between a Light or Dark Mode for easy reading. The dark mode truly is dark, making the icons less legible on the page. There are also font variations for the font lover who wants to switch between Raleway and Lato fonts for a more comfortable reading experience.

Books for download

The books are free also to download and depending on your network speed and size of the book you can complete a download within a minute.

Downloaded books go into your personal library for offline access.

Highlighting feature

There are also Highlighting features for the 'marker pen' lovers; this is achieved by long-pressing on the sentence of interest for highlighting options to pop-up. Another cool feature is the Play Accessibility function for the audio playback of the various pages. It's very inclusive.

Sharing

You can also share texts and quotes from the books you are reading on social media. Pressing on a text for a few seconds and selecting the share icon places your text in an image format for easy sharing on Twitter. Now that's intuitive and tech trendy!



- » Social Studies
- » Physical and Health Education
- » Career Technology
- » Mathematics

Key Features of the CCP

- All learners learn the nine core subjects from JHS1 to SHS1.
- Introduction of **Religious and Moral Education, Career Technology and Physical and Health Education** for all learners from JHS1 to SHS1.
- Curriculum is designed around building character and nurturing values such as respect, diversity, equity, commitment to achieve excellence, truth and integrity.
- Integration of project work, community service, and engagement as part of a comprehensive learner assessment that emphasizes doing.
- Promotion of emotional, social, physical and psychological well-being, cognitive growth and good judgment through guidance and counselling.

How Learners can be Assessed under the CCP Curriculum

- Teachers assess internally using varied and valid assessment during lessons, end of lesson, in the course of the term, end of term, and end of academic year.
- Learners will do personal projects, community projects and/or community service as part of a comprehensive assessment programme.
- An external assessment called the **National Standard Assessment Test (NSAT)** will be conducted in JHS2 (Basic 8) to provide national level indicators to promote learner's progression.
- Placement exams into SHS will still be conducted at the end JHS 3 (Basic 9)
- At the end of the CCP, a Common Core Examination (CCE) will be conducted, to guide learners in choosing a combination of courses for **the High School Diploma Programme (HSDP)** or Career-Related Programme (CRP) once they are already in the senior high school.

Implementation

The CCP curriculum will be implemented in September 2020.



Cultural
Performance
before the cultural
symposium

Ghana Culture Forum Marks Ghana Culture Day

Ernest Oppong



No nation
rises based
on borrowed
culture and
values; a nation's
strength and
growth are
based on its
culture

Ghana Culture Forum (GCF) marked the ninth edition of the Ghana Culture Day at the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT, Accra on 12th March, 2020 with a cultural symposium on the theme: ***Culture: Translating “values” into economic opportunities.***

The event, organised annually by the Ghana Culture Forum in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, the National Commission on Culture, the National Theatre of Ghana and a number of partners and stakeholders, seeks to promote the cultural and creative economy and project the Ghanaian identity. It also seeks to provide opportunities and a platform for sharing ideas on policies and actions in the sector and draw the important linkages and relationships between culture and other sectors for national development.

Mr Asare Konadu Yamoah, Chairperson of GCF said the day was set aside by the forum to highlight the need to have an integrated approach in culture and art. He said it was a fact globally that culture was the transformation cornerstone for national development and economic growth, however, Ghana does not have satisfactory data on the creative industries.

“We are unable to provide daily information about the number of people employed in this industry, neither have we been able to quantify the contributions of the creative industry to development and economic growth,” he said. Mr Yamoah said for Ghana to be able to achieve the best outcomes for the industry, it must immediately begin to work towards integrating the industry into the national economy with close strategies developed in maximum value.

The Chairperson also stated that “Ghana has a lot of cultural experiences and institutions that are supposed to facilitate the process of creating an environment that allows citizens to promote their creativity and generate wealth for the people and the nation”. He noted that the creative industry

represents the best for Ghana's quest for economic development as it sits at the centre of the economy, but "we have not been able to translate these opportunities into real economic potentials and income".

Mr Yamoah indicated that the symposium was a way of setting the stage for the continuous discussion of these issues and they expect industry and policymakers to facilitate the process of creating an environment that allows all manner of businesses to help promote the art and culture as a complementary source of revenue for the industry and the state.

Nana Kobina Nketsia V, Omanhen of Essikado Traditional Area, the keynote speaker said Ghana was in absolute need of cultural liberation, which would enable us to freely exhibit the economic opportunities available through the application of African values. He said in the spirit of cultural independence, Ghana needed to appreciate the value of absolute mental independence.

He said history serves as the foundation of culture and people who lose their historical memory become fragile as they progress, saying "no nation rises based on borrowed culture and borrowed values". Nana Nketsia said a nation's strength, power and growth or development were based on its culture and the consciousness of the values generated by that culture, "Culture strengthens the mind-set."

"Any cultural conscious society must be on a constant guard for any form of social weakness, this can only be done by being participants and not spectators, to help the struggle to maintain the scale to boost immunity and hence to survive and prosper. Survival is based on the economy and ecology and the opportunities there in which provides and enhances the strength and power of the society".

Nana Nketsia said culture itself implies creativity, and Ghanaians need to project themselves, and clear from their minds the stigma that everything Africa is inferior. "There are so many things we have and we need to promote them because without it we are nobody. It is the mind-set that must be put right, without knowledge of who we are, we do not have a culture, our culture must have roots," the Essikado Omanhen stated.

The symposium organised by the Ghana Culture Forum (GCF) was to set the stage to attempt to explore the vast economic potential in the cultural space of Ghana. It was also to maximize cultural opportunities to increase the economic growth and employment ventures for Ghanaians. The symposium was climaxed with a panel discussion on the theme which was moderated by Mr Akunu Dake, the past Vice Chairman of Ghana Culture Forum.

Editors' Picks

Internet Archive has defended itself by declaring that authors can "opt out" by asking to have their books removed. But the opt-out process doesn't work well; I've opted out twice from the lending program in the past few years, yet some of my books are still on its website. It also claims that most of the books it has scanned do not have e-book equivalents and can't be found elsewhere, and that they provide rare books that students need for coursework.

But a quick perusal of the site turns up thousands of books that have e-book editions available free from legitimate libraries, from best-sellers by J.K. Rowling and John Grisham to anthologies, works of history and biography.

The National Emergency Library harms authors by depriving them of income at a time when they can least afford it. It deprives

bookstores of desperately needed sales. It hurts real libraries, most of which are still operating legitimate e-lending programs and need patrons now more than ever. It undermines the entire publishing ecosystem and all those who depend on it, from publicists and book designers to editors and agents.

Let me close with some interesting facts. Brewster Kahle, the founder of Internet Archive and the architect of the National Emergency Library, is a multimillionaire entrepreneur who created and sold companies to AOL and Amazon. For years he has pushed a radical anti-copyright philosophy that essentially holds that all creative work — books, photographs, music, poetry, drama, films and so forth — should be available free online. Internet Archive is funded in part by the Kahle/Austin Foundation, of which Mr. Kahle is the president, with an endowment of over

The Pandemic is not an Excuse to Exploit Writers

Douglas Preston | President
of Authors Guild



Internet Archive's "National Emergency Library" is meant to benefit consumers during the coronavirus crisis. Authors everywhere are losing.

Authors have been hit hard by the pandemic, especially emerging writers who have books coming out in the next few months. With bookstores and libraries closed and book tours cancelled, they are facing an enormous challenge in connecting with potential readers. It could be a career-destroying time for some authors, many of whom are struggling to make a living. Enter the "National Emergency Library" to make things even worse. On March 24, Internet Archive, a nonprofit self-described as a "digital library of free and borrowable" content, announced that it was granting itself powers to distribute e-books free to anyone who wants them. Citing the pandemic, it has removed all lending restrictions from its archive until June 30.

Since 1996, Internet Archive has been copying and archiving web pages, and it runs the popular Wayback Machine, which preserves defunct websites. It has also been shipping containers of books to China for scanning, as well as scanning many books in San Francisco. Over the years it has built up a collection of 1.4 million e-books, many of which are still under copyright.

By making a splashy news announcement praising itself for coming to the rescue of homebound students and teachers, Internet Archive managed to snag some favourable press from *The New Yorker* and NPR, among others, and the endorsement of a number of other prominent institutions. (NPR has since reported on objections to Internet Archive from writers and publishers.)

Let us be clear: The National Emergency Library is not a library. It is a book-piracy website. Internet Archive has not paid a dime for these books, to either authors or publishers, instead, it acquires donations of used books from various sources. After scanning, it stores those books in warehouses, claiming that its ownership of the physical book gives it the legal right to lend out digital copies.

Legitimate libraries also lend e-books free, but there's a huge difference: They pay expensive licensing fees for those e-books, and a portion of the fees flow to authors as royalties.

Internet Archive claims what it does is legal, so long as it lends only one copy of a book at a time. However, in the case of *Capitol Records v. Redigi*, the courts ruled that digitally copying music without permission for sale or loan is illegal, even if only one copy is made. (Redigi was a service that allowed users to buy and sell used digital music files.) The court's opinion established principles of digital copyright infringement that should clearly apply to all copyrighted works, including books.

Furthermore, the National Emergency Library is no longer lending one copy at a time — it has thrown open its digital archive to everyone, allowing an unlimited number of people from anywhere in the world to download the same digital file. This is precisely how book-piracy websites operate.

The Authors Guild, of which I am president, has issued a statement saying we are "appalled" that Internet Archive "is using a global crisis to advance a copyright ideology that violates current federal law and hurts most authors."

Brief History of Publishing In Ghana

Excerpt from Ernest Oppong's Thesis



The history of publishing has undergone lots of transformational processes – writing surface, writing tool challenges and complexities of systems of writing (alphabets) as well as development of printing (Oppong, 2017). According to Djoletto (1985), the history of the book and publishing, like that of most Anglophone countries in Africa, is closely connected with that of Christian missionary work, the development of education, the expansion of government business, the increase in the newspaper and other printing presses, the upswing in endogenous authorship, publishing, book manufacture and distribution, as well as a steadily rising social consciousness. Darko-Ampem (2003, p. 92) affirmed that “the origin of the book as we know it in Ghana today may be traced to European missionaries and traders who came to the then Gold Coast in the fifteenth century”. Some researchers have also proven that the establishment of publishing in Ghana can be associated with the activities and experience of the Europeans and Christian missionaries (Graham, 1971; Akyea et al., 2008) cited in Boadu (2016).

In 1822, the governor of the Gold Coast now Ghana, Sir Charles MacCarthy, promoted and influenced the production and publishing of the first newspaper called the **Royal Gold Coast Gazette** which was hand-written (Jones-Quartey, 1967). The paper operated from 1822 to December 1823 after all its traces were lost due to the demise of its founder in January 1824 (Jones-Quartey, 1967). Jones-Quartey (1967) further recorded that newspapers including **Accra Herald** (published fortnightly in 1857 by Bannerman Brothers), **West African Herald** (published weekly in 1859 – 1873 by Bannerman Brothers) had been hand-written. According to Djoletto (1985) this cumbersome process was eliminated by 1874 as evidenced in the printing of the bi-monthly paper **The Gold Coast Times** and the **Western Echo**

published fortnightly by James Hutton Brew from Abura in the Central Region of Ghana. He was the first African to establish a printing press in Ghana called the Gold Coast Press (Jones-Quartey, 1967).

The introduction of printing machine in Ghana was over 300 years since the first printed materials called the Gutenberg Bible (the 42-Line Bible) were completed by Johannes Gutenberg in 1454 using movable type (The Gutenberg Museum Mainz, 2018). It took over 300 years before printing technology was extended to Ghana to give publishing a facelift. The researcher opines that printing took so long after it was in use in other parts of the world and this probably delayed the immediate advancement of publishing in Ghana around the 15th century.

The operation of the missionaries in the Gold Coast also contributed to the development of the printing and publishing industries. In 1851, the Methodist mission maintained a printing press at Cape Coast which was later used by the Basel Missionaries (Ghana Book Development Council, 2007). In 1870, the Basel Mission also opened up a book depot (Ghana Book Development Council, 2007). They published religious books to propagate the Gospel and Basel and Bremen Missionaries had investigated at least three Ghanaian languages in some depth – Asante Twi, Ewe and Ga (Djoletto, 1985).

The independence of Ghana brought in its trail rapid socio-economic growth and educational expression, cultural awareness and individual development were buttressed by an increase in number of first and second schools and universities. After the introduction of compulsory education in Ghana, the free textbook scheme became a statutory educational policy in 1962 (Essuman, 2009).

The initial efforts of government to resolve these challenges and cushion the impact of the huge book bill was the involvement of

some transnational or multinational publishing houses like Oxford University Press, Evans Brothers, Thomas Nelson, Macmillan, Longman and Cambridge University Press in the provision of books and other instructional materials; the missionary depots were also involved in the distribution process to all parts of the country (GBDC, 2007). The multinationals produced the books to be sold to the Government. Shortly after the attainment of a republic status, the Ghana Publishing Corporation (GPC) now renamed Ghana Publishing Company was established in 1965 by a legislative instrument “to print, publish, distribute and market books and other educational materials for schools, higher educational institutions and the general public” (Djoletto, 1985).

The GPC was, thus, the first of government’s initiatives to slow down or halt the monopoly of the multinationals and hold book industry in trust for local stakeholders. This period witnessed the establishment of such local publishing houses as Afram Publications (Ghana) Limited, Sedco Publishing Limited, Minerva Book Services, Unimax and a host of other publishing, printing and book distribution houses (Ghana Book Development Council, 2007).

Djoletto (1985) stated that the phenomenal expansion in education from the early 1950s brought about a lot of changes in the book situation in Ghana; it marked not only the end of mass and indiscriminate importation of virtually all kinds of books into the country whether for formal or informal education but significantly the beginning of a new era of authorship, publishing and book production. As noted by Djoletto (1985), the Accelerated Development Plan for Education in 1951 which brought about mass enrolment of students in schools enhanced the lucrativeness of publishing in Ghana.

Dekutsey (2018) commented that since 1970s, the Ghanaian book industry has experienced rapid establishment of many publishing houses by indigenous publishers as well as the establishment of many printing machines imported into the country. All these contributions were aimed at making information accessible to the public through religious books, educational, general and children’s books.

Ghana has a young history of scholarly publishing. Ganu (1999) highlighted the pioneering role of the Ghana Universities Press (GUP) which was set up by the National Council for Higher Education and Research, now the National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE), in association with the then three universities of Ghana (University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and Cape Coast University) in 1962. The author further recounted that the operational mandate of GUP was government’s acceptance of the recommendations of the Commission on University Education in Ghana 1961. The role of the Ghana Universities Press was to publish scholarly books for teaching, learning and research purposes. GUP provided one-stop publishing services for lecturers and other scholarly authors who wanted to publish their works (Ganu, 1999). The press was an organisation on government subvention that traditionally funded the publishing works of authors and as at 1999, GUP had published over 250 scholarly titles.

The creation and development of state publishing houses, private publishing houses and eventually university presses to publish scholarly books has advanced publishing in Ghana. The researcher believes that publishing in Ghana was initiated and promoted by four main bodies – the colonial masters, the foreign missionaries, government and the private sector.

Editor’s Picks | cont’d from pg 13

\$100 million.

According to Internet Archive’s legal filings, it also receives major financial support from other foundations, including the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Science Foundation. And the higher-ups at Internet Archive appear to be paid very well indeed: Its **2017 nonprofit 990 tax filing**, posted at ProPublica, indicates that the top six employees collectively earn over \$1 million a year.

The Authors Guild’s **2018 survey** of its membership and members of other writer organizations found that the median income of those who identified as a full-time author in the United States was \$20,300, well below the federal poverty line for a family of three or more.

The 18th Ghana International Book Fair Postponed to August 26 – 29, 2021



This is to announce that the Planning Committee for the Ghana International Book Fair (GIBF) has postponed the 18th edition of the Ghana International Book Fair from August 27 – 30, 2020 to August 26 – 29, 2021 after a meeting held on Monday 27th April, 2020.

The Committee considered the current circumstances regarding the coronavirus pandemic and its devastating global effects on life, health and the economy of all sectors. Quality human health is utmost priority and upon critical assessment of the situation, the outbreak of the disease will have adverse effects on the success of the Book Fair should it be held on the original aforementioned date. We have therefore taken the difficult decision to wait no further but act now to enable both indigenous and international exhibitors and visitors as well as the general public of Ghana to rethink their plans.

When the disease is fully contained and all restrictions on social gatherings are lifted by the government, the Committee intends to organise a National Book Exhibition in Accra and two other satellite regional book fairs in Kumasi and Koforidua within the last quarter of the year to give Ghanaians the opportunity to buy new textbooks for KG to Primary 6, SHS textbooks and supplementary readers for all levels. The date for these regional book fairs will be announced later.



The GIBF is an annual event organised to celebrate the rich Ghanaian culture through books

We encourage the Government of Ghana and all the global institutions that are leading efforts to stem the pandemic to continue their vigorous programmes to save lives and ensure that the basic economic conditions are not eroded.

The Ghana International Book Fair is an annual event organised to celebrate rich Ghanaian culture through books. The main goal behind organising the Book Fair is to bring together all book industry players (both local and international) including publishers, editors, authors/writers, designers, illustrators, printers, librarians, booksellers, students, teachers and a host of allied organisations, to showcase innovations that have occurred in the publishing industry, to share ideas, foster strong links, explore business opportunities and enhance the visibility and recognition of players in the book industry.

The fair aims at exposing readers to a wide array of books and other educational materials, thus creating literacy awareness and inculcating into the general public especially children and young adults reading and writing habits through impactful reading programmes held annually.

We encourage everyone to follow the laid-down protocols announced by the government to ensure that we all stay healthy and safe. Any inconvenience caused is very much regretted.

How Publishing has Helped & Hindered Me

| Experiences & Advice from
a Blind Reader and Publisher

Source | Wiley Online Library by George Abbott

I have observed and been personally impacted by the evolution of publishing from the time I was a small child through my professional career today. I was born blind, so my first exposure to written material did not come from print but from braille, which I began to learn in 1973. The earliest materials I received were brailled by hand by my teachers. As I quickly learned to interpret the letters, numbers, punctuation marks, and other special symbols that were formed by various combinations of raised dots derived from a three-dot tall, two-dot wide matrix of six possible dots, I was able to get my hands on braille books. There were a handful of specialty publishers making braille children's books, but the majority came from a special programme of the Library of Congress called the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Growing up in the south suburbs of Chicago, I was fortunate to have access to incredible special education supports from dedicated, innovative, forward-thinking teachers. I was also blessed to have relatives who knew the importance of literacy and who encouraged me to learn to read. I was motivated because any time my cousins or friends had new experiences, I expected to have the same ones. I did not yet fully understand what being blind meant, and I did not much care for overprotective family members telling me I could not or should not do something everyone else my age was doing, whether it was running around the yard playing tag (I did run into trees and fences), riding bikes (despite peddling into mailboxes and parked cars), and, yes, wanting to read.

Access to material, in various media, allowed

me to achieve a solid education. It helped me graduate from a university, but also limited my career options as I evaluated what was practical and realistic at the time given that I wanted to complete my bachelor's degree in four years.

Through most of grade school, I had access to braille textbooks. The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) in Louisville, Kentucky, produced the braille format of books being used in many of the school districts across the country. APH has received annual federal funding since the late 1800s

to make educational materials available in alternative formats for students with visual impairments. It helped that the books were generally not too lengthy, and they did not change too often for the lower grade levels. As a result, I could get my hands on a fair amount of braille, and my literacy skills improved along with my sighted classmates.

However, I was at a disadvantage when it came to reinforcing my literacy skills because, unlike my sighted peers, I did not have the benefit of seeing all of the print

in the environment, such as cereal boxes on the breakfast table, mail on the countertop, newspapers and magazines lying near the sofa, street signs and billboards we passed while in the car, and so on. Access to braille was crucial because through audio you can learn, but with braille you build important literacy skills.

Think about the first time you used the newspaper. Was it to try to make sense of the comics? Was it to look up your favourite team's score from the previous night? How old were you?

It may surprise you to learn that I was 28 years old when I first accessed a newspaper

I knew what a newspaper was because I recall being sent out to retrieve them from our front porch. I have held them, smelled them. I have even rolled, rubber banded, and helped my friends deliver them on their newspaper delivery routes. I generally resented newspapers for taking adults' attention away from me. As I grew older, I became increasingly frustrated that I could not read the paper. I knew there was a wealth of information and entertainment that I was being deprived of.

In high school, friends enjoyed going to the store to look through and buy magazines. Granted, they were not always wholesome ones, but nonetheless, they had the freedom to learn and be entertained in a way I did not. I was falling behind in knowledge about pop culture and information important to young adults because I had very few ways to obtain and process that information, which created social challenges and limited my ability to connect with my peers.

It may surprise you to learn that I was 28 years old when I first accessed a newspaper independently. This was in the late 1990s. Thanks to advocacy efforts, opened-minded publishers, and advances in technology, I had unprecedented access to an abundance of important information. Nearly 100 newspapers were available by telephone each day. Text-to-speech technology was used to read the computer files, and keys on the touchtone phone allowed the user to navigate by paper, section, and article. This was an incredible revolution and evolution of unprecedented access to material at the same time it was available to everyone else.

As I progressed through middle school and high school, my access to braille in the classroom decreased significantly. Books were much lengthier, and new editions were published more frequently. It was not possible, given the technologies and cost then, to produce the quantity of textbooks in a timely fashion. It was not uncommon to receive my textbooks in small portions and often weeks or even months into the semester. I began listening to more of my books on cassette tapes, sometimes older editions that had already been recorded or the current material that my teachers or hired readers were scrambling to record so I could keep up with my classes. The volume of required reading and time to provide me with accessible textbooks made staying on track with the syllabus a huge challenge. It was manageable to listen to chapters for history

and literature classes, but it was not easy for me to learn mathematics and science from an audio medium. I did have some geometry in braille, but again, it became more limited in the higher grades.

In college, my textbooks were all in audio. Occasionally, I had a human reader, but mostly, I relied on recorded books from a wonderful resource in New Jersey that was called Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic, now Learning Ally (www.learningally.org/). Many weeks before each semester, I would gather my list of books and their international standard book numbers (ISBNs) and call New Jersey to see if they had a copy on hand. If they did, that was wonderful. They would ship me the dozens of tapes that made up that textbook. These tapes were duplicates, and the quality varied. If the book had not yet been recorded, they would assign volunteer readers to begin recording it when I supplied two print copies of the book and the syllabus. I would receive cassettes as chapters were recorded in the order specified on the syllabus. Many times, I would receive the tapes just in time for me to study before assignments were due or tests on those chapters were given; other times, the tapes did not make it to me in time, and I was scrambling for a human reader.

Access to information became a huge factor in my decision making about which classes to take and what subjects to study. For example, my undergraduate degree is in finance, but I would have focused more on investing if I had not been required to go to the library and refer to daily finance periodicals, which I had no way of accessing independently. While completing my general education requirements, it turned out I did extremely well in courses like geology and human biology. Unfortunately, at that time, majoring in science was possible but did not seem practical for me given how I had to access material.

When I went to university, I had little access to braille. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, technology was transforming and improving rapidly. The personal computer was moving out of its infancy and beginning to become a part of daily life. This was both a major blessing and a curse. It was a blessing because I could access word-processed materials and write and edit my work with relative ease. The disadvantage, however, was the tremendous cost of the assistive technology, both to me and the university, which was as expensive or more expensive than the computer itself.

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GPA's Statement Issued on World Book and Copyright Day

| Asare Konadu Yamoah, GPA President



The 23rd day of April every year is celebrated as World Book and Copyright Day.

This year, the Ghana Publishers Association together with other stakeholders notably, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the Copyright Office, the Ghana Association of Writers, the Ghana Library Authority and the Ghana Book Development Council had planned to observe the day with activities at the Aburi Girls Senior High School.

It was intended to be a memorable experience to acknowledge the role of students in the promotion of books and their contribution to the development of the Book Industry.

We are all aware of the unfortunate circumstance the world finds itself in. We have been forced to revise our way of life by the coronavirus pandemic which has virtually disrupted every activity that has been planned. The World Book and Copyright Day celebration cannot be held at the venue we had selected, and we are unable to congregate due to the measures instituted to contain the pandemic and reduce the potential of having a catastrophe.

April 23 is an important date for the book industry and world literature. A day that was set aside by UNESCO to acknowledge the special contribution of books and authorship to education, literacy and knowledge which have no doubt encouraged people to value reading and how it has contributed to social and cultural progress of human existence.

On behalf of the stakeholders, the Ghana Publishers Association would like to encourage

all Ghanaians particularly students to continue to show interest in the promotion of books and other literary works by reading and contributing to further the development of the industry.

On this occasion of the World Book and Copyright Day, the Ghana Publishers Association on behalf of the stakeholders, would like to request the Ministry of Education to join us to initiate the process of planning the future development of the book industry infrastructure. We need the following policies to offer direction and transparency in the book industry –

- National Book and Development Policy,
- National Policy on Book Procurement,
- An action plan for the implementation of the use of indigenous languages in teaching and learning.

These are critical to create the most important wheels to keep the modern book industry vibrant and attract the needed investment. Therefore, creating the enabling regulations to promote the business of publishing must be a collective effort of all relevant stakeholders including the Ministry of Education.

The state must recognise the strategic role of publishing and should be officially recognised as an indispensable service because that is the foundation of the educational system of Ghana.

The celebration is a year-long activity and hopefully an opportunity will extend itself for us to fully celebrate books and authorship.

How publishing has helped and hindered me | cont'd from pg 19

Furthermore, standards had not yet been established, meaning I could use word processing or spreadsheet software with assistive technology one day, and then, changes to the newest version of that software often resulted in the assistive technology not working until substantial time passed and changes to the assistive

technology were made. For several years, this was an endless and frustrating cycle. Fortunately, the Worldwide Web Consortium's Web Accessibility Initiative and partnerships among mainstream and assistive technology developers have resulted in greatly improved access to electronic information.