

# Haiti Library Stakeholder Survey Results and Recommendations



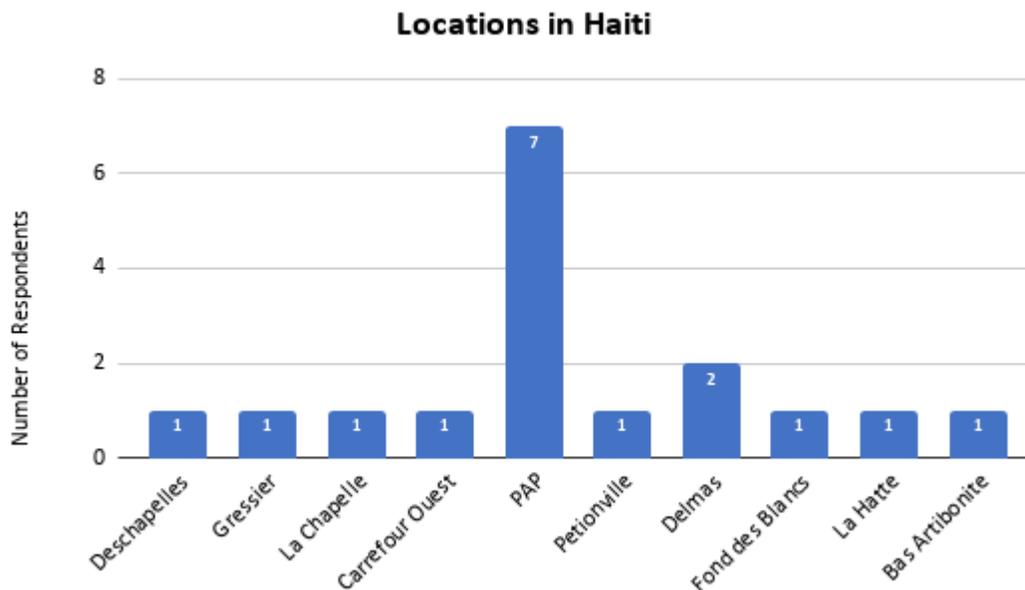
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## Introduction

During Spring 2020, the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs in partnership with Partners in Literacy Haiti conducted a mapping of libraries in Haiti.

## Respondents

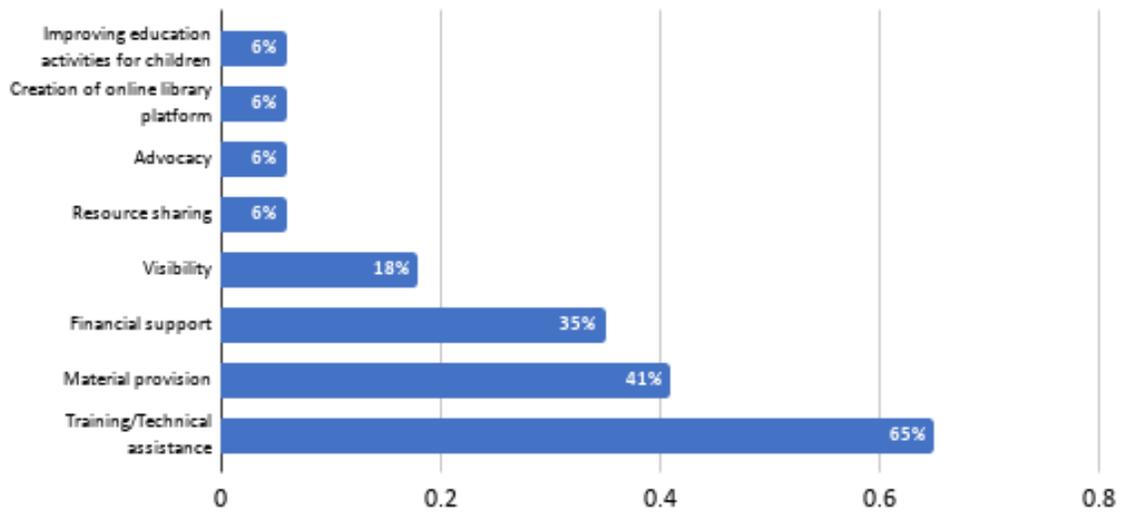
12% of the respondents were located in the United States, while 94% of the respondents were located in Haiti. The locations where the libraries and stakeholders operate include several areas of Haiti, but the majority are active in the Port-au-Prince area.



## Support sought from potential library/stakeholder network

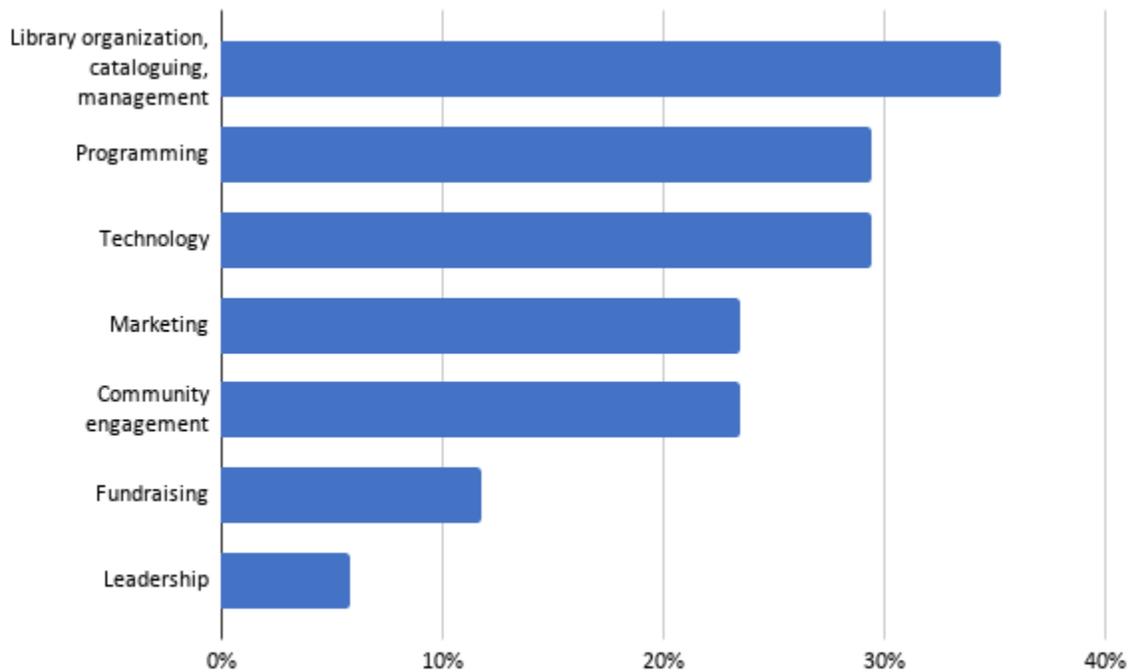
The vast majority (65%) of survey respondents hoped to gain training and technical assistance from a potential Haitian library network. Over one third of respondents sought Material provision (41%) and financial support (35%). Visibility was mentioned by three libraries mentioned visibility of their libraries and library services. One respondent each sought resource sharing, advocacy, creation of an online library platform and improving education activities for children.

## Support Sought from Potential Library Network



## What libraries/stakeholders would like to learn

35% of respondents expressed a desire to learn about library organization, cataloguing and/or management. 29% of respondents named programming (for all ages) and technology use as things they would like to learn in order to improve their services. Marketing and community engagement were named by 24% of respondents. Fundraising and leadership were also named by 2 or fewer libraries.



## Library/stakeholder experience

The libraries and stakeholders have a range of experiences that they are interested in sharing with others in the network. These include:

**Bibliothèque Communautaire de Deschapelles:** Experience in Haitian culture and cultural presentations

**The Neighborhood Library:** Children's programming. This includes their Author's Club in which children brainstorm a storyline, write a book, and illustrate the images for children's books in Haitian Creole. These books are then printed in the United States and returned to The Neighborhood Library in Haiti.

**La Chapelle Community Library/ HEPI (Haiti Education & Production Initiatives):** Creation of a Library Advisory Committee.

**Haiti Reads:** Haitian culture and context, as well as online English language classes. Partners in Literacy Haiti: Librarian training, story time, how to work with parents, creation and management of a Library Advisory Committee, and networking for library success.

**N a Sonje Foundation:** Haitian history, culture and language.

**Bibliothèque Jeunesse TOYA:** Community awareness raising, online story time, children's programming and youth programming.

**Bibliothèque Spécialisée Roger Dorsainvil de la Société Haïtienne d'Aide aux Aveugles (SHAA):** Book creation, particularly those adapted for blind patrons (braille, audio, relief).

**Bibliothèque Communautaire de Fond des Blancs/ Haiti Projects:** Cultural programs, language classes, computer classes, children's programming and mobile libraries.

**Biblioservice:** Reading promotion with teachers and primary school students.

**EducaVision:** Creation of mobile and classroom libraries.

**Salle de Lecture Communautaire de Ravine Sèche:** Children's book creation and children's programming.

**FOKAL:** Technology including makerspaces and computer programming, and personal development.

**Bibliothèque de Saint-Louis de Gonzague:** Digitization.

**Of particular interest to Partners in Literacy Haiti may be the respondents who shared experience specific to the creation of children's books. These include:**

**The Neighborhood Library** whose Author's Club helps children create their own children's books in Haitian Kreyol.

**The Salle de Lecture Communautaire de Ravine Sèche** whose children's programming includes supporting children to create their own books.

### Interest in potential library/stakeholder network activities

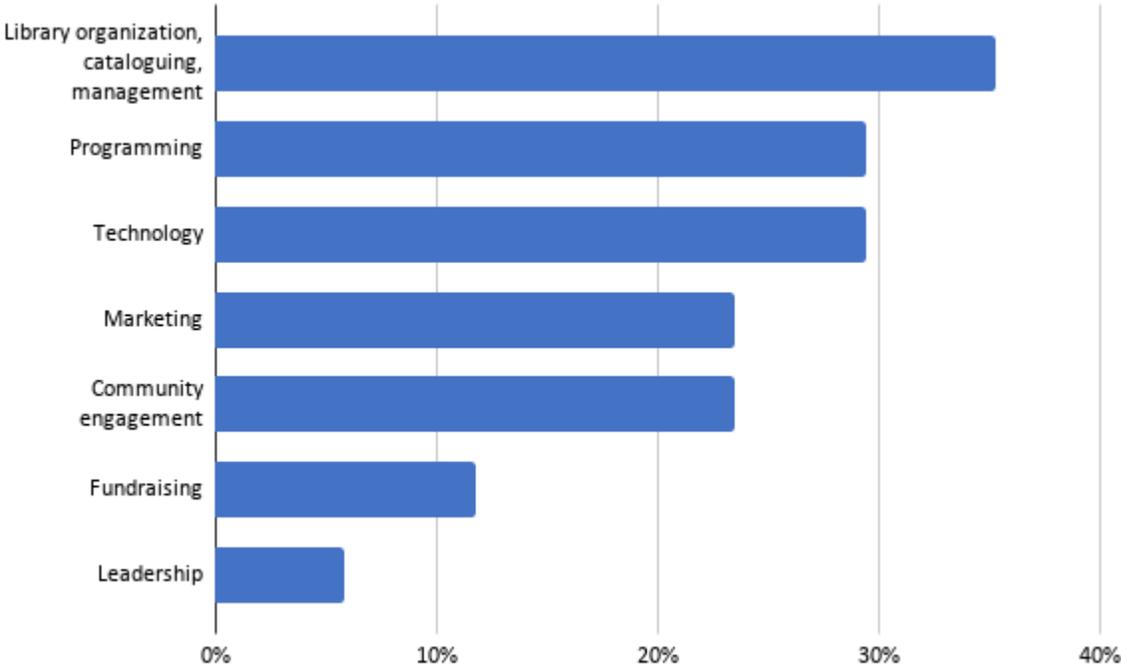
Overall, the highest level of interest in potential library and stakeholder network activities was in professional development activities (local trainings, webinars, and conferences) with the vast majority of members being interested in these opportunities. All survey respondents are interested in attending trainings or other professional development activities in Haiti. 94% of respondents were also interested in attending webinars. In-person conferences are of interest to 88% of respondents.

The second highest level of interest was in online activities. 88% of respondents are interested in an online newsletter that shares library updates, events, resources and tips. 81% of respondents are interested in the creation of an online listserv or forum where they can exchange experiences and ideas with other members of the network.

The next level of interest was in the creation of a formal network entity in Haiti. 69% of respondents are interested in the creation of a local Haitian chapter of a larger library organization/association, while only 44% of respondents are interested in the creation of a new independent library association in Haiti.

And finally, four respondents indicated that they are library leaders or experienced librarians who are willing to share their knowledge with others. These respondents were:

- Jeanette Alfred, President/Founder, Haiti Reads
- Sara Mansbach, Director, Partners in Literacy Haiti
- Fenol Jacquotin, Head of Programs Coordinator, Bibliotheque Communautaire de Fond des Blancs/ Haiti Projects
- Erick Toussaint, Library Program Coordinator, FOKAL



### Interest in potential library/stakeholder network activities

While professional development activities are of the most interest to survey respondents, they are not always able to pay for those activities. Over half of respondents indicated that they can only participate in free activities. The detailed data for this question is unclear, as respondents were able to select more than one answer. However, overall, it appears that although free activities are preferred, most respondents can find the funding (whether self-funded, via sponsor, or via library funds) to attend one professional development activity per year.

## Language

Kreyol is spoken by more librarians than English and French. For library/stakeholder focal points, Kreyol is tied with French as the most spoken languages. The next most known language is French, followed by English. Among the focal points, there is only one that does not speak French or Kreyol.

It is possible that there are errors in this data, as one English survey respondent indicated that they only speak Kreyol. However, the overall results are likely indicative of the languages understood by most librarians and focal points.

## Recommendation

- **Clarify the focus of the directory and its purpose, as well as the members' interest relative to that clarified focus and purpose.**

The directory was created for community and school libraries and their stakeholders. This is a broad group. It is clear that Partners in Literacy Haiti is most interested in books, programming and libraries focused specifically on children. However, there are members of the directory that may be more focused on youth and adults. If children are going to be the focus, this should be more clearly specified.

- **Organize trainings and professional development activities once per year at low or no-cost.**

If a fee is required, it would be a good idea to provide scholarships or share fundraising advice with those libraries and stakeholders that cannot afford it.

- **Create an online newsletter that shares library that shares library updates, events, resources, and tips.**

This newsletter could be quarterly, biannual or annual depending on the availability of those responsible for creating it. This would be an excellent way to share information on topics that interest the libraries that perhaps are not covered in the training that year, as well as to share online training opportunities organized by other organizations.

- **Create a local chapter of a larger library organization/association.**

This was a more popular option than creating a new independent local library association. The first step would be to look at existing organizations and associations, see which would be possible to organize locally and gauge interest of library directory members in which organizations/associations interest them. One potential association to look into is Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC).

- **Communicate with library directory members in both English and French to ensure that they are understood.**

Each of the focal points understands at least English or French, if not both languages. All communications should be bilingual.

- **Engage a Partners in Literacy Haiti focal point in Haiti**  
who can provide direct and ongoing contact with directory members and other libraries, as well as to facilitate communication between Sara and those in Haiti who do not speak English.