

# InfoBytes

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Making your dailies more informative



## Expand your knowledge at KNATCOM Resource Centre

**K**enya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) is a State Corporation that acts as the focal point for all UNESCO programmes and activities in the country. The Commission helps UNESCO implement its objectives locally including the foundations of lasting peace, sustainable development and intellectual collaboration through education, sciences, culture,

communication and information. KNATCOM hosts a Resource Centre at its headquarters at the National Bank building on Harambee Avenue in Nairobi. The Centre is the gateway to information at the Commission and beyond. It provides a conducive environment for learning, research and dissemination of information resources.

The Centre promotes efficient and effective information resources management for knowledge sharing. It caters for internal and external stakeholders, academia, college and university students, children aged three years and above, and the general public. In this edition of *InfoBytes*, we tell you all about the resource centre and why you need to visit the facility to expand your knowledge.

# 1 Brief history of KNATCOM



Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) is a State Corporation with an international focus that executes a dual function of serving both Kenya and UNESCO. The Commission is the focal point for all UNESCO programmes and activities in Kenya. It has a unique role to play in strengthening the foundations of lasting peace, sustainable development and intellectual collaboration. KNATCOM works with stakeholders from the various Government of Kenya Ministries, Counties, Departments and Agencies (MCDAs), civil society organisations and the academia.

It works towards the advancement of UNESCO activities in the areas of education, sciences, culture, communication and information. KNATCOM has two Directorates; Directorate in charge of Programmes, which handles the five UNESCO Programmes of Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture and Communication and Information and Directorate of Research and Resource Mobilisation that deals with Research and Consultancy, Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation and the Resource Centre.

## 2 When was the Commission established?

Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) was first established as a department under the Ministry of Education. This establishment was subsequent to Kenya's Membership to UNESCO on April 7, 1964, as 73<sup>rd</sup> Member and in line with UNESCO's Constitution of 1945. To enhance its effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery and in line with its mandate, KNATCOM was transformed into a State Corporation on

January, 25, 2013 through the enactment of the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO Act 2013. This transformation was consistent with Article VII of the 1945 Constitution of UNESCO and the provisions of the 1978 Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO, which define the responsibilities vested in National Commissions, the Member States, and the guidelines governing their operations.

### 3 What is the Mandate of KNATCOM?

KNATCOM's mandate is to promote Kenya's national interests in UNESCO and UNESCO's international interests in Kenya, regionally and globally in the areas of education, sciences, culture, communication and information.

### 4 Key areas of focus for KNATCOM

KNATCOM promotes peace, sustainable development and intellectual collaboration through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. This is done

by conducting capacity building, undertaking research, promoting knowledge and information sharing, disseminating innovations and facilitating policy formulation.

### 5 What services does KNATCOM offer to the public?

- Capacity building and training on UNESCO areas of competence in education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, communication and information.
- Dissemination of calls for prizes, awards, scholarships, fellowships and study grants to ensure awareness, access and uptake by Kenyans.
- Research and consultancy on UNESCO areas of competence.
- Publication of research papers in the KNATCOM Journal.
- KNATCOM Resource Centre facility for dissemination of information for education and research purposes.





## 6 KNATCOM Resource Centre

The KNATCOM Resource Centre is the gateway to information at the Commission and beyond. It provides a conducive environment for learning, research and dissemination of information resources. It promotes efficient and effective information resources management for knowledge sharing.

## 7 Where is the Resource Centre located?

The Resource Centre is located on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of the National Bank building on Harambee Avenue. Further, the Resource Centre has a page on the Commissions website on: <https://unesco.go.ke/knatcom-resource-centre/>

## 8 Who can benefit from the services of the Resource Centre

The Resource Centre clients include: internal and external stakeholders, the academia, college and university students, children from three years and above and the general public.

## 9 How can I access the Resource Centre?

You can access the Resource Centre by visiting the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of the National Bank Building with your Passport, National or Student Identification Card.

## 10 Is there a section for children who wish to visit the Resource Centre?

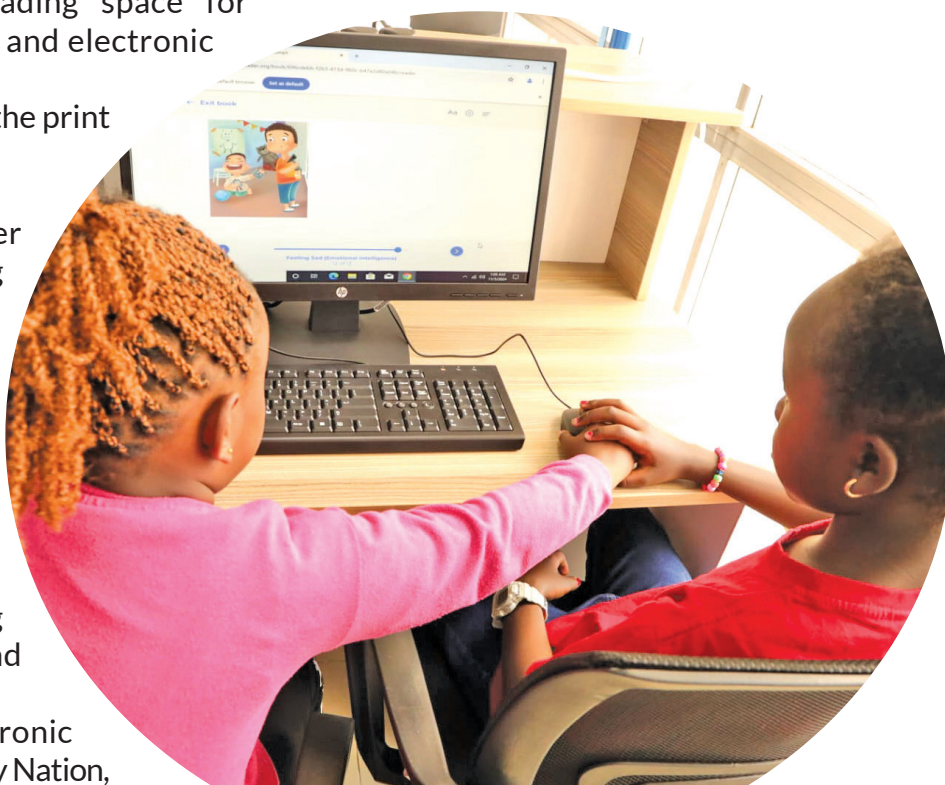
Yes, the Resource Centre has a section for children. It has age-appropriate furniture with adequate sitting space. Further, it has a suitable collection of information resources in both print and electronic formats.

## 11 When and what time can one access the Resource Centre?

The Resource Centre is open from Monday to Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm. It remains closed on weekends and public holidays.

## 12 Resources and facilities available at the Resource Centre

- A serene reading area with high standard reading carrels.
- Computers with internet access for ICT services.
- An age-appropriate reading space for children with ideal print and electronic collection.
- Well labelled shelves for the print collection.
- **Resources:**
- A print collection of over 10,000 volumes including KNATCOM and UNESCO publications.
- A children's collection.
- An Africana collection.
- Resource Centre Online
- Public Access Catalogue
- Subscribed, peer-reviewed electronic resources including e-journals, databases and e-books
- Access to electronic newspapers including Daily Nation, Taifa Leo and Business Daily.
- The KNATCOM journal available on: <http://journals.unesco.go.ke>



## 13 Is there a cost incurred to access services at the Centre?

KNATCOM and UNESCO adhere to the call for open science, therefore, the products and services available at the Resource Centre are offered at no costs.



## 14 Can one borrow books or materials from the Centre?

All users are allowed to access all the information resources in the Resource Centre. Information resources can be reserved for them for future use within the Centre.

## 15 What kind of information does one access at the Resource Centre?

- Subscribed electronic resources
- Print collection including KNATCOM and UNESCO information resources
- The Online Public Access Catalogue
- The KNATCOM Journal
- The electronic newspapers

## 16 Can one be a member of the Resource Centre, if so, how?

Yes, of course one can be a member by registering at the Resource Centre

## 17 Guidance and assistance at the Centre

Yes, experienced, trained and skilled staff are available to provide assistance on how to utilise the Resource Centre products and services exhaustively.

## 18 Booking to use the Centre

The Resource Centre is open and free for all, therefore, there is no need to book.

## 19 Can one access the Resource Centre's services from anywhere in Kenya

One can use the UNESCO digital library available on - <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/> from anywhere in Kenya and beyond.

## 20 Are there any special programmes at the Resource Centre?

The following special programmes are offered at the Centre:

- Continuous capacity building/information literacy sessions on the Centre's products and services
- Inculcation of the reading culture among children by:
  - a) Providing coloring materials to build their motor skills, enhancing their hand-

eye coordination, fostering creativity, promoting focus and concentration and aiding in color recognition

- b) Reading story books for them.
- c) Allowing them to read books for other children
- d) Providing free applications that have virtual storybooks to build their interest in technology

## 21 Does the Centre offer services accessible to the visually impaired individuals?

The Resource Centre has subscribed to some electronic databases, which have built-in talking software ideal for visually impaired users in

compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. There are plans to provide talking software in the Resource Centre computers.

## 22 Is there internet access at the Resource Centre?

The Resource Centre provides WI-FI for internet connectivity. Computers available at the Centre have internet access. In addition,

WI-FI credentials are provided for users with personal laptops.

## 23 What happens when one loses a book, for instance, from the Resource Centre?

In the unfortunate event that one loses a book, they are required to buy a copy of a similar title to replace the lost one.

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## 24 How does one provide feedback or suggestions at the Resource Centre?

The Resource Centre has an “Ask the Librarian Service” where a corporate email address- [knatcomresourcecentre@unesco.go.ke](mailto:knatcomresourcecentre@unesco.go.ke) is provided for questions, feedback and suggestions.

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## 25 What role does the Resource Centre play in promoting technology?

The Resource Centre has embraced technology in many of its processes. It is automated using a reliable library system for processing information resources. This results in the provision of the open public access catalogue (OPAC), which is a gateway to the holdings of the Resource

Centre. It has subscribed to peer-reviewed electronic resources and provides electronic newspapers. It has internet access with adequate computers. It uses relevant applications for the provision of information. Further, its presence is available on the KNATCOM website.

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## 26 I am interested in STEM education can I benefit from the Resource Centre?

The Resource Centre provides relevant and up to date STEM information materials in both print and electronic formats. STEM is a major area covered by KNATCOM in supporting the national capacities to deliver gender-responsive STEM education. The Commission works to empower girls and women in acquiring basic competences and digital skills to help close the gender digital divide.







**Sources:** KYEB and Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM).  
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**KENYA  
YEARBOOK  
EDITORIAL BOARD**

- 📍 Ragat Road, SHA Building , 4th Floor,  
Upperhill, Nairobi, Kenya
- 📧 P.O. Box 34035-00100, Nairobi, Kenya
- 📞 0757029456
- ✉️ [info@kenyayearbook.go.ke](mailto:info@kenyayearbook.go.ke)
- 🌐 [www.kenyayearbook.go.ke](http://www.kenyayearbook.go.ke)

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