



BFA Information Packet

About BFA:

Books For Africa is the largest shipper of donated educational materials to the African continent in the world.

We have shipped more than 34 million books to 49 different African nations since we were founded in 1988!

Books range from children's picture books to text books for primary, secondary and post-secondary schools. Books are donated by publishers, schools, libraries, individuals, and organizations so that BFA can send not only good books, but enough good books for a whole class to use. They are sorted by subject and reading level by volunteers in our Minnesota and Georgia warehouses to prepare for shipment.

BFA then ships the packed and sorted books in 40-foot sea containers containing about 22,000 books to schools and libraries in Africa. Each container can supply several school or community libraries with enough books to fill their shelves much more quickly than if books were sent in smaller quantities. Recipients order books by subject. This helps us make sure that BFA shipments reflect the needs of the schools they go to, making our books useful to communities in Africa.

BFA Books:

Books For Africa sorts all books before they are sent to Africa to make sure that the materials we ship to schools and libraries are relevant and culturally appropriate for the African learner. Only books that meet the BFA donation criteria will be shipped. Please review donations to make sure that they will fit into the categories that BFA sends to schools and libraries, as well as meets other criteria for book donations.

PRIMARY JUNIOR (Grades 1-4)

- General leisure
- English Reading Skills
- Math
- Health

PRIMARY SENIOR (Grades 5-8)

- General leisure
- English reading skills
- Science
- Math
- Health
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SECONDARY (Grades 9-12)

- General Leisure
- Social Studies
- Science
- Math
- English literature
- Health
- Sports/vocation/hobbies

POST-SECONDARY (University, College, and Vocational)

- General leisure reading
- Business and economics
- Computer science
- Medical and health
- Science and engineering
- Education theory
- Math
- Social science and history
- English communications
- Arts and humanities
- Law

GENERAL AND OTHER

- Reference, Religion
- Merck Medical Manuals
- Merck Veterinary Manuals
- Compton's by Britannica student Encyclopedias



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Book Donation Guidelines:

BFA does not accept:

- Textbooks that are more than 15 years old
- Encyclopedias
- Books that are “western centric”
(Examples of books not accepted: books about holidays that are only celebrated in the United States and Europe like the Fourth of July or Valentine’s Day, books on US history or historical figures, books about witches or magic like the Harry Potter series)
- Books that are not in good condition
(Please only send books in good condition, like those in a second hand book shop. Books with spine damage, excessive writing, or damaged covers or pages will not be accepted)

Special Initiatives:

Jack Mason Law & Democracy Initiative

Books For Africa is proud to partner with Thomson Reuters on the Jack Mason Law & Democracy Initiative. Named for the late Jack Mason, a federal magistrate judge and BFA board member, the Initiative fills law school libraries with relevant and current legal texts to strengthen African legal education systems. The Jack Mason Law & Democracy Initiative of Books For Africa has shipped 54 law and human rights libraries to 16 African countries since it was founded in 2008.

Agriculture, Natural Resource, and Vocational Skills Initiative

From floods in West Africa to drought in East Africa and all of the climates in between, every African community faces unique challenges in food production. The Books For Africa Agriculture, Natural Resource, and Vocational Skills Initiative provides libraries of new textbooks focused on improving African agricultural systems. The books, provided by [Hobar Publications of Finney Company](#) (Lakeville, MN), offer training for secondary and post-secondary students in the best practices for food production and farming.

How to get involved:

- Donate Books
- Host a book drive
- Donate funds
- Donate in honor of a friend or loved one

Is there a community in Africa that you know of that needs books? Become a BFA Container Captain!

BFA Container Captains lead fundraising projects to send full containers of books to schools and libraries in Africa. Ideal Container Captains have direct connections to one or several communities in Africa that have a known need for books. They organize all fundraising efforts and orchestrate delivery of books to specific skills. If you think you are well suited to be a container captain, please contact BFA.

Contact:

Minnesota Headquarters:

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Fax: (651) 602-9848
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www.booksforafrica.org

Minnesota Warehouse:

635 Prior Ave
St. Paul, MN 55104
Phone: (651) 251-8896

Georgia Warehouse :

3655 Atlanta Industrial Dr.
Bldg. 250
Atlanta, GA 30331
Phone: (404) 603-8680
Fax: (404) 603-8640



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BFA Feedback:

"Books are the foundation of a strong educational system and I am proud to accomplish this in collaboration with the philanthropic efforts of Books For Africa. I wholeheartedly endorse the mutual goal to improve the book situation in African schools."

-Sir Emeka Offor, Books For Africa donor and Ambassador

"When I think of the journey those books have been on...car to warehouse to truck to boat to truck to horse cart...it is still only the beginning of the journey. Those children will travel much further."

-Margaret Sents, BFA Board Member

"Reading will help me travel the world without getting in an airplane."

-Benjamin, student in Kisumu, Karateng-Kenya, Our Reading Spaces/InAble project

"Partnering with [Books For Africa] to increase literacy in Cameroon has been the best thing that has happened to Oroko people. We pray that God continues to bless your company Books for Africa to keep assisting other organizations and countries in need of books. We are forever grateful for your kindness, generosity, and support"

-Mercy, book recipient, Cameroon

"Books nurture ideas, they provide ideas to revolt against. If you can get something formulated, it helps you to form your own ideas and from that things can start to happen. It is important at so many levels. We are opening new horizon for the future leaders of the country. We affirm the fundamental truth that 'knowledge is power.'"

-Mitchell Benedict, Charge D'Affairs, US Embassy to Sierra Leone

"The students will benefit from your contribution both now and in the future. In times of limited resources, contributions such as yours make an incredible difference in what's available to our students."

-Rev Mubuyaeta Imasiku, school overseer, Livingstone, Zambia

"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family"

-Kofi Annan, Honorary Chair of the Jack Mason Law and Democracy Initiative

"There is not a single more important investment than that which we are making in education, absolutely none."

-Ambassador Elkanah Odembo, keynote speaker at BFA 2012 ASK Luncheon