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Contents

	Page
Chapter 1: Resource centre	1
Chapter 2: Planning a school resource centre	3
Chapter 3: Stock of the resource centre	8
Chapter 4: Stock processing	12
Chapter 6: Resource centre	18
Chapter 7: Resource centre	20
Chapter 8: Resource centre	23
Chapter 9: Resource centre	26
Chapter 10: Resource centre	29
Chapter 11: Resource centre	41
Bibliography	43
Appendix 1: Some publishers and booksellers in Malawi	48
Appendix 2: Addresses of donors and organizations that can assist	50
Appendix 3: DEWEY decimal classification scheme	51
Appendix 4: Alphabetical subject list	55

CHAPTER I

The resource centre

School libraries of today are quite different from those of the past. Today's school library is not only stocked with books but also keeps maps, cassettes, radios, magazines which contribute to teaching and learning. Due to these expanded services, most school or college libraries are now called resource centres.

A school resource centre

A resource centre is an organized collection of books, magazines and non-book materials such as photographs, globes, maps and films usually placed in a room at a school. However some school resource centre buildings may purposely be constructed as resource centres.

Why a resource centre at a school

Effective teaching and learning demands that both teachers and pupils consult various sources of information on their own. This reduces pupils' dependency on dictated notes from teachers. Through a school resource centre both pupils and teachers can learn more effectively on a given topic. A resource centre at a school can help in the following ways:

Teachers

- plan their work easily
- give pupils assignments by referring them to the resource centre
- are assisted in their professional growth and development
- read for pleasure
- provide variety in teaching and learning activities
- provide teaching and learning materials

Pupils

- get assistance when doing their assignment
- get extra information which they may not be able to understand while in class
- discover new facts in a given task or topic
- are kept the pupils busy during their free
- are motivated them towards learning
- are provided with a variety in teaching and learning materials
- develop a reading culture

Functions of a resource centre

The functions of a resource centre are to:

- support the educational work of the school by providing it with books and other teaching and learning materials for pupils and staff
- provide varied, interesting and challenging information
- help pupils with additional information on subjects they learn in class
- preserve resources by ensuring that they are properly kept and looked after
- provide up-to-date information to keep teachers and pupils aware of new developments in various fields of the curriculum and other issues

- promote resource sharing through the establishment of inter-resource centre lending relationships between education institutions
- promote a reading culture by providing various reading materials to pupils, teachers and members of the community
- provide teachers and pupils with information on subjects not taught in school
- help in discovering and developing special gifts and talents among pupils
- promote cultural awareness and development
- provide opportunities for learning how to use reading materials

