
A Book Is a Terrible Thing to Waste: Book Donation Programs

by Olakunle Omolabi, NBN Production Assistant

Every year thousands of books remain in storage unread, unused and, often times, eventually disposed of. We hate to see perfectly good books go to waste so we have compiled a list of several worthy donation programs that would be more than happy to receive your books. It is a win-win situation: books are saved, you could receive a tax-deduction, and those in need get to read great books—it doesn't get better! Here are some programs and how to reach them:

BOOKS FOR KIDS

What It Does: Promotes literacy among all children, with an especial focus on disadvantaged children and youth.

What to Donate: New children's and youth books and materials.

How to Donate: Send materials to
U.M.C
1255 Willoughby Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11237
ATTN: Books for Kids Foundation

Be sure to contact Nell O'Donnell (Administrative Coordinator) so that you may receive proper credit for your donation: 212.252.9168 or nodonnell@booksforkidsfoundation.org.

FIRST BOOK

What It Does: Distributes donated books to children from low-income families.

What to Donate: Large-scale and new children's books.

How to Donate: To become a Publishing Partner, contact directly at <http://bookbank.firstbook.org/nbb/get/nbbpublisher-ver2.asp>.

BRIDGE TO ASIA

What It Does: Distributes donated books to aid learning in Asia.

What to Donate: Textbooks in Agriculture, Fine Arts, Natural Science, Anthropology, Geography, Performing Arts Area Studies, History, Philosophy, Computer Science, Law, Physical Science, Economics, Literature, Political Science, Education Management, Psychology, Engineering (1990 to present), Mathematics, Sociology, English, Medicine/Health, Minority Studies, Test Prep for GRE and TOEFL, Teaching Aids, Audiotapes and other references. No books propagating particular religious or political beliefs will be accepted.

How to Donate: Send materials to
Bill Dower (contact number 1-800-322-6223)
Bridge to Asia (**From the East Coast or Midwest**)
Follet Higher Education Group
2211 West Street
River Grove IL 60171-1800
Alan Nichols (contact number 1-800-421-7736)
Bridge to Asia (**From the West Coast**)
College Book Company
Cypress CA 9063

INTERNATIONAL BOOK BANK

What It Does: Donates educational materials to schools, libraries and literacy programs in developing countries throughout the world.

What to Donate: New or nearly new books are accepted; books dealing with science and mathematics are greatly appreciated. No books propagating particular religious or political beliefs will be accepted. Also, due to the international scope of the program, books that are especially “North American” in values or beliefs are of little use.

How to Donate: Contact Albert Turner, Associate Executive Director at 410-362-0334, or write him at
Albert Turner
International Book Bank, Inc.
2201 Eagle Street, Unit D
Baltimore, MD 21223

SABRE FOUNDATION

What It Does: Distributes learning materials in regions around the world in order to give “humanitarian aid for the mind.”

What to Donate: High-quality and up-to-date educational materials across a range of subjects and educational levels.

How to Donate: Contact Colin McCullough at colin@sabre.org or 617-868-3510.

WORLD VISION

What It Does: Donates books to needy children worldwide.

What to Donate: New children’s books and educational books.

How to Donate: Visit

<https://www.worldvision.org/worldvision/guest.nsf/GIKdonations?OpenForm&cmp=books>

BIBLIOWORKS

What It Does: A literacy non-profit with library projects in Bolivia.

What to Donate: All types of books and also time if you are local to Asheville, NC. Books in Spanish are especially need. Books not used directly at the library may be used for other literacy projects or sold with proceeds going to Biblio Works.

How to Donate: Visit

http://www.biblioworks.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=32

INTERNATIONAL BOOK PROJECT, INC.

What It Does: Donates books worldwide to primary and secondary schools, universities, libraries, hospitals, churches, orphanages and Peace Corps volunteers.

What to Donate: Encyclopedias published no later than 1980, Medical and Nursing textbooks published within the last 10 years, Reference, English/Grammar, Sciences, World History, Humanities, Sociology and Psychology, General Fiction, Children’s or Adult books are accepted.

How to Donate: Send books to

International Book Project
1440 Delaware Avenue
Lexington, KY 40505

Note that shipping labels can be found at <http://www.internationalbookproject.org/pdf/packingslip.pdf>. For more information, contact Lynda Jeffries, Executive Director, at 859-254-6771 or ibpdirector@alltel.net.

Finally, the relief effort in Louisiana should be mentioned. While it might be tempting to send books in an effort to help, most libraries were severely damaged during the disaster. But you can still help. By sending monetary donations to the American Library Association’s Katrina Library Relief Fund (by visiting <https://secure.ga3.org/03/alakatrina>), you will be giving just as valuable a gift...after all, we do need a place to put all those books!