Stronger Together - Did we succeed?

**Analysis of the final evaluation questionnaire about the Stronger Together project introduced at the KLA Annual General Meeting in Thika November 2016**

Presentation, urgent request and distribution of the questionnaire took place at the KLA Annual General Meeting in Thika November 2016. This was supplemented by a digital distribution from the KLA Office to all members.

The questionnaire was the third one with the same content since the start of the project. The other two were distributed at the annual meetings in Kakamega 2013 and Eldoret 2014. In 2015 on the other hand the questionnaire was replaced by six qualitative interviews with key persons inside and outside KLA. Digital distributions of the questionnaires has been offered every time and resulted in a few more answers. This is probably due to the fact that signatures were optional and that full anonymity only is possible via paper format.

The result will be used for the final report of the project 2017 to be presented primarily at the Swedish Library Association’s annual meeting in Växjö in May, secondly at the IFLA annual conference in Wroclaw in August and finally at the KLA annual meeting in Mombasa in November 2017.

This last round the percentage of answers was considerably higher: 71 % compared to 20 % the two first times. 39 filled out forms were collected out of 55 attendants. It was explained as extremely important on the plea that it is the last one and that it concerns the impact of the whole project as well as the possibility of future cooperation. The essential parts in this third and last evaluation are consequently the questions about KLA and of the project as a whole. Thus the attendants were asked to be more concise about their work and concentrate on the impact, changes and development of KLA.

**Questions and answers**

**About KLA 1 - 11**

**Question 1 Are you a member of KLA?**

Yes 26, no 11, no answer 2

**Question 2 If yes, how long have you been a member?**

From four months to 20 years, average around 10 years, 9 years less than 5

**Question 3 If not, why?**

Examples of answers: The membership procedures are not inclusive to all librarians, the office is not known enough, I did not know the officials or office until today, there is a lack of basic information on how to become a member, my company is a member, we are a corporate member, due to lack of resources, I have not registered
Question 4 How active are you as a member?

Attending meetings 19, training 9, officer 8, recommending activities 7, volunteer 2, attending conferences 1

Question 5 Is your institution a member?

Among those who are a member themselves: yes 12, no 11, don’t know 2, no answer 1. Among those who are not members themselves: yes 6, no 4, don’t know 1

Question 6 Does your institution support your participation in KLA’s work?

Yes 24, to some extent 1, no 1

Question 7 What do you think are the main activities of KLA?

Answers on a falling scale: conferences, workshops, information professionals’ platform and exchange, training, advocacy and promoting, networking, public information, professionalization, ideas, policy guidelines’ development, support, management, registration, Maktaba Awards, monitoring, latest technology, Library and Information Science and Information Professionals’ voice, international representation, wellbeing, championing, seminars

Question 8 How well do you think KLA represents your main professional interests and concerns?

Very well 9, minimal 2, relevance 7, trying 4, expect better 1, there are more needs 2, satisfactory 3, they have done their best 1

Question 9 Which strengths and opportunities can KLA offer their members?

Answers on a falling scale: training, professional development, employability, advocacy for rights, updating, teamwork, information, networking, mentoring, ideas, opinion, collaboration, career, engagement, bargain, capacity, knowledge, innovation, coaching, affiliation, policy formulation, international sponsoring, leadership, partnership, secure resources, certification, motivation and welfare, presiding recruitment

Question 10 What could KLA do to better represent your professional interests and concerns?

Examples of answers: More communication and visits, exchange with stakeholders outside the library world, a bill and an act for school libraries, branches’ and regulation’s follow up, policy, sensitizing organisations and authorities, more aggressive and active, partnering with government, include knowledge management, protection, awareness of projects and activities,
more innovative, strong financial base, more conference and seminar people, mobilization for support, collaboration with other professional bodies, sponsor abroad studies, more engaging, advocacy decision, lower fee

**Question 11** *Do you feel that you can influence KLA’s decisions?*

Yes 30, no 2, unsure of implementation 3. (Even non-members are included in these answers!)

**About your work 1 – 10**

Of this part of the questionnaire only questions 1-4 are of main interest this time in order to get a view of the structure and variety of the audience.

**Question 1** *How long have you worked in libraries?*

0-10 years 8, 10-20 years 15, 20-30 years 11, 30 and more years 2

**Question 2** *Which library domain do you work in?*

Academic 11, government 9, school 6, public 5 other (media, community, corporative) 5, teacher 2

**Question 4** *What is your position in your library?*

Librarian 11, chief of administration 8, assistant librarian 3, senior assistant 3, campus librarian 3, senior 1, technical service 1, records managing officer 1, lecturer 1, deputy university librarian 1

**About the project 1 – 7**

**Question 1** *Have you heard about the project Stronger Together?*

Yes 19, no 18, yes and no 1(!)

**Question 2-3** *Have you seen any changes since it started? If so which changes?*

Answers on a falling scale: the chapters 5, the office 5, the publication of Maktaba Journal + introduction 2, networking 2, education and training enhanced 2, strengthening of the association 2, collaboration 2, regional meetings, many attendants, visibility, executive officer (overloaded!), improved conferences, service delivery uniform and efficient, encouragement to join, July conference, website, engagement, regular conferences and workshops + introduction, transformative activities, more organized, increased information
**Question 4** *Which were your main expectations of the project?*

Examples of answers: A full realization of act, to be felt by all members, development of strength, to copy The Swedish Library Association, implementation of activities, quality service, bringing together all professionals, more training, support library growth, holding seminars etc, Maktaba Journal, visibility, office, the association is more vibrant, there are more professionals on board, an interactive website, that we serve widely, enhanced participation, the chapters to be more vigorous and visible nationwide, collaboration and network, support information resources development, sharing ideas.

*Were they met?* (Just a few persons saw this part of the question) yes 5, partially 3, no 2, fully 1, not sure 1, almost 1, doing its best 1

**Question 5** *Which were the challenges for the project? Did KLA manage them?*

Examples of answers: Inadequate finances, convene conferences and workshops, decentralisation, still apathetic members, a lack of support from management, low access to internet, political goodwill, recruiting, website update, article publishing, splinter groups, needs of larger information ability outside the professional body, chapters´ growth

**Question 6** *Which is your overall view of the project?*

Examples of answers: Very good, so many on board, very encouraging, wonderful, good, eye opener, wish it continues improved, so much achieved, stronger together(!), positive impact, excellent collaboration and networking, improves development, adequate and satisfactory, average (!)

**Question 7** *What do you think about the future after our project has finished?*

Examples of answers: KLA has to struggle more, it should be able to sustain itself, it should focus on branches, there is a need for quality service delivery & information, the future is bright because of the project, many are networked, wish it continues for international collaboration & support, KLA should try to sustain itself, more Knowledge Management and other Information Professionals should be brought on board, KLA should reach more people