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Book Day rallies help for the poor

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In celebrating the World Book Day, a publisher in Cape Town will distribute books worth R700000 to impoverished communities where there are no books and libraries.

Juta & Company is also inviting the public to join their staff in building libraries in celebration of World Book Day. With the help of volunteers they have started making books library-ready for handover to community organisations.

Until Thursday, the forecourt of the Sunclare Building, in front of the Juta Bookshop in Dreyer Street, Claremont will be transformed into a mini-production line.

This is where volunteers will be making books library-ready for handover to the first community organisation The Bookery. The organisation will then later distribute the books to schools, libraries and communities around the province.

Carmen Timm from Juta & Company said: "In a bid to get the ball rolling, Juta"'s donating R700000 worth of its own book stock to the initiative. Members of the public can get involved by bringing or buying books and donating them.

"Or just by spending an hour on-site by helping to sort out these books by covering and labelling them."

Meanwhile, in a related development the Equal Education (EE) will open a library at Sosebenza Primary School in Khayelitsha tomorrow. The library at the school has been inactive since 2006 because of a lack of resources.

This will be the 17th library opened by the Bookery – an EE project that was launched in 2010.

The Bookery acts as a depot, where books that are suitable for either primary or secondary school learners can be donated by the public.

Teams of volunteers then sort, shelve, cover, label and catalogue the books using the latest computer software. At present, 92% of schools in South Africa do not have libraries

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