



INT'L BOOK PROJECT

For Immediate Release

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Lexington's International Book Project Participating in Multi-National Effort to Develop Library System in Tonga

Lexington, Kentucky (December 17, 2025) – International Book Project, a nonprofit focused on promoting literacy through increased book access, is participating in a multi-national effort to develop a national library system in Tonga. The project, spearheaded by a volunteer librarian stationed in Tonga by Australian Volunteers International, aims to open libraries with a shared collection management system on several of Tonga's 45 inhabited islands. To kickstart the effort, International Book Project will send a 40' sea container of approximately 30,000 books to Tonga High School, which will serve as the libraries' distribution point.

The government of New Zealand has provided a grant that will allow the new libraries to acquire a collection management system and provide them with internet access. Additionally, the U.S. Embassy in Tonga will support library training for staff at the new locations and will transport the donated books from International Book Project's drop-off point at Tonga High School to the surrounding islands.

Before 2019, Tonga had no public libraries. Kovolai Library is now hugely popular, but remains inaccessible to many Tongans. Because Tonga is comprised of dozens of small islands, travel is challenging if a person does not have a reliable means of water transport.

International Book Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Lexington, KY. Their mission is to develop lasting relationships with partners worldwide to increase literacy, promote cultural understanding, and open doors to opportunity. Since 1966, they have sent more than 8 million books to 168 countries on every inhabited continent. IBP works to provide educational materials to the people who need them most - those with the least access. Their model is rooted in strong relationships, local capacity, and long-term impact.

For more information about International Book Project or to donate to support their mission and other projects like this one, visit www.intlbookproject.org.

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