

Peter Lor's library ABC, part 9: XYZ

X is for [Xenia](#), a town of around 26,000 inhabitants, and the county seat of Greene County, Ohio. The name comes from the Greek word for 'hospitality'. After the 2016 IFLA Congress in Columbus, Ohio, I visited the Xenia Community Library with Prof Terry Weech (in the picture in beige shirt in the background) as we were on our way to Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, where I was to spend a few weeks as a research fellow. The library is part of the [Greene County Public Library](#). It is a spacious library with the full range of public library facilities which our US colleagues expect as a matter of course, and which many of us envy. There is lots of community information, including a display inviting people to deposit their discarded spectacles for recycling. And I was happy to see a "no firearms or weapons" notice.



Y is for Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, where I was hosted by the [Goethe Institut](#) and was privileged to be taken on a visit to the CLAC, the [Centre de Lecture et d'Animation Culturelle Yaoundé](#). This is not one of the CLACs set up in Francophone West Africa with official French aid, but an initiative by a highly motivated, energetic and creative librarian, Charles Kamdem, assisted by various donors. The CLAC is situated in a popular neighbourhood and offers an impressive range of library and media services, including children and youth libraries, ICT training, videos, games (there is a *ludothèque*), and a space for theatre performances. The CLAC won the EIFL Public Library Innovation Award in 2017 for its [mobile library service](#) which offers online mathematics classes to under-resourced schools. An inspiring experience.



With Fon Justine (L) and Charles Kamdem (R) at the entrance to the CLAC Yaoundé. (Unfortunately my amateur interior photos did not make the cut.)

Z is for Zweletemba, in [Worcester](#), a town of about 100.000 inhabitants in the Western Cape province, about 120 km NE of Cape Town. [Zweletemba](#) was originally created by the apartheid government as a "township" (a satellite residential area) to house Black Africans. Although residential segregation came to an end with apartheid, the population of Zweletemba is still largely made up of working class Black Africans, the majority of whom speak Xhosa. For a foreign student's impressions, click [here](#). Zweletemba's has a modern public library branch. In-house use is high, with services such as photocopying being popular, but circulation of materials for home use is low. There is a toy library. The photo shows the central circulation desk, with a corner of the Children's library in the foreground.



Photographs of libraries by Peter Lor. Compiled by Peter Lor, peterlor@gmail.com. For background on the Library ABC and earlier issues look [here](#).

To all friends and colleagues and friends – my best wishes for 2018! Peter Lor