

**The International Federation of University Women (IFUW) urges governments to ensure that secondary school girl students have access to both digital and paper books on the occasion of World Book Day on 23 April 2014**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 23 April 2014** – On the occasion of World Book Day, the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) urges governments to ensure that secondary school girl students in particular have access to both digital and traditional books.

To build resilient communities and sustainable economies, girls must have the opportunity to complete secondary, tertiary, continuing and non-traditional education. Access to digital and paper books is a stronger predictor of childrens’ educational attainment than parents’ occupation, social class or income.<sup>1</sup>

“There is limited learning without books and limited economic development without learning,” said IFUW President Catherine Bell.

Quality secondary education for girls is a powerful remedy to poverty. Digital books, or e-books, can offer improved access to education for marginalised secondary school age girls, such as those living in remote and rural areas, those without transport to school, those without safe access to education or those who are disabled. Digital books can reduce education costs for governments, while sidestepping some of the barriers to education for a significant population of secondary age school girls.

The International Federation of University Women (IFUW) is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and has an international membership. Founded in 1919, IFUW is the leading girls’ and women’s global organisation run by and for women, advocating for women’s rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels.

IFUW is in special consultative status with ECOSOC and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO. Learn about our grants & fellowships and our advocacy work. Follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter (@IFUWomen)

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<sup>1</sup> “Family scholarly culture and educational success: Books and schooling in 27 nations”, M.D.R. Evans et al, Science Direct, Volume 28, Issue 2, June 2010, Pages 171–197