

Chipster Offline Personal Library
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NEWS RELEASE

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NEW CHAPEL HILL NONPROFIT TACKLES INTERNET DIVIDE

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.— As of September 2023, 2.6 billion people, or 37% of the world's population, don't have internet access. A new, local nonprofit aims to solve this global issue. [Chipster Offline Personal Library](#) provides offline information libraries stored on computer chips to communities that lack reliable internet access. These Chipsters hold vital educational resources, revolutionizing offline learning.

The founder, [Cliff Missen](#), is a former [School of Information and Library Science](#) professor at UNC Chapel Hill who is passionate about spreading education and improving internet accessibility. Prior to Chipster, Missen has been involved in a variety of philanthropic work such as [WellSpring Africa](#), [Widernet](#), and the [Internet Systems Consortium](#). In these previous projects, Missen aided in improving digital education and communications to communities around the world. However, he noticed that internet access was either limited, or nonexistent, in these areas which limited the positive impact he could make. Realizing this barrier, Missen founded Chipster to create a completely offline, portable, and accessible digital library that anyone can use regardless of internet access.

While Chipster as an organization is still in its early stages, Missen has applied Chipster technology in previous humanitarian projects. In Nigeria, educational chipsters were distributed to students gearing up to take the national University exam. This

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allowed students to study anywhere at their own convenience instead of spending time, money and resources traveling to internet cafes. Through a [partnership with East Carolina University](#), 100 laptops were loaded with ESL resources and distributed to students of migrant workers.

In the future, Chipster hopes to adapt its software to [Android](#) systems, the most common operating system overseas. Additionally, Missen hopes to teach overseas colleagues to make their own Chipsters, so that communities can experience information autonomy.

About Chipster Offline Personal Library

Chipster is a Durham, North Carolina-based, nonprofit organization that provides offline information libraries stored on computer chips to communities that lack reliable internet access. These Chipsters hold vital educational resources, revolutionizing offline learning. Chipsters can be produced in bulk, for as little as \$15 each, and can be used in phones, computers and laptops. Chipster's initiatives, from providing English language learning to migrant workers in North Carolina to training young women in technology in Ethiopia, consistently empower marginalized communities overseas. For more information, visit Chipster's [website](#) or contact info@chipster.org.

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