In 1955, the African studies library at Northwestern University officially opened. The idea for a separate Africana library came from visionary anthropology professor Melville Herskovits who wanted Northwestern to have the most comprehensive Africana library possible. During that same year, Herskovits convened a conference to discuss the future of African studies and African studies library collections. The library was later renamed in honor of Herskovits when it re-located to a new building. It is in celebration of 50 years since the opening of the Herskovits Library and this national conference on African studies that the 2005 spring meeting of the Africana Librarians Council and the Cooperative Africana Microform Project will be held May 5-7.

For two days, ALC members will discuss current trends and issues as well as cooperative projects in Africana librarianship in meetings of the Book Donations, Bibliography, and Cataloging committees, the Title VI librarians group, and the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP).

For more details about the ALC spring meeting and about Melville Herskovits, please see <www.library.northwestern.edu/africana/alcmeeting/alcmay2005.html>. For a detailed meeting schedule, please see: <http://www.library.northwestern.edu/africana/alcmeeting/alschedule.htm>
Africana Librarians Council Minutes

ALC Cataloging Committee Meeting
New Orleans - Marriott, La Galerie Salon
Thursday, Nov. 11, 2004: 11:00am-noon
Minutes (draft of Dec. 12, 2004)
Present: Andrew de Heer (Schomburg Center), Greg Finnegan (Tozzer Library, Harvard Univ.), Gracie M. Gilliam (Library of Congress), Miki Goral (UCLA), Marieta Harper (Library of Congress), Margaret Hughes (Stanford Univ.), Joseph Lauer (Michigan State Univ.), Robert Lesh (Northwestern Univ.), Peter Limb (Michigan State Univ.), Edward Miner (Univ. of Iowa), Loumona Petroff (Boston Univ.), Shoshanah Seidman (Northwestern Univ.), & Gretchen Walsh (Boston Univ.).

1-3. Meeting opened at 11:15 with introductions from 12 attendances (The simultaneous meeting of LCCAP participants with LC suppliers reduced attendance below expected range), the approval of the minutes from the spring meeting, and slight adjustments in the agenda. Margaret Hughes took notes.

4. Issues in the cataloging of maps (de Heer)
Schomburg Center decided to catalog its backlog of maps on Africa in 1998. Since then the collection has grown tremendously. Interest in such maps has increased in recent years, chiefly as a result of a recent focus on slavery materials and a major project on migration in the African Diaspora. Maps on Africa have an important role in this project, and cataloging them poses the greatest challenge, especially pre-1800 maps. The map division of the New York Public Library has a very comprehensive collection of older maps and tools for cataloging them, but not as many maps on Africa as in the Schomburg Center at the moment. De Heer is convinced that older maps on Africa need some special treatment, and he wishes to discuss the issues with any colleagues who are also cataloging older maps on Africa. Several suggestions were made by those in attendance. Finnegan noted that this is another category of materials often not recorded in the library's OPAC.

5. Africana Subject Funnel
a) Coordinator report (Lauer) : 2-page report distributed. There often delays at the coordinator level. E.g., when Janet Stanley proposes new subject headings based on articles, Lauer waits for more literary warrant before submitting to the funnel. In answer to a question, Lauer reaffirmed the earlier decision to exclude from our annual statistics those headings submitted by Africana librarians that had not been vetted by the funnel.

b) LC report (Gracie Gilliam): She noted that she was the liaison for many contributors, including 1 NACO South African PCC contributors. In order to facilitate the processing of our proposals, she distributed photocopies of 26 slides (on 14 pages) that reviewed the procedures and noted specific actions taken at LC. The statistics for FY03 were up compared to FY03. In reviewing the proposal for the Bacama language, LC changed Bachama (African people) to Bacama (African people) as ethnic groups and languages are usually spelled the same way. Gilliam explained how to qualify a heading in cases of conflict, using the country, region, or larger group of people in that order. She explained that the proposal to change Fula to Fulfulde was rejected because if the proposal involves many changes the LC liaison should be contracted first before submitting the proposal. SACO's FAQ no. 6 covers LC's policy of preferring reference sources to work-in-hand when proposing new headings; FAQ! no. 7 states that there is no definitive list of reference works.

c) During the discussion, Gilliam said that more than 1 reference source was needed to list different names for language and people. We agreed that in the future the institutional MARC-21 code would be that of the librarian making the proposal, and not the code of the coordinator's institution. Finnegan and Limb spoke on the issue of colonial ascribed "ethnicities" and expressed concern about possibly creating false ethnic groups.

6. Schedules for Indian Ocean islands (Hughes)--In progress; will report back at spring meeting.

7. Bibliographic records with links to partial or related data on web (Lesh) The issue was raised in a Nov. 2 message to the alcist by Al Kagan, who thought the 856 fields (on electronic location and access) in records were coded incorrectly. The coding was correct but in some local systems, many bibliographic records with links to web sites for tables of contents or for related materials are labeled as electronic resources when it is only part of the resource (or related material) that is available electronically. In other systems, the field is correctly labeled, e.g. "Table of contents." The issue of more user education vs. more intuitive system labels was briefly discussed.

8. Reports & Announcements:
   a) ALA's CC:AAM (Lesh)--Annual meeting focused on Unicode. They accepted the ALC resolution to expand the character repertoire to include the Unicode Universal Character Set (UCS) on an accelerated basis, and forwarded it to MARBI. [See Appendix A for full report, which was sent to the ALCList on Nov. 1.]

   b) Library of Congress (from notes distributed by Laverne Page): Gabe Horchler (Head, Business and Economics (BE) team leader, Social Sciences Cataloging Division) provided information on a new cataloging project. This initiative provides web access to publications in monographic series. This is an ongoing, systematic endeavor to capture nonprofit, government and other monographic series in the public domain and, after cataloging them, add links for the full-text on-line document. For example, the bibliographic records for titles in the African Economic Research Consortium research paper series each have a link to <http://www.aercafrica.org/publications/index.asp>. A listing of all of the electronic series for which links have been added to date can be found at the website for Business Reference Services.
Minutes of ALC Bibliography Committee Fall Meeting, New Orleans, Thursday, 11 November 9:45 a.m. - 10:45am

Present: Peter Limb (Michigan State U), Chair, Marieta Harper (Library of Congress), Gretchen Walsh (Boston U), Joseph Lauer (Michigan State U), David Henige (Madison, Wisconsin), Peter Malanchuk (U of Florida), Andrew de Heer (Schomburg Center), Greg Finnegan (Harvard), Joseph Caruso (Columbia), Jill Young Coelho (Harvard), David Easterbrook (Northwestern), Peter Kargbo (NYU), Dorothy Woodson (Yale), Ruby Bell-Gam (UCLA), James Simon (CRL), Simon Bockie (UC Berkeley), Afeworki Paulos (U of Michigan), Deborah LaFond (SUNY Albany), Akilah Nosakhere (Atlanta U), Phyllis Bischof (UC Berkeley), Al Kagan (U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Miki Goral (UCLA), Karen Fung (Stanford), Bob Lesh (Northwestern U), Edward Miner (U of Iowa), Helene Baumann (Duke U), Margaret Hughes (Stanford), Lauris Olson (U Penn), Lygia Ballantyne (LC), Lavern Page (LC), Joanne Zellers (LC), Ken Lohrentz (U of Kansas), Loumona Petroff (Boston U), Shoshanah Seidman (Northwestern U), Patricia Kuntz (Madison, Wisconsin), David Westley (Boston U), Bassey Irele (Harvard U), Patricia Ogedengbe (Northwestern U), Marion Frank-Wilson (Indiana U), Paul Steere (LC, Nairobi), Robin Frede (Thordol), Oleg Semikhenenko (Hogarth), Oluranti Olumoroti (Hogarth, Nigeria).

SECTION I BRIEF REPORTS:
1. Peter Limb opened the meeting after a 30 minute delay in concluding the earlier meeting.
2. Welcome and introductions. There were no substantial changes to the agenda.

3. Spring 2004 minutes accepted with addition of Ruby Bell-Gam's name for attendance.


5. Conover-Porter Award 2004: Greg Finnegan announced winner and details of award.

6. Trip reports: brief notes on African trips made by Marion Frank-Wilson (Kenya), Dorothy Woodson (West Africa), Peter Limb (South Africa), Lygia Ballantyne, Laverne Page

SECTION II. DISCUSSION ITEMS
7. ASA publications: Peter Malanchuk announced that History in Africa was now digitized and available in JSTOR. He also noted that new publications arrangements were being instituted at ASA. David Henige added that African Issues was going online. Discussion was very supportive of these developments. Lauris Olson noted how useful it had been at U. Penn. to have stable URLs for the special issue of Issue on study abroad in Africa.

8. Access to resources. Discussion continued on African journals and their lack of coverage/searchability in Western databases. Peter Limb suggested ALC members could try and do more to increase their visibility. A related discussion ensued about search engines such as Google and how we might negotiate greater visibility of Africana within them. Gretchen Walsh noted a need to increase access via H-Africa, such as through Tables of Contents. Peter Limb observed there was already some access available to these via H-Africa discussion logs but more could be done, for instance through the H-Africa web editor crafting special threads. Lauris Olson commented on the problems of declining access to ERIC resources.

9. Reference Issues. There was discussion on the problem of getting administrators to acknowledge the importance of complex African studies reference queries/bibliographic instruction. Deborah LaFond raised the need for us to develop tools to meet the needs for assessment. She suggested an audio-visual model that would include reference to African imprints. Peter Limb added that ALC members could develop audio/video files of each of us explaining the importance of African issues/resources and put these on the ALC website to share and to increase the visibility of Africana librarians. Ruby Bell-Gam noted how different libraries might view reference services differently. Al Kagan noted the need for greater African studies bibliographic instruction. We agreed to continue the discussion on reference issues email and at future ALC meetings.

10. Licensing issues. Akilah Nosakhere raised the issue of All.Africa.com and licensing. Jill Coelho noted there had
been no full response to queries on this matter as of yet. Peter Limb compared this product with various other news products such as BBC Monitoring Reports Archive and others. Gretchen Walsh suggested the need for a future conference session on licensing issues. The group agreed to continue the discussion on email.

SECTION III. OTHER BUSINESS:
11. Brief notes: mention was made of recent digital collections (Political Communications Web Archive Project, African Activist Archive, Namibian National Archives: ‘Archives of the Anticolonial Struggle’, etc.) and it was agreed to spread news of these projects on the ALC list. Peter Limb noted the usefulness of Hans Zell’s Guide to Google & African Studies.

NOTE: vendor issues were discussed at length in a special earlier session.

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Report to the Africana Librarians Council from the Library of Congress

The African Section and its staff of four reference librarians have been joined by Jennifer Douglass. She will serve as Acting Head of the African Section for six months. Fentahun Tirunch was promoted to Reference Librarian for Ethiopian Languages, AMED. He is responsible for Ethiopia and Eritrea, effective March 7, 2004. Zbigniew Kantorosinski was appointed Head of the African and Middle Eastern Acquisitions Section, African Asian Overseas Operations Division, effective August 22, 2004. Judy McDermott, the Chief of the African Asian Overseas Operations Division, retired effective October 1, 2004 Lygia Ballantyne was appointed Acting Director of AFAOVOP, effective November 1, 2004.

Library of Congress projects influence many libraries in the areas of online reference services and resources for reference, acquisitions and collection development policies, and digital projects. There is much that takes place within the library that directly and indirectly affects research and researchers worldwide. This midyear report from the Library of Congress’ African Section touches on a few developments occurring within the Law Library, Cataloging, Centre for the Book, and Library Services that have taken place since the last report was submitted to the Africana Librarians Council’s spring meeting in May, 2004, at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Law Library:
Graciela I. Rodriguez-Ferrand, Senior Legal Specialist at the Law Library, visited Portugal on an acquisitions trip, last spring, and acquired legal material and publication resource information, on the Portuguese speaking countries of Africa. For details, Ms. Rodriguez-Ferrand can be contacted at (202) 707-9818.

Charles Mwalimu, Senior Legal Specialist (English-speaking Africa), provided the following report. Please note that some information is a continuation from the spring 2004 report to ALC:


In addition to Graciela I. Rodriguez-Ferrand (Portugal, Spain, South American) and Charles Mwalimu (English-speaking African countries), other senior legal specialists for Africa include: Nicole Atwill and Gholan Vafai (Francophone Africa), Ruth Levush (Ethiopia, Namibia, English-speaking African countries), and Gustavo Guerra (Lusophone African countries).

Cataloguing Directorate:
Gabe Horchler, Head and Business and Economics Team Leader, Social Services Cataloging Division, provided information on a new cataloging project. This initiative provides web access in monographic series. This is an ongoing, systematic endeavor to capture non-profit, government and other monographic series in the public domain and, after cataloging them, add links to the full-text online document. He provides an example, a publication from the African and Economic Research Consortium research paper series. Print versions can be obtained through the LC Nairobi Office and digital versions are available through the bibliographic record (lccn 2003202175), with a link to http://www.africacare.org/publication/index.asp. A listing of all of the electronic series for which links have been added to date can be found at the website for Technical Reports and Working Papers in Business and Economics homepage for Business Reference Services, http://www.loc.gov/rr/business/techreps/techrephome.php.

Barbara Tillett, Chief of the Cataloging and Policy Support Office (CPSO) has responded to a request for a Library representative from cataloging to attend ALC meetings. Gracie Gilliam, Cooperative Cataloging Specialist, Regional
Cooperative Cataloging Division, will attend the New Orleans meeting of the ALC and Millicent Wewerka, Senior Cataloging Policy Specialist, CSPO, is slated to attend the spring meeting in Evanston, IL.

Susan Morris, Assistant to the Director of Cataloging, provided the following information from the directorate:

We have cataloged more Africana web sites, including sites on “Portals to the World: Selected Internet Resources,” at http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/portals.htm, and a number of web sites relating to economics in Africa. We also cataloged the electronic exhibition “The Ancient Manuscripts of the Desert Libraries of Timbuktu” and it is fully accessible through a link in the catalog record.

LC will implement Unicode for its OPAC displays when it implements the Voyager release with Unicode, hopefully next year. We are already cataloging our JACKPHY monographs in RLIN 21, the RLIN client that has Unicode.

Juli Beall, Assistant Editor, Decimal Classification Division reports the following:

At IFLA 2004 in Buenos Aires, OCLC held a special invitational meeting for DCC translators and representatives of national libraries and bibliographies using the DCC. The main focus of the meeting was the accommodation of legal systems based on civil law in the 340 law schedule. ASTED (Association pour l’avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation) is working on a French translation of Abridged Edition 14. Discussions are also underway on print and electronic versions of the full edition in French.

The John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress:

Established in 2000, “The Center seeks to bring a group of the world’s best senior thinkers—the Kluge Scholars—into residence, to simulate, energize, and distill wisdom from the rich resources of the library and to interact…with political Washington…The Center will encourage its resident scholars to make wide-ranging use of the print and electronic multi-lingual, multi-media, multi-disciplinary resources of the library, and to bring their inquiries and rich learning into the intellectual life of the library, the Congress, and the Nation.” Currently in residence as Resident Scholars in the Kluge Center are: Athanase Hagengimana, a Kluge fellow, who will attempt to explain the psychological processes underlying the 1994 Rwandan genocide based on the existing literature about genocide and supported by data from interviews and self-reports of 200 genocide perpetrators. An instructor in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, he calls his project “Psycho-social Causes of Rwandan Genocide.”

John Hanson, Rockefeller Fellow in Islamic Studies, is an associate professor of history and Director of African Studies at Indiana University. He plans to do his research on “Modernity, Transnational Islam, and Africa: The Ahmadiyya Muslim Movement in the 20th Century Gold Coast/Ghana.”

Lamin Sanneh, holder of the Chair of the Countries and Cultures of the South, is the Willis James Professor of Missions and World Christianity and professor of history at Yale University. He is inquiring into the institutions of Islamic governance and law, before, during, and after British rule in Nigeria.

AFAOVOP and Nairobi Field Office Reports:
Lygia Ballantyne, Acting Director, AFAOVOP, and Paul Steere, Director, Nairobi Office, will attend and give reports at the ALC meetings.

Center for the Book:
The Center for the Book plans to launch the Reading Africa Project in District of Columbia Schools on February 8 or 9, 2005, with a program and an evening reception at the Library of Congress. The guest of honor will be Larato Trok, the project co-coordinator of First Words in Print, the South African Center for the Book’s award-winning literacy project. Larato’s trip is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the Colorado chapter of the IRA (CCIRA).

Federal Research Division:
The entire Country Studies series has been revived in the Defense Appropriations Act for FY2004 onward. A new country study is now underway for Sudan and is expected out in FY2005.

Africa Section:
The African Section, AMED, reports the following activities that have occurred since the May 2004 spring ALC meeting:

Acquisitions:
Dr. Angel D. Batiste, African Section Area Specialist and Ms. Joyce J. Nobel, Acquisitions Specialists, AMEAS, traveled to Nigeria, September 17-October 11, 2004, for a three week acquisitions survey trip for the Library of Congress. While in Nigeria, they visited several cities including Abuja, Lagos, Ibadan, Zaria, Kaduna, and Kano, and surveyed the Nigerian publishing situation and visited government agencies, major universities, research organizations, civil society, and non-governmental organizations, and book dealers that issue material relating to African Studies.

The Madison Council, a private-sector group created to serve as the Library of Congress’ primary link to the business community, donated a gift of $1,000 toward the purchase of publications issued by the Artists’ Press, in Johannesburg, for the Kuru Art Project in Gantsi, Botswana. These works are modern renderings of activities and stories, formerly drawn and captured for prosperity in cave drawings, of the San people.

Bibliography:
The East African Bibliographic Alert Bulletin (EABAB), begun in 2003 by Joanne Zellers, was renamed Africana Bibliographic Alert Service for East African and the Western Indian Ocean Region (ABAS-EAI0). This is an on-going electronic bibliographic service that distributes lists of recently published materials about Eastern Africa and the Indian Ocean, cataloged at the Library of Congress, by e-
mail to scholars and institutions. To subscribe, contact Joanne Zellers by e-mail at <jzellers@loc.gov>.

New Bibliographic Project:
Joanne Zellers is compiling an on-going annotated bibliography of web sites and electronic documents on the crisis in Darfur, Sudan. To date, more than 100 items have been identified. When the first edition is completed, the list will be posted on the African Section’s country page for Sudan at: http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/afs/cyj/csj/csjhome.html. Regular updates to the bibliography are anticipated as the crisis develops and new key documents become available.

Organization and Maintenance of Collections:
Work was completed in relocating the division’s 650,000+ volume custodial collection from the Adams Building to the Jefferson Building. This is of significance for Africana reference because of the Ethiopian collections, the African Section pamphlet box material, and the miscellaneous retrospective reference collections sample serials, monographs and brochures, yearbooks, and language texts. The close proximity of the collections to the reading room and staff work areas has enhanced access to the material for both staff and readers.

Digital Projects:
With three of its digital efforts serving as a nucleus, the division initiated a digital project that will provide online access to rare and unique vernacular script items. The Egyptian Global Gateway, the Arabic script calligraphy sheet project, and the Timbuktu manuscript project will exist in a digital world of manuscripts and other significant cultural artifacts. We are now working on mounting the 23 manuscripts from the exhibit “Ancient Manuscripts from Desert Libraries of Timbuktu.”

QuestionPoint: Cooperative Virtual Reference:
Increasingly, electronic resources have become an integral part of our reference work, with staff referring users to sources in both traditional formats and online formats. The QuestionPoint system collects data beneficial to library management. Statistical reports based on the type and level of reference activity can assist with management decisions, demonstrate trends for funding proposals, and measure user satisfaction levels. One of the major benefits is that this system allows for rapid accounting and a consistent management of queries since it can manage all reference transactions, both online and in-person. The number of queries received by email have increased, and in FY04 the AMED staff answered 955 QuestionPoint queries.

ASA Children’s Book Awards:
The Children’s Africana Book Award Ceremony was well received by those who attended the event. The proposed date for next year’s reception is April 30, 2005. Visit the website of Jane Kurtz, award winner for Saba: Under the Hyena’s Foot at: http://www.janekurtz.com/caba.html.

Submitted by Laverne Page
Area Specialist, African Section, African and Middle Eastern Division (AMED)
Library of Congress
November 10, 2004

Conferences and Calendar of Future Meetings

New Book Fair in Cape Town, South Africa
Starting in 2006 as an annual 4-day event, the Cape Town Book Fair will showcase leading international and local publishers. Apart from publisher and vendor exhibitions, the book fair will offer a wide range of seminars and events for publishing professionals, aspiring writers, teachers and young readers. It will also include a festival involving local schools, libraries and communities with a focus on topics such as ‘Popularizing reading more widely in South Africa’, ‘Exposing readers to high profile local and international authors’, ‘Providing a platform for new voices’, and ‘Finding ways to make books more accessible to all’.
For more information about the Cape Town Book Fair, please see: http://www.capetownbookfair.com/ctibf/en/index.php

AEGIS is staging a major conference on Africa south of the Sahara. It will take place in the centre of London, with around 90 panels addressing topics across the entire disciplinary range of African Studies. Please note the following library-related panels:
Saturday 2nd July: AFRICANA RESOURCES, Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre
09.45 - 11.00 PANEL 21: African manuscripts and museum collections in Europe (part 1)
* Old Swahili-Arabic manuscript collections in Hamburg
Prof. Andrey Zhukov, African Studies Dept., St. Petersburg
State University, St. Petersburg, Russia

* L’Afrique subsaharienne dans ses relations avec l’Empire ottomane au XIXe siecle a la lumiere des archives turques d’Istanbul /Sub- Saharan African relations with the Ottoman Empire during the XIX century through Turkish archival sources in Istanbul. Dr. Ahmet Kavas, Maitre des Conférences au Centre des Recherches Islamiques à Istanbul

11.00-11.30 Break

11.30-12.45 PANEL 21: African manuscripts and museum collections in Europe (part 2)


* A glimpse over the land and peoples of Mozambique, or About the collections assembled during the colonial period and its importance for the rebuilding of the History of Mozambique Ana Cristina Roque e Lívia Ferrão, Institute for Scientific and Tropical, Research (IICT), Lisbon

12.45-13.30 Lunch-break

13.30-14.30 PLENARY LECTURE: Ms. Kay Raseroka, President of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) Africa to Africa: Building its Knowledge Community

* Break

14.45-16.30 PANEL 93: Africana librarians in partnership

* Librarians and academics: a view from both sides of the desk Terry Barringer, African Research and Documentation (ed), Africa Bibliography (comp), Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London (research officer)

* Afrika-Studiecentrum (Leiden) African studies community portal for research and higher education Titia van der Werf, Afrika-Studiecentrum, Leiden, Netherlands

* eSAP: a collaborative project with East African university libraries on electronic document delivery (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia) Dr Eduard Jozef Simons, Information Manager en ICT-project leader for the International Federation of Catholic Universities, University of Nijmegen, Netherlands (tbc)

* SCOLMA e-directory of European Libraries and information centres with African collections Ms. Sheila Alcoc, Librarian, St. Cross College, Oxford University (formerly Librarian & Information Services Manager, International Development Centre, Oxford University) & Mr. Tom French, Library Researcher contracted to SCOLMA, (formerly Head of Modern British Collections, British Library, London)

* Panel discussion on future forum for cooperative library activities

16.30-18.30 SCOLMA Reception and Annual General Meeting, Senate House (Room 331)

18.30-19.45 Mary Kingsley lecture of the Royal African Society Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre

AEGIS CONFERENCE WEBSITE
Please note that full details, including registration, can be found on the AEGIS Conference website at: http://www.nomadit.co.uk/~aegis/index.htm

ALA
Chicago, IL, June 23-23, 2005 ALA Annual Conference
San Antonio, TX, Jan 20–25, 2006 ALA Midwinter Meeting
New Orleans, LA, June 22–28, 2006 ALA Annual Conference

ASA & ALC/CAMP
Washington, DC , November 17-20, 2005 Annual Meeting.
Boston University, May 2006, TBA

IFLA

Durban, South Africa, August 2007 World Library and Information Congress: 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council

Québec, Canada, August 2008 World Library and Information Congress: 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council

Call for Papers
‘Political ephemera from Latin America and the Commonwealth’
London, UK Friday 15th July 2005
Organizers: Institute of Commonwealth Studies Library, Latin American Studies Library of the Institute for the Study of the Americas. This workshop is the culmination of a two-year project dedicated to the cataloguing and promotion of the collections of political ephemera held in the libraries of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies and the Institute for the Study of the Americas. Its aim is to bring together academics, researchers and librarians interested in the holdings both for their value as research collections and because of their nature as ephemera.

Further details can be found at the website address <http://www.sas.ac.uk/polarch>.

The workshop is intended to include a hands-on presentation of the collections and a report detailing the setting up and progress of the project itself, as well as papers dealing with related subjects. These subjects could fall into the following categories:

Enquiries regarding participation in this workshop as well as proposals (max. 250 words) for papers on these or related subjects should be addressed to:

Danny Millum
Political Archives Project Officer
Institutes of Commonwealth Studies and for the Study of the Americas
School of Advanced Study University of London, London WC1B 5DS UK
danny.millum@sas.ac.uk

From the Editors of GEFAME
The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor
December 21, 2004

We are very pleased to announce the publication of GEFAME, a new web-based journal of African studies. GEFAME is an online journal that promotes scholarly communication. The journal is intended to facilitate the exchange of ideas and work among Africa-based scholars and scholars outside the continent of Africa. To be published approximately twice a year, GEFAME is a peer reviewed journal. GEFAME may be found at http://www.hti.umich.edu/p/gefame/

We are also pleased to announce that the journal Passages: A Chronicle of the African Humanities, originally published by Northwestern University's Program of African Studies, is reappearing as a web-based publication, passages, in association with GEFAME passages is not peer-reviewed; rather it provides a site for documentation, commentary, discussion, and experimental and provisional writings. In early 2005, the passages site will include a searchable archive of the eight issues of the original journal. passages may be found at http://www.hti.umich.edu/p/passages/

The first issue of GEFAME is dedicated to the memory of Professor Lemuel A. Johnson, whose wide-ranging genius contributed in extraordinary ways to the shaping of the thought and letters of scholars of Africa. As well, passages in its new series includes an edited collection of Johnson's "electronic criticism", ideas and questions he circulated freely via email and list-serves over a number of years almost right up to his death in 2002.

GEFAME, with passages, is published by the Scholarly Publishing Office of the University of Michigan Library and is the product of collaboration between the University Library and the Center for Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Michigan.

The Editors welcome your submissions and suggestions. To contact the editors of GEFAME and passages, please contact, respectively gefame.editors@umich.edu or passages.editor@umich.edu.

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Recommended Titles for College Libraries (RCL)CHOICE and ALA Editions are planning on publishing a new core list or recommended titles for college libraries (RCL). Whereas previous versions of this project, printed under the title Books for College Libraries, organized their content according to Library of Congress subject headings, in RCL the publishers anticipate expanding the classification scheme to acknowledge the growth and importance of new, and especially interdisciplinary, fields of academic inquiry and teaching. The new edition is scheduled to appear in the fall of 2006, primarily a subscription database but with provision for custom, print-on-demand paper editions as well. A subject editor for African history has been selected, but qualified individuals who would be interested in working on the project (either faculty, advanced graduate students, or librarians with bibliographic or collection development experience in the subject area) are still encouraged to contact Marcus Elmore, Project Editor, Resources for College Libraries; CHOICE, 100 Riverview Center, Middletown, CT 06457 (email: melmore@ala-choice.org)

The Zimbabwean Online
The Zimbabwean, the only newspaper available to Zimbabweans internationally, is now online at www.thezimbabwean.co.uk.

Excerpts from the news release:
The publication, which was launched on February 11 with simultaneous weekly editions in the UK and South Africa, has been hailed as a major step in bridging the information gap between millions of Zimbabweans in the diaspora and their troubled homeland. It is also a vital source of independent and accurate information to Zimbabweans at home who have been snapping up the 10000 copies shipped in weekly from Johannesburg in a matter of hours.

The entire newspaper will be available on the website free of charge.” We are indebted to the many people around the world
who have already subscribed to the physical newspaper,” said Mbanga. The online version is intended to be a complementary information source and will add value to the print version.”

The tabloid weekly contains news from Zimbabwe as well as life in exile. The content includes politics, art and culture, business, sports, gender, human rights and social issues, news backgronuders and analysis. Letters to the editor and classified advertisements are key features.

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INASP Symposium Papers Available Online:
The papers from the INASP (International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications) Symposium "Investing in Scientific Knowledge: Strategies and Models for the Developing World", November 5, 2004, are now online and can be viewed at:

National Archives of Senegal Website
The official website of the National Archives of Senegal is now online at:
http://www.archivesdusenegal.gouv.sn/
(submitted by Joseph Caruso, Columbia University)

The Soul Beat
The latest issue of The Soul Beat, devoted to the role of libraries across Africa, has been posted. The Soul Beat is a free fortnightly e-newsletter about development communication issues in Africa. The newsletter can be viewed at:
To subscribe to The Soul Beat for free, please go to:

Literature on Libraries and Information Science


Watson, Elizabeth F. "Luxury or Necessity? Sound Archiving in Developing Countries." IASA Journal (23), June 2004, pp. 4-21.


\textit{African Research & Documentation, no. 95, 2004 includes:}

Bridget McBean. "Reviewing Cotonou from a Helicopter."

Nelly Temu Williams and Sandrine Coll. "Book Aid International: 50 Years of Sharing Information (1954-2004)."


\textit{African Research & Documentation no. 96, 2004 includes:}

Sarah Durrant. "‘Sharing Information: African Perspectives’: Bridging the Knowledge Divide."


\textit{African Publishing Review, 2004, vol. 13, no. 3 includes:}
African Book Fairs in 2005
Country Report

APNET at ZIBF 2004 (July 31-August 7)
ZIBF 2004 Award for Lifetime Contribution to Publishing
ZIBF Honours Zimbabwe's Top Writers
API Sub-Regional Seminar on Book Editing
Apnet's Message to the Opening of the Lome Seminar
Nairobi International Book Fair (NIBF)


Gretchen Walsh and Deborah LaFond, "Introduction"

\textbf{Part I: African Studies in the United States}

Gretchen Walsh, "Can We Get There From Here?" Negotiating the Washouts, Cave-Ins, Dead Ends, and Other Hazards on the Road to Research on Africa."

Marion Frank-Wilson, "Teaching African Studies Bibliography- Information Literacy for 21st Century Scholars."


\textbf{Part II: Collaboration and Innovation in Africa and the United States.}

Peter Limb, "Partnership as a New Paradigm for Reference Librarians in African Studies."

Miriam Conteh-Morgan, "Reading African Women's Writing: The Role of Librarians in Expanding the Canon."

Akilah Shukura Nosakhere, "Designing an Anglophone University Undergraduate Library Collection for a Francophone West African Environment."


Deborah M. LaFond, "Library Capacity Building in Africa or the Exportation of Technolust? Discerning Partnership Models and Revitalization Efforts in the Age of Globalization."


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The Africa Book Centre has published its Winter 2004/2005 Book Review, no. 28. The Africa Book Centre Ltd., 38 King Street, London, WC2E 8JT, UK; info@africabookcentre.com

Adam Matthew Publications has issued its 2005 catalog; for more information, see http://www.ampltd.co.uk

Michael Graves-Johnston has issued Catalogue 89, "Africa: Academic and Scholarly Titles", P.O. Box 532; 54, Stockwell Park Road, London SW9 0DR, UK; Tel.: 020-7274-2069; email: Books@Graves-Johnston.com; http://www.Graves-Johnston.com

Clarke's Bookshop has published 2005 Catalogue, no. 113. 211 Long Street, Cape Town 8001, South Africa; Tel.: +27 21 423-5739; email: books@clarkesbooks.co.za; website: www.clrkesbooks.co.za

Livraria Sousa & Almeida, LDA., has sent "Boletim Bibliografico no. 87, Janeiro-2005", which includes 20 pages of publications on Africa; Rua da Fabrica, 40-42; 4050-245 Porto, Portugal; Tel/Fax: 222-050-073; email: geral@sousaealmeida.com; website: http://www.sousaealmeida.com

Frank R Thorold (Pty) Ltd, Africana & Legal Booksellers, has recently sent the March 2005 list; P.O. Box 241, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa; tel: +27-11-838-5903/838-6031; email: thhoroldsinst@icon.co.za

Afriliblia Ltd. published "Sale List November 2004"; for more recent listings, see http://www.afriliblia.com; 16 Bury Place, Bloomsbury, London WCIA 2JL, UK; tel: +44 20 7404 7137; email: info@afriliblia.com

First Run/Icarus Films has published its 2004 "Africa Film & Video Catalog". 32 Court Street, 21st Floor, Brooklyn, New York 11201; tel: 718/488-8900; email: mailroom@frif.com; website: http://www.frif.com

Scansom has sent a new list with Somali publications; for more information, contact Mohammed Hassan at scansom@hotmail.com

Isaac Ntiakulu (ntiakulu_isaac@yahoo.fr), based in Kinshasa, can supply materials from the Congo (Democratic Republic).

Cyclamen Books (antiquarian bookseller) has issued E-mail List No. AFRICA/3; P.O. Box 69, Leicester LE1 9EW, England; email: rara@cclamenbooks.com

The African Books Collective North America at Michigan State University Press has issued its Fall 2004 catalog; 1405 South Harrison Road, Suite 25, East Lansing, MI 48823-5245; tel: 517/355-9543; http://www.msupress.msu.edu

For CDs from Africa and the African Diaspora Contact: Eco-Brazil Corp. 250 West 94th St. #13J New York, NY 10025 212-222-1285 Tel. 212-222-1154 Fax ecobrazil@earthlink.net


Three books can be purchased from http://www.fayemi.com/ They are photography books of children, women, elders in African countries. Some of the photographs are on the web site. These books are written by Dr. A. Olusegun Fayemi.<http://www.fayemi.com/>


Voices From Within ISBN: Hardcover - 0-9715076-1-9; Softcover - 0-9715076-0-0 Price: Hardcover - $44.95; Softcover - $29.95 Shipping: $6.50 for 1st book; $1.50 for each additional book.

Windows To The Soul ISBN: Hardcover - 0-9715076-2-7; Softcover - 0-9715076-3-5 Price: Hardcover - $49.95; Softcover - $34.95 Shipping: $6.50 for 1st book; $1.50 for each additional book.

Szanton, David L., ed. The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines. A digital version of the volume is available free of charge through the UCIAS Digital Collection, a collaboration between International and Area Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, the California Digital
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Africa Review of Books
By Hans Zell (hanszell@hanszell.co.uk)

First announced by CODESRIA in 1998, the maiden issue of the long-awaited Africa Review of Books (ARB) has finally appeared. It covers works on Africa in the social sciences, humanities, and the creative arts, and the new journal is also intended to serve as forum for critical analysis, reflections, and debates about Africa.

In an inaugural statement by the Executive Secretary of CODESRIA, Adebayo Olukoshi, he sets out the rationale behind the need for an African-published review of books on African studies, conceived as a collective venture, “belonging to the entire African social research community in all its diversity.” The new review journal will also seek to “bring interesting work published in Africa, but which are not sufficiently well disseminated, to the attention of a wider reading audience both within and outside the continent.”

In another inaugural statement, by the joint editors of the Africa Review of Books at the Forum for Social Studies in Addis

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Ababa, African studies journals published in Europe and in North America come in for a measure of criticism, first “for the minimal participation of African academics in the reviewing process” and, second, “for the relatively low coverage of books published within the continent itself.” It is certainly true that many of the top African studies journals have given scant review coverage to African-published scholarly titles, although it is a bit surprising that the Editors of ARB make no mention of the quarterly *African Book Publishing Record* (ABPR), currently in its 31st year of publication, and which publishes reviews of 30-40 new African-published titles in every issue, although they are relatively short reviews of approximately 400-500 words each. Since it first started publishing reviews in 1977, ABPR has published almost 4,000 reviews of academic and scholarly works, as well as literature, reference works, and other African-published material, with a good proportion of these reviews contributed by African scholars.

As a matter of policy, most of the contributors to ARB are intended to be African scholars both in Africa and in the diaspora. Reviews are published in English and French (albeit without summaries in English, or vice versa). Initially the *Africa Review of Books* will be published twice yearly, but may eventually appear on a quarterly basis. In addition to the print version, all reviews and articles are also freely accessible online (pdf format) at: www.codesria.org/Links/Publications/review_books/current_issue.htm

It should perhaps be added here that, somewhat confusingly, there is in fact already a very similarly named online publication, *The African Review of Books* (AROB), edited by Richard Bartlett and Raks Seakhoa, which is freely accessible at www.africanreviewofbooks.com. This is a useful resource, offering reviews of books published both within and outside Africa, together with essays, announcements about new books, reports and news about book fairs and book promotional events, book prizes, and more. However, its emphasis is primarily on fiction, drama, poetry, biography, and general interest books on Africa rather than academic titles.

The 31-page maiden issue of the new *Africa Review of Books*, attractively produced and with a beautiful Benin bronze adorning its front cover, contains nine in-depth reviews (most of some 2,000-3,000 words each), and there are also three essays, “African Cultural Identity and Self-Writing” by Godwin Rapando Murunga, “Les chercheurs africains, une ‘élite’?” by Ali El Kenz, and “L’Afrique noire au Maroc” by Bouazza Benachir. The first issue starts off with a very substantive review essay by Michael Chege (Director of the Center for African Studies at the University of Florida) of Jeffrey Herbst’s *States and Power in Africa* (Princeton University Press, 2000), which is contrasted with Bill Berkley’s *The Graves Are Not Full Yet* (Basic Books, 2002), under the heading “Political Science as an Obstacle to Understanding the Problem of the State and Political Violence in Africa”. The Herbst book, which has been widely and for the most part favourably reviewed in major African studies and political science journals, here comes in for some sharp dissection, for being “tendentious in its use of factual information about African politics and insufferably condescending towards African political capabilities.”

Three of the nine books reviewed in this first issue were published in 1998, 1999, and 2001 respectively, and another three each published in 2000 and 2002. For a book review journal appearing in 2005 this is hardly very timely, although perhaps part of the reason for it is due to the fact that this first issue has been in the making for so long. It will be vital in future issues that new books are reviewed in a much more timely fashion–quite apart from the fact that, from a publisher’s point of view, a review, even a highly favourable one, appearing three or more years after publication really is not much good, as the book may not be in print any longer and there may be insufficient demand for it to be reprinted.

A more serious flaw is the fact that – despite the sentiments expressed in the inaugural statements in the first issue, which promise that special attention will be given to books actually published on the continent – there isn’t a single review of an African-published book in this first issue. Five of the books reviewed are published in the US, one in the UK, and three in France.

Then there is also the matter of the length of the reviews, or review essays. While in-depth critical reviews of important works are probably desirable from the point of view of the Africanist community, it seems unlikely that librarians and subject bibliographers/ liaisons – who are actively involved in the selection process and often make the decision to acquire new titles in academic libraries – will find the time to read such long reviews. If the number of reviews published in this first issue is an indication of the average number of reviews to be published annually, this would merely amount to 20 or so reviews per volume. Would it not be preferable to restrict reviews to half their current length, say 1,000–1,500 words, but increase the number of reviews to 50 or more every year? My final comment is about the format of the journal: while ARB’s primary audience is “the scholarly communities concerned with Africa, both inside the continent and abroad”, rather than the library markets, I wonder whether the choice of the oversize format – 297 x 420mm (A3) – is a wise decision. Libraries will certainly want to acquire this review journal, but it can probably be stated with some certainty that librarians are not too fond of oversize journals, as they are too large to be shelved in the regular stacks and have to be shelved separately. Booksellers in Africa (for example university bookshops), not to mention news kiosks, won’t like it much either as it takes up too much display space. Moreover, oversize journals are prone to damage in the post, and may arrive badly crushed. Presumably the oversize format was inspired by the famous *New York Review of Books*, the *London Review of Books*, or the (now defunct) *Southern African Review of Books*. However, since ARB is unlikely to be sold through major magazine distributors and news-stand vendors in Europe or North America, and as it contains no artwork such as photographs, full colour plates, or posters that would merit a large size format, I can’t really see any compelling reasons why the *Africa Review of Books* should appear in such an unwieldy oversize format.

These quibbles apart, this is an important and much needed new review outlet for books in the African studies field. It will be an essential serials acquisition not only for the major African studies collections, but also for academic libraries anywhere.
2004 Conover-Porter Award for Africana Bibliography or Reference Work – News Release

The Africana Librarians Council of the African Studies Association (U.S.) is pleased to announce the 2004 winner of the biennial Conover-Porter Award for excellence in Africana bibliography or reference work. The award was announced at the 2004 annual conference of the African Studies Association.

Helen Conover was senior bibliographer in the African Section of the Library of Congress, serving 32 years before her retirement in 1963. Dorothy Porter Wesley was librarian of the Moorland-Springarn Research Center, Howard University, retiring in 1973 after 45 years of service.

Winner:


Geographer A.J. Christopher's highly important Atlas of Changing South Africa demonstrates great creativity both in assembling spatial data about apartheid South Africa (and the decades before and after) and in showing how such analysis illustrates and elaborates a very wide range of social, political, economic, and cultural questions. His 175 maps, plans, and graphs range from the literally global through regional, national, metropolitan, and urban levels, down to individual house and post office plans, showing both major and petty—and the all-encompassing and the personal—consequences of apartheid's obsessions with segregation. Christopher has compiled, successfully and accessibly, a great amount of information, both visual and textual, essential to almost all South African social, cultural, political, and policy studies. The high quality and the high value of the visual presentation of spatial data is also representative of the current resurgence of geospatial analysis.

Honorable Mention Books:


Zeleza and Eyoh have responded to the inescapable problem of surveying a continent by producing a volume whose structure and coherence persuades the reader that decisions about inclusion, exclusion, and word counts were made according to a well-thought-out and well-executed plan. Also, by limiting the work to the twentieth century, the authors had a logical but not impossibly large period to cover; unlike many other continental, regional, and national historical works. The roughly 120 editors and contributors of the signed articles are notable for not only being recognized scholars for their subjects, but are themselves to a very large extent Africans, if Africans working in Western as well as African universities. The five sizes of entries, from 600 to 4,000 words, were assigned by an explicit hierarchy of complexity, avoiding the questions one too often has about why this topic, and not another, was chosen for inclusion. Any one-volume work must be a gateway to more extensive coverage elsewhere; this one is unusually well-built and sturdy.


Falola found a novel solution to the problem of covering vast topics in a single volume—in his case, all history of all Africa. His subtitle is appropriate. Rather than writing an encyclopedia, a dictionary, or a single narrative, Falola has produced 36 chapters on what he considers 'key' events. Twelve of these are from 'ancient and precolonial' times, six events are from the 19th century, and the remaining half are from the 20th. Examples are "the Iron Age and the Spread of Bantu Speakers," "The Outbreak of Islamic Jihad, 1804," and "Coup, Counter Coup, and Military Regimes, 1963 Onward." A subject index, detailed time line, and suggested readings for each chapter enhance the book's value. Falola has achieved the rare result, a reference book that could serve as a textbook—especially for a seminar whose members each built on one chapter or another.

A list of additional Conover-Porter winners may be found on the Africana Librarians Council Web site at http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/afs/alc/conport2.html.

Submitted by Peter Limb (Michigan State University), Conover-Porter Committee

The Noma Award announces that no title has been selected to win the Award in 2004.

Monday 10 January 2005

The Jury singled out four titles for Honourable Mention (alphabetical order by publisher):

- *The Cry of Winnie Mandela* by Njabulo Ndebele (Cape Town: David Philip Publishers, an imprint of New Africa Books (Pty) Ltd, of Cape Town, South Africa). Four ordinary South African women tell their stories of waiting for absent husbands, introduced through the faithful Penelope who waited for Odysseus; and dialogue first with an imaginary and then a real Winnie Mandela. Innovative in style and form, the novel marries narrative, essay, and biography genres, turning the story of the political romance between Winnie and Nelson Mandela into something new, a fiction that is invented and reinvented in the process of narration.

- *The Plays of Miracle and Wonder* by Brett Bailey (Cape Town: Double Storey Books, a Juta company, 2003). A rich and exciting book, lavishly illustrated, opening new doors to creative exploration of indigenous cultural forms. The text of three of the author’s plays are given, with essays and postscripts on their production, history, reception and impact on the author. Covering technical details, philosophical discourses and cultural explorations, the prose of the essays are fluid, filled with image and melody, reading like poetry.

- *Lanre and the Queen of the Stream* by Tunde Lawal-Solarin (Lagos: Lantern Books, a division of Literamed Publications [Nig. Ltd.), 2003). A charming and simple story of a young boy who meets the Queen of the Stream in a dream. It smoothly and delightfully fuses fantasy and reality with a positive outcome; and is remarkable in creating new fantasies from familiar ones, with attractive and lively illustrations.

A significant work of research and interpretation, the dictionary has 20,000 Yoruba names, the most detailed and substantive collection to date. The names are spelled, pronounced, defined and explained; and serve as a source of information on cultural, historical and religious themes, as well as ethics, proverbs, cosmology, mythology, history and language.

93 titles, from 56 African publishers, in 13 countries, in 6 languages, were submitted for the 2004 competition. The Noma Award Jury is chaired by Walter Bgoya from Tanzania, one of Africa’s most distinguished and respected publishers, with wide knowledge of both African and international publishing. The other members of the Jury in 2003 were: Professor Peter Katjavivi, Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia to Brussels and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia; Dr. Fatou Keita, academic and writer, University of Cocody, Abidjan; Professor Femi Osofisan, head of the Department of Theatre Studies at the University of Ibadan, and immediate past director of the National Theatre in Nigeria; and Mary Jay, Secretary to the Managing Committee (the Jury). The Award is sponsored by Kodansha Ltd, Japan.

For further information about the Award, please contact: Mary Jay, Secretary to the Noma Award for Publishing in Africa, PO Box 128, Witney, Oxon OX8 5XU, UK. Tel: +44-1993-775235 Fax: +44-(0)1993-709265 Email: maryljay@aol.com www.nomaaward.org

Caine Prize for African Writing 2004

The winner of the Caine Prize for African Writing 2004 is Zimbabwean writer Brian Chikwava for "Seventh Street Alchemy" from Writing Still, Harare: Weaver Press, 2003. Chikwava is considered one of Zimbabwe's emerging writers. He has published a wide variety of texts, ranging from art reviews, fiction and scripts for stage performances which combine music, dance, and visual arts.

Other short listed writers:
Doreen Baingana (Uganda) for "Hunger", from the Sun Magazine, March 2003
Monica Arac de Nyeko (Uganda) for Strange Fruit from Cook Communication, online magazine
Chika Unigwe (Nigeria) for "The Secret" from Online Literature Magazine Open Wide

Library of Congress

African and Middle Eastern Division National Search for New Chief

The Library of Congress seeks new leadership to direct the African and Middle Eastern Division. This is a unique opportunity to exercise imagination, vision, and energy and to establish new standards for service and research support on the regions covered by the African, Hebraic and Near Eastern sections. The new chief will bring a wealth of knowledge of contemporary issues and their historic roots and employ them to lead the division to more fully document the complexity of these regions. This leader will have significant understanding of the transformation of information resources as a result of digital technology and will pursue new connections to libraries and institutions in the regions. Recognizing the Library’s mission of support for scholarship, the new leader will act with flexibility and creativity in enhancing service to the public.

The new division chief has an opportunity to direct one of the most significant national resources providing knowledge of this complex region at a time of enormous historical significance and unprecedented access to information, both from within and about the countries and cultures.

The African and Middle Eastern Division chief will provide leadership to: develop the excellent collections related to the region; promote linkages among the Division’s three sections and across a complex institution; extend expert research service and reference assistance in both digital and traditional modes; work closely with overseas offices of the Library of Congress in Nairobi, Cairo and Islamabad, which acquire materials in the regions; collaborate with Special Collections who hold special format materials including maps, films, photographs, and sound recordings; develop collaborative projects with organizations and institutions at the national and international levels; secure support to supplement federal appropriations through external partnerships and development activities; develop special events and publications in order to publicize resources and services; expand international relations for African, Hebraic, and Middle Eastern librarianship, scholarship, and networks; serve a broad constituency, including the Congress and federal agencies, the academic community, embassies, and the general public.

This is a Senior-level position with pay beginning at approximately $150,000. The application process is expected to open in Summer 2005.

For more information about this position, contact:
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Africana Libraries Newsletter (ALN) is published by the Office of the Librarian for African Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington and is funded by the Indiana University Libraries, the Indiana University African Studies Program, and Indiana University's Office of International Programs. Its purpose is to support the work of the Africana Librarians Council (ALC) of the African Studies Association. Contents include minutes of ALC and CAMP (Cooperative Africana Microform Project) meetings, as well as reports on other events and resources of interest in Africana librarianship. The newsletter is mailed free of charge to over five hundred interested individuals and organizations in sixty-nine different countries.

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