The AIFBD (Association Internationale Francophone des Bibliothécaires et Documentalistes) was founded in 2008. Its second conference was held in Martinique on August 9-11, 2011. The theme of the conference was “Francophonies, Bibliothèques et Développement Durable” (Francophonies, Libraries and Sustainable Development). This conference was also an opportunity for this young organization to renew its commitment to promoting the use of the French language in librarianship and to North-South cooperation. The AIFBD conference was organized as a satellite conference to the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The first day was marked by a reception at the residence of the Conseillère Régionale, where Professor Jean Bernabé delivered a thought provoking keynote address on “Francophonie, une notion à géométrie variable.” On August 10, I chaired the only panel on University Libraries and Sustainable Development.

Approximately 100 members representing 22 countries participated in sessions and panels of enriching and stimulating presentations on the theme of the conference. I had the honor of attending this year’s AIFBD conference as a CIFNAL (Collaboration Initiative for French Language Collections) representative. I was a recipient of the CIFNAL award to attend the conference this year. The other recipient was Matthew Loving from the University of Florida. This award, which partially covered the cost of attending the conference, was a major incentive for me to attend.

One highlight for me was hearing African colleagues present papers on such topics as library design, North-South knowledge transfer and cooperation, digitization and ecological preservation, designing databases for health information, Cont’ on page 3

The ALC is again organizing the ASA Gretchen Walsh Book Donation Awards. Applications are due on May 31st, 2012.

The African Studies Association offers this annual grant to assist book donation projects with shipping costs to send book donations to African libraries and schools. The Africana Librarians Council, Gretchen Walsh Book Donations Committee reads grant proposals and makes recommendations to the African Studies Association. Successful awards are usually small grants in amounts from $200 to $1,000.

Awards for 2011 went to the African Library Project ($400) for shipment of books to Ndzevane Primary School in Swaziland; the Salamatu Foundation ($200) for shipment of books to two primary schools in Namibia; the Apprends-Moi International ($200) for shipment of books to Congo-Brazzaville; the Walmer High School Library Restoration Project ($300) for shipment of books to Walmer High School in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.; and the Mary Patch Turnbull Memorial Library ($400) for shipment of books to their library in Taita, Kenya.

For more information see the ALC website or contact Shiferaw Assefa at sassefa@ku.edu or David Westley at dwestley@bu.edu.
New Africana Resources


the role of the library in sustainable development, human rights and sustainable development, university libraries and sustainable development, the ecological impact of the libraries of Timbuktu, and archival preservation in tropical climates. Presenters discussed challenges in their work and more importantly, the need for collaboration with colleagues and institutions outside the African continent. To them, language should not be a barrier, but should serve as a tool to reach out to other organizations and institutions. The AIFBD provides volunteer translation and interpretation for IFLA papers as well as convention speeches and presentations.

At every panel, the presenters engaged the audience in a lively discussion and exchange of ideas. The conference was a good opportunity to meet and establish relationships with colleagues working on similar issues as we in ALC. It was also an opportunity to visit with vendors and review resources that have been on my wish list. A visit with the CAIRN team enabled me to search their database to determine the extent to which it can serve researchers working on African Studies topics. I discovered that CAIRN provides good coverage of African Studies from unique journals to which we do not currently subscribe. CAIRN is a major database of full-text journal articles in French for the humanities and social sciences. Upon my return from the conference, I was able to work with other selectors to obtain funding for a CAIRN subscription through a consortial license agreement negotiated by the CRL Global Resource Network.

More detailed information on the AIFBD can be accessed at the association’s website.

Madison’s David Henige Retires

By Emilie Songolo

I would like to take this opportunity to wish David Henige the very best for his retirement from his position as African Studies Bibliographer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I cannot thank David enough for his help, mentoring and guidance during my 20 years at the UW-Madison. He has facilitated the transition to my current position with his unsparring assistance, support and counsel. We have been privileged to have David at the UW-Madison, ALC, ASA, and the African Studies community at large. Mary Rader, his former Supervisor, gave the best summary of David’s enormous contribution in the following words:

“Throughout his career, David has exemplified the role of "scholar librarian." Since 1970, David has been an active and prolific writer, publishing over 185 articles, 165 reviews and 16 books, primarily on African history, but also on the historical method (oral history and reliability of ‘sources’), on North American and Indian history (Columbus, Native Americans, and Indian princely states), and on complex and vexing issues within library practice (from bibliography to the deficiencies of LCSH).

“In short, we have been privileged to have been allowed to work with David over the past 40 years. With his departure, we lose both a serious scholar committed to concerted, thoughtful librarianship and an engaged librarian committed to critical, ongoing scholarship. I for one will miss our open and engrossing discussions and debates and his gentle guidance and mentorship.

“Please help me congratulate David on a career worth emulating and to wish him health and happiness in this new phase of his life!”
Universities in the United States and Europe have been building Africana research collections through acquisition of original or microfilmed publications, colonial records, newspapers, manuscripts, and personal papers. Digital technologies have enhanced the ways in which both sources can be accessed and used, and also hopefully shared to help alleviate the barriers facing Africa-based scholars in accessing research collections and making their own work globally available. While there have been some notable examples in making such content freely available online, the slow growth of internet connectivity in Africa and the emergence of a lucrative commercial market in digital scholarly content have posed new barriers to African universities and researchers seeking to fully benefit from the promise of digital research tools. US, European, and African researchers, universities, libraries, scholarly societies, and publishers are collaborating to develop new sustainable models to make scholarly information more widely available. The global economic downturn has driven innovation on the part of these stakeholders in devising non-traditional partnerships to create infrastructures for this purpose.

This panel provides a survey of several cutting-edge models including: open access journal publishing; institutional repositories (fully indexed by Google); not-for-profit/commercial partnerships; and resource sharing arrangements between US and African universities. Associated with a number of these projects is the Center for Research Libraries and its affiliate group, the Cooperative Africana Materials Project, a consortium of North American (and some European) research libraries that collaboratively acquires and preserves Africana primary source materials.

**Panelists Include**

- Marion Frank-Wilson, Indiana University  
  *Making Research Available in the African Studies Context: Open Access Publishing in the Humanities and Beyond*

- Derek Peterson, University of Michigan  
  *The Politics and Practice of Archive Work in Western Uganda*

- Verlon Stone, Indiana University  
  *From Cooperation to Collaboration: Sharing Archival Collections*

- Peter Limb, Michigan State University  
  *Putting African Historical Newspapers Online: Assessing Models, Scholarly Use, and Future Directions*

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**News from the African Books Collective**

We have a couple of announcements here at African Books Collective. We recently released a big selection of Swahili language titles and would also like to announce that two Moroccan publishers are now distributing through us. The first publishers from Morocco to do so.

A new Swahili language titles selection is now available for download from the African Books Collective website. The books are from a shipment received from the Tanzanian publisher Mkuki na Nyota, Dar es Salaam and are in stock now at ABC and most online retailers. http://www.africanbookscollective.com/stuff/Swahili%20Titles.pdf Along with poetry, fiction and biographies by well known writers such as Shaaban Robert, John Rutayisingwa, and Jinamizi there are translations into Swahili of major works by Mariama Ba and Naguib Mahfouz. Also available now is an unabridged translation by Hassan Adam of the Arabian Nights. Uwazi na Ukweli. Rais wa Watu Azungumza na Wananchi is a five volume record of the monthly TV and Radio addresses given by former Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa.

ABC will soon be announcing for the first time books from North Africa. Two new publishers, Éditions du Sirocco and Senso Unico Editions are both from Morocco and publish largely in French.
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

2012 CONOVER-PORTER AWARD FOR AFRICANA BIBLIOGRAPHY OR REFERENCE WORK

Nominations close: January 1, 2012

The Africana Librarians Council of the African Studies Association (U.S.) seeks nominations for the seventeenth biennial Conover-Porter Award for excellence in Africana bibliography or reference work. The Conover-Porter Award is the most prestigious award for published works of bibliography or reference on Africa. Any Africa-related reference work, bibliography, or bibliographic essay published separately or as part of a larger work during 2009, 2010, or 2011 can be nominated for the 2012 award. The award includes a prize of $300 to be presented during the 2012 Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

For each work that you nominate, please provide the following data and include your name, email address, mailing address and telephone number:

Authors(s):
Title:
Publisher/Year of publication:
Justification: (Specifically state why you think this is a work of significance and quality. If available, please include published reviews or references to the reviews.)

Send inquiries and submissions to:

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Quarterly Index to African Periodical Literature ceases

It is with regret I announce that after twenty years of service to the Africana library community, the "Quarterly Index to African Periodical Literature" will come to an end. Starting in 1991, the citation index produced by the Library of Congress Nairobi Office was the first of its kind to index only journals emanating from dozens of African countries. The combination of changing expectations from users, advanced technology and the challenging economic environment are contributing factors to this decision to cease producing the index. Containing over 51,000 citations to journals from Angola to Zimbabwe, the index includes information on nearly all subjects relevant to African Studies researchers. Lately, the indexing was done mainly by the Nairobi Office serials cataloger, Catherine Thuku.

Her voluminous work was supplemented by several volunteers over time, including Bassey Irele of Harvard University and a stream of Kenyan library school student interns. For the present time, the index will remain on the Library of Congress website as a static database only. The URL link is: http://lcweb2.loc.gov/misc/qsihtml/ . We are seeking a non-profit organization to incorporate the database and possibly add the full text of the articles indexed to enhance its value to researchers. If you know of a non-profit service that might be interested, kindly advise Pamela Howard-Reguindin at pamelahr@loc.gov for consideration.

Pamela Howard-Reguindin
Director, Library of Congress Office, Nairobi

Reminder!

The Spring 2012 meeting of the Africana Librarians Council will be held at the University of Wisconsin (Madison). More details will be available soon on the ALC website.