

# AFRICANA LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE  
LIBRARIAN FOR AFRICAN STUDIES,  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON

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## Note From the Editor

Dear Subscribers,

The time has come to move Africana Libraries Newsletter (ALN) online. Starting with issue no. 118, ALN will be published in electronic format only. It will reside on Indiana University's website at <http://www.indiana.edu/~libsalc/african/aln/alnindex.html>. We will notify those subscribers whose e-mail addresses we have via e-mail each time a new issue is published. If you wish to be notified of new issues and think that we do not have your e-mail, please send your current e-mail address to [mfranksi@indiana.edu](mailto:mfranksi@indiana.edu).

Also starting with issue no. 118, Bassey Irele from Harvard University will join ALN as a co-editor. Welcome, Bassey!

Sincerely,

Marion Frank-Wilson, editor



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## Africana Librarians Council (ALC) Spring Meeting at Northwestern University, May 5-7, 2005

This year's ALC/CAMP spring meeting was hosted by Northwestern University as part of a series of events to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Melville J. Herskovits Library. One of the meeting's highlights was the launch of a festschrift to honor late Africana librarian Dan Britz from Northwestern University: Victoria Evalds and David Henige, eds., *Africanist Librarianship in an Era of Change*.

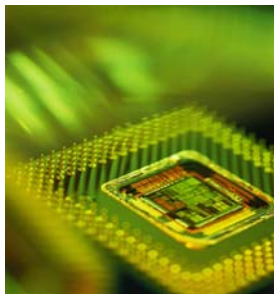
Please look for minutes of the ALC Cataloging Committee in this issue, and other minutes in issue no. 118.



**Launch of festschrift for late Africana librarian Dan Britz (Northwestern University). Photo courtesy of Catherine E. Wirth.**



**Contributors to festschrift (left to right): Back: Greg Finnegan (Harvard U.), Jill Coelho (Harvard U.), David Westley (Boston U.), Peter Limb (Michigan State U.), Joe Lauer (Michigan State U.), David Easterbrook (Northwestern U.), Bob Lesh (Northwestern U.), Al Kagan (U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) Front: Miki Goral (UCLA), Marion Frank-Wilson (Indiana University), Patty Kuntz (Wisconsin), Gretchen Walsh (Boston U.), and Patricia Ogedengbe (Northwestern University). Photo courtesy of Catherine E. Wirth.**



# Africana Librarians Council Minutes

## ALC Cataloging Committee Meeting

Northwestern University, Norris University Center, Michigan Room Friday, May 6, 2005: 9:45-10:45 am Minutes (draft of May 27, 2005)

Present: Ruby Bell-Gam (UCLA), Atoma Batoma (U. of Illinois), Phyllis Bischof (UC Berkeley), Ellen Bryan (U. of Chicago), Joe Caruso (Columbia), Jill Coelho (Harvard, Widener), Greg Finnegan (Harvard), Karen Fung (Stanford), Miki Goral (UCLA), Marieta Harper (LC), Bassey Irele (Harvard), Al Kagan (U. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Patricia Kuntz, Joe Lauer (Michigan State, ALC Cataloging Committee chair), Bob Lesh (Northwestern), Peter Limb (Michigan State), Peter Malanchuk (U. of Florida), Giles Martin (OCLC), Karen Miller (Northwestern), Lauris Olson (U. of Pennsylvania), Laverne Page (LC), Edward Miner (U. of Iowa), Afeworki Paulos (U. of Michigan), Loumona Petroff (Boston U.), Dan Reboussin (U. of Florida), Andrea Stamm (Northwestern), Shoshanah Seidman (Northwestern), Gretchen Walsh (Boston U.), David Westley (Boston U.), Milicent Wewerka (LC), Dorothy Woodson (Yale).

### 1 & 2. Introductions were made and the minutes of the fall meeting were approved.

### 3. Africana Subject Funnel report (Lauer).

The Report was distributed and will be posted on the ALC website. There were contributions from many people and all of the submissions were thoroughly researched. Many new or revised headings are submitted directly to SACO from both ALC and non-ALC members.

Lauer mentioned that the proposed change from "Chapbooks, Nigerian" to "Nigerian market literature" was rejected, but new x-refs for "Onitsha market literature" and "Nigerian market literature" were added. Westley asked if Chapbooks, Hausa would be a permissible subject heading. Limb brought up Khoikhoi (African people), which is now sometimes spelled with an "e" as an example where LCSH has not kept up with current practice.

### 4. Issues with classification schedules:

a. Lauer reported that Margaret Hughes (Stanford University) has submitted a number of classification proposals over the past year. She expressed some concern about the length of time these took [and was told that proposals not listed within 4 months should be resubmitted].

b. Hughes also wanted to see a list of proposals being considered or in process, similar to the list of subject proposals available online. No one seconded this idea.

c. Lauer raised the possibility of revising the headings in the PL8000s and proposed preparing a draft. Limb cited Hottentot and German East Africa as highly outdated forms. LC practice for the classification schedules has been to retain the old form and add an x-ref so as not to alter the alphabetical order, which necessitates much additional work.

### 5. Future directions.

a. Margaret Hughes (absent) asked if the amplification of the LC classification for the Indian Ocean islands, which currently are all represented by a single LC classification number, is still a priority. The current problem is to coordinate the time periods for the LC schedules and LCSH, and nothing new has been done. Given the amount of work already done on this project, the Committee felt it should be completed. Caruso volunteered to contact Hughes to help.

b. Need for more chronological divisions in LCSH: Several noted that there are more chronological divisions in the classification schedules than in LCSH. Countries mentioned as needing more historical divisions were Ghana and Zimbabwe. Some thought we should ask LC to make this a priority, but LC simply does not have the staff to initiate these changes. Volunteers were requested. Bell-Gam, Limb, Seidman, and Batoma volunteered. [Lauer will send out guidelines.] In this expansion, LCSH and class headings should not be in conflict, and there should be support from reference sources for the dates chosen.

c. Walsh noted that users rely on keywords rather than subject headings. Someone suggested that librarians should ask authors and publishers to furnish sufficient keywords in titles to facilitate keyword searching.

### 5 Reports and announcements.

a. Library of Congress (Wewerka):

LC is reasonably current in cataloging of Africana materials in political science and history. Some backlog is accumulating in ethnology. There is a backlog in language and literature because no one is currently cataloging this material.

Dictionaries from the backlog were cleared out with a special project. No one can do descriptive cataloging in the vernacular materials. Cataloging of Amharic and Tigrinya materials from the Thomas Kane collection is being done as a special project.

Cataloging issues: LC relies on the summaries from the Nairobi office for cataloging of Swahili and African-language materials. Catalogers noted the lack of (or unfamiliarity with) online reference sources other than Ethnologue, and would welcome recommendations of other sources.

Nature of material: Relatively little material is received on the colonial era. There seems to be a project in Germany to publish archival materials from German settlements (diaries, etc.).

New development, etc.: The PJ-PK and PL-PM schedules are being edited for new editions.

b. CC:AAM (Lesh) [see Appendix A]

c. Northwestern report [see Appendix B] Olson raised the issue of hidden collection, which is a concern of many libraries.

### 6. Ongoing cataloging issues

a. Are more analytics needed?

Limb said a few words about analytics. This is a difficult issue in many libraries. Some libraries exclude analytics (Harvard) and others do make them available.

b. Experience cataloging free-on-web materials

Caruso is involved in a Title VI digital project on Senegambia materials, which will be available online and free to the public. He would like to have these records included in other institutional catalogs. More information on this will be sent out on the Africana list.

The meeting was adjourned.

#### **APPENDIX A**

CC:AAM report (Winter 2005: Boston)  
by Robert Lesh  
(April 25, 2005)

CC:AAM (Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials) met during the American Library Association's annual meeting on Sunday January 16, 2005, at 1:00 P.M. This is a new meeting time, and CC:AAM will meet at this time in the future.

Since the previous meeting, the program evaluation summary was emailed to members. This evaluation consisted of a survey of those who attended the CC:AAM-sponsored program on Unicode, which took place at the summer meeting in Orlando on June 26, 2004. LC's response to CC:AAM's comments on the revision of the Chinese Romanization guidelines was also received. The text of both is included in the appendices of the minutes.

CC:AAM is undergoing a committee charge review.

Part of this review involves a change in the organization of CC:AAM. The Cataloging and Classification Section has already reviewed and approved some changes. The size of the Committee will be reduced to seven voting members from a previous size of nine. The Japanese specialist will be removed from the Committee since that area should be covered by the East Asian specialist. As before, the specialists will be required to report cataloging activities of the area studies community to CC:AAM, and they will be expected to attend their respective area studies associations' meeting. There will be an addition of a Committee intern as a non-voting member. The intern will be assigned the task of taking notes on the meeting to aid in preparing the minutes.

Taking up the ALC recommendation to implement the Universal Character Set (UCS) on an accelerated basis, CC:AAM passed a resolution to that effect at the previous meeting and forwarded it on to MARBI. Initial reaction from MARBI was that this resolution was redundant since MARBI (Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information Committee) had long ago decided to include USC. However, the recommendation was passed on to AVIAC (Automation Vendor Interface Advisory Committee) and NISO (National Information Standards Organization (U.S.)). CC:AAM will take two further actions. Jade Atwill will coordinate with specialists to compile a need-based prioritized list of non-roman language scripts. David Nelson will conduct a literature review and develop a questionnaire that will be sent to vendors to find out the status of Unicode UCS implementation. Based on the findings of the questionnaire, the Committee will determine what should be the next course of action to advocate!

faster expansion of access to non-roman language scripts.

DDC (Dewey Decimal Classification) is still awaiting feedback from the National Library of Indonesia on their proposal for the Indonesian provinces. DDC is trying to find a more appropriate contact at National Library of Indonesia

to expedite this process.

The development of Islamic law subject headings is moving very slowly. Most libraries have not yet started to use these new subject headings, and those that have report that it is inadequate. Experts in the field have started to propose subject headings in a more structured way. The task force in charge of the new subject headings is planning to make other contacts to see how the development of Romanization tables for Central Asia can be expedited.

The Committee will alert the cataloging community in the five regions it represents to encourage catalogers to participate in the review process of the draft of AACR3. Any comments may be sent to Committee member Keiko Suzuki (<mailto:keiko.suzuki@yale.edu>), who is coordinating CC:AAM's comments on AACR3 (Anglo-American Cataloging Rules 3) with CC:DA (Committee on Cataloging: Description and Analysis). The draft of AACR3 is not for general distribution, and any ALC members who would like to have more information on the AACR3 draft are encourage to contact their ALC/CC:AAM representative.

Suzuki will work with John Eilts to include any comments in the document that he will be preparing to CC:AAM to forward to CC:CA.

It was agreed that CC:AAM will sponsor a program on "Promoting PCC participation in the Area Studies Community", which would take place at the summer 2006 ALA meeting. The Committee would like to co-sponsor this program with PCC (Program for Cooperative Cataloging) as a silent partner. The program will be a discussion forum where existing PCC participants will share their experiences and answer questions from the audience. The target audience will include area studies catalogers, other catalogers, librarians and administrators.

Due to lack of time, CC:AAM did not discuss the "ALA Ahead to 2010" plan. The chair will collect written comments from members and forward them to ALA. Written reports from the area studies groups, RLG, LC, and OCLC were accepted and are available in the appendices of the minutes.

#### **APPENDIX B**

Northwestern Africana Cataloging Report September 2005-April 2005

We have now completed two-thirds of our fiscal year. During this time, Northwestern staff cataloged 4,432 titles in 4,777 volumes for the Africana collection. Unfortunately, the Africana monographic backlog increased to 14,972 volumes (a 7.8 % increase). We do hope to stop this growth trend in the coming summer months, but that depends on other general collections that we expect to receive shortly.

Africana cataloging staffing remains at the same level as the previous fiscal year. Bob Lesh (cataloging ¾ time) and Shoshanah Seidman continue to be very productive catalogers, as is Karen Miller, an original cataloger who is completing her second year on a term position. Northwestern is most proud of its efforts in the digital arena. I hope you all had the opportunity to attend yesterday's presentation on NU digital projects, where you heard about our recent efforts to catalog Africana posters (<<http://www.library.northwestern.edu/africana/collections/posters>><http://www.library.northwestern.edu/africana/collections/posters>) and our implementation of the EAD (Encoded Archival

Description) for the papers of Dr. Abdullah Abdurahman as well as the Winterton collection of East African photographs. We also began a digital project where we will catalog some 130 rare maps of Africa.

Another high priority project we recently began involves making sure Northwestern's holdings are accurately reflected in OCLC. Catalogers are adding our holdings to OCLC bibliographic records and creating original bibliographic records in OCLC when there is no match of holdings already in OCLC. Africana accounts for a large proportion of our original records in OCLC. Much of the work is being performed by sophisticated programs, but human review is necessary for 60,000 titles. Thus far, we have completed approximately 28% of the project. We expect to continue for another 18 months or so.

The Africana conference paper indexing project produced 3,591 additional individual papers in 136 new Africana conference proceedings. Total figures in our separate Africana conference paper file are now: 108,763 individual papers in 6,056 conference proceedings.

Catalogers continue to process some of our "hidden collections". This fiscal year, for printed Africana monographs, we continued to catalog the Africana textbook collection. The Library now subscribes to a table of contents (TOC) enrichment service. When a match occurs, Blackwell North America inserts the table of contents into the bibliographic record in a 505 field. The TOC is thus keyword searchable in Voyager. 6,600 bibliographic records were enriched, out of 17,606 sent (a 38% hit rate) this year. The specific hit rate of Africana titles is not known.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Stamm.



## ALC News

### Call for ALC Nominations

Nominations are now open for two positions on the Africana Librarians Council Executive Board.

Please take time to nominate yourself or an ALC colleague for one of these three open positions: Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect (1), Member-at-Large (2).

Vice-chair/Chair-Elect (one position):

The Vice-chair/Chair-Elect, shall be elected at the annual meeting of the ASA and shall serve for one year. He/she shall serve as a member of the Executive Board and assist the Chair in the performance of duties.

After completing one year as Vice-Chair, the Vice-Chair becomes Chair of the ALC. The Chair's term of office shall

be for one year, beginning immediately after the Business Meeting held at the annual ASA conference. The immediate past Chair shall be an ex-officio member for one year (thus, a three-year commitment).

Member-at-Large (two positions): The Members-at-Large serve for two years beginning with the fall meeting 2005.

ALC Members may nominate themselves as well as others. Please send nominations to:

Dan Reboussin  
danrebo@ufl.edu <mailto:danrebo@ufl.edu>

or

Karen Fung  
kfung@stanford.edu <mailto:kfung@stanford.edu>



## RSS - News feeds and African Studies

By Lauris Olson

Our area-studies librarians have been designing collection-level web pages and, as we'd been exposed to presentations on weblogs and news feeds, we decided to make these pages lively. Our web designer created for our pages a modified portal template that included news feed portlets as

a sidebar. Our challenge has been to find informative and relatively active news feeds to fill these portlets. Our experiences in learning about feeds, identifying suitable ones, and deploying them on computer desktops and web

pages might be helpful to colleagues whose libraries are developing similar capabilities.

## 1. The concept.

You have a sequence of web documents you want to offer up for web syndication, that is, to offer to other web sites. Using the appropriate XML tag set for web syndication, you build a list – a channel – of these documents, with tags for each document's title and URL, with a brief description. This list becomes your news feed.

I find the URL for your news feed and copy it into the location list of my web browser's plug-in news feed reader, or I use the feed reader software installed on our library's web server to embed the URL in a web page, perhaps a portlet – a defined space on a web portal page – or a research guide. Now, my web page will display the most current version of your document list. [Link-chasing in the Wikipedia gives a good overview of web syndication, RSS and other feed formats, and related topics.]

## 2. Selecting appropriate news feeds.

The best news feeds have coherent content, update frequently, and look good in a list format. The most active feeds are, of course, from the news media. Strong feeds covering Africa are:

-- BBC News | Africa | World Edition  
[http://newsrss.bbc.co.uk/rss/newsonline\\_world\\_edition/afri ca/rss.xml](http://newsrss.bbc.co.uk/rss/newsonline_world_edition/afri ca/rss.xml)

-- AllAfrica News: Latest  
<http://allafrica.com/tools/headlines/rdf/latest/headlines.rdf>

-- Moreover Technologies - Africa news  
<http://p.moreover.com/cgi/local/page?o=rss002&c=Africa%20news>.

Although you may find other news media feeds – CNN, Reuters, IPS – worth reading, it's a good idea to monitor them for volume, currency, relevance, and geographic precision over time before republishing them for your users.

The World Health Organization's WHO News and Disease Outbreaks news feeds, both global in coverage, are rare IGO feeds:  
<http://www.who.int/about/licensing/rss/en/>.

The International Labour Organization's press release feed also covers all nations. The UN Pulse blog, produced by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, can be viewed in a news feed reader for announcements of new UN online information:  
<http://unhq-appsub-01.un.org/lib/dhlrefweblog.nsf>

For Africa, the UN IRIN Africa Service news feed gives global coverage of refugee events:  
<http://www.irinnews.org/Africa.xml>

The ILO

[http://www.ilo.org/dyn/ilosite/ilonews.RssDescription?p\\_lang=EN](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/ilosite/ilonews.RssDescription?p_lang=EN).

Many NGOs offer feeds: Human Rights Watch and International Crisis Group offer strong African coverage in the global feeds promoting their recently published reports.

Announcement news feeds are particularly attractive. Alcasalist readers have pointed out these local announcement feeds:  
-- African Studies Centre (Leiden) calendar and news items  
<http://www.ascleiden.nl/RssFeeds/ChannelVersion1.xml>.

-- UCLA African Studies Center  
<http://www.international.ucla.edu/africa/rss.asp>.

H-Net's recent announcement feeds are defined by function – conference, grant, and so on – rather than by discipline, making them less attractive for regional specialists.

News feeds built from discussion log or listserv submissions permit you to keep current in monitoring correspondence without clogging your e-mail inbox. Weblogs, too, can be monitored through feeds. H-Net offers a reference page for its recent discussion log, job posting, announcement, and book review feeds:  
<http://www.h-net.org/about/rss.php>.

Discussion logs that generate busy threads may look odd as feeds: today's H-Africa feed consists almost entirely of the repeated title, "Usage of 'tribe,' 'clan,' and 'nation.'"

New book announcements and journal tables of contents are popular news feeds for promoting library services. E-journal publishers use feeds: Oxford University Press and IngentaConnect (distributing Blackwell, Brill, Carfax, Oxford UP, and Routledge) provide feeds for their current journal issues. ProQuest has prototype feeds for prepared searches in its ABI/Inform database. The day might come when Dissertation Abstracts offers an "Africa" feed for recent dissertations!

Our library offer a news feed for the call number-based "New Books" service that draws from our library catalog:  
<http://newbooksplus.library.upenn.edu/cgi-bin/feedme.cgi?community=African+Studies&location=&daterange=curWeek>.

Great stuff, but I'd rather see a new books feed from the Herskovits Library. The World Bank e-Library is hosted by Ingenta, which provides RSS feeds for new e-books.

The H-Net book review news feeds are separate channels that follow the H-Net discussion log scheme. Some review feeds are currently idle, others appear to be stillborn. I used RSS Mix, a free news feed aggregator web site, to build one feed simply by pasting the URLs for four relatively active H-Net book review feeds -- H-Africa, H-Atlantic, H-Luso-Africa, H-SAfrica -- into the web site's text entry box. This merged H-Net African book review feed:  
<http://www.rssmix.com/u/4642/rss.xml>

shows some redundancy but provides a nice mix of reviewed books for our library users, and I shall almost certainly add it as a portlet on the sidebar of our African collections web page.

Directories of news feeds and weblogs appear and expand rapidly. The Wikipedia offers leads for finding these directories. I used the Syndic8 web site to track the rollout of AllAfrica.com's RSS feed and to find other feeds on Africa.

### 3. Being a news feed consumer.

You need a news feed reader. Your library's systems people will always know just what to use, and they will go on about RSS and its multiple incompatible versions, RDF, and Atom formats, but you will need to choose between a standalone desktop feed reader and a web browser plug-in. I use the Sage plug-in with my FoxFire browser: hit <alt> and it appears as a sidebar frame in the browser window.

To grab a news feed, look for "RSS" displayed as a hyperlink, a small orange "XML" button, a small green "RSS" button. Some web sites provide news feed links on "Get Updates" pages. When you click on the "RSS" button, your browser window will fill with marked-up text: don't panic – you should only be interested in the feed's URL displaying in the browser window's address box. Copy or drag that URL into your feed reader's feed manager list or frame, and it's ready for reading!

Some web sites offer OPML-format (Outline Processor Markup Language) news feeds. When the site's OPML file is imported into a feed reader's feed manager, individual feeds will appear as hierarchically-nested folders. I cribbed the New York Times OPML to create an outline of H-Net's many Africa-related news feeds:

<http://www.staffweb.library.upenn.edu/~olson/africa/aln/hnet.opml>.

### 4. Presenting news feeds to your library users.

Our web manager has installed Blossom, an Open Source weblog editing tool adaptable for generating news feeds, and Feedreader for web presentation of news feeds. Using the feed template provided in our Blossom installation, I created individual feeds for databases, e-journals, news sources, and e-book collections frequently used by Penn readers in African studies:

[http://www.library.upenn.edu/blos/feeds/Area\\_Studies](http://www.library.upenn.edu/blos/feeds/Area_Studies).

Unlike news media feeds, these feeds will update infrequently; I'll edit a feed if we subscribe to SABINET or NiPAD. I can create web pages and use Feedreader to embed these feeds so that the pages display each feed's content. My specialized feeds are in one repository and their content appears on several web pages. When I update a feed, its content would update automatically on each page. I don't have to hunt down each page to make changes.

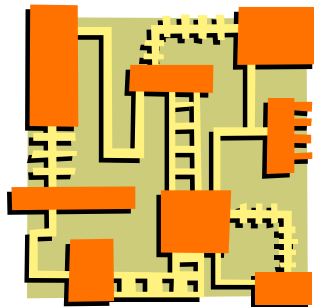
In a prototype web research guide, "Major Penn Library resources on Africa and Africans":

<http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/africa/africabyRSS.html> four lines of html code fills the page with content from these four feeds and the merged H-Net book review feed. The page's odd look stresses its origin in feeds; its appearance can be edited in the page's stylesheet. Every time the page is refreshed on a reader's browser, the H-Net book reviews are updated.

"Fearfully technical," my domestic editor comments. But it isn't! You're hunting web sites routinely now -- start looking for that RSS icon. Blogs and feed directories are no more prone to self-promotion than the familiar discussion log. You install web browser plug-ins often without knowing. And if your web manager has installed feed builders and readers, your prose-writing skills need not involve more than compiling title / URL / brief description.

Lauris Olson, University of Pennsylvania Library,  
olson@pobox.upenn.edu

## Announcements



Starting July 1, 2005, Karen Jean Hunt, Director of the John Hope Franklin Collection in the Rare Books, Manuscripts, Special Collection Library & African American Subject Librarian, will be

assuming the responsibility for African Studies for the Perkins Library System. Thus her second title will now be: Subject Librarian for African and African American Studies. Karen Jean already works with faculty and

students in the African and African-American Studies Program at Duke and has been collecting African Studies materials for the John Hope Franklin collection. This is a natural extension and enhancement of her work responsibilities. Karen Jean will also become a member of the extended International and Area Studies department. To contact her you can call 919 660-5922 or e-mail [k.j.hunt@duke.edu](mailto:k.j.hunt@duke.edu).

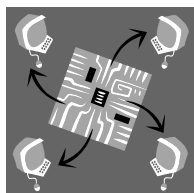
Helene Baumann, who has been African Studies Librarian since joining the Collection Development Department as Bibliographer in 1985 (International and Area Studies was founded in the late 1980s), has decided to concentrate more

fully on Western Europe and is delighted at Karen Jean's willingness to take over. She looks forward to be working with Karen Jean in an advisory role over the next few months.

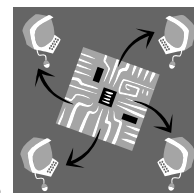
Helene is to be commended for the excellent work she has done in handling collection development for African Studies. She has worked with faculty and students and in addition, she has played an active role nationally as a

member and as an officer in the Africana Librarians Council and the Center for Research Libraries' area studies program, the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP).

Respectfully Submitted by Helene Baumann, Duke University.



## Calendar of Future Meetings



### ASA

ASA Annual Meeting 2005  
Washington, D.C.: Nov. 17-20,  
Marriot Wardman Park Hotel

### ALA

Annual Conference, 2006  
New Orleans, LA: June 22-28

Midwinter Meeting, 2007  
Seattle, WA: Jan. 19-24

Annual Conference, 2007  
Washington, DC: June 21-27

### IFLA

World Library and Information Congress: 70<sup>th</sup> IFLA  
General Conference and Council, 2004  
Buenos Aires, Argentina: Aug. 22-27.

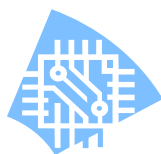
World Library and Information Congress: 71<sup>st</sup> IFLA  
General Conference and Council, 2005  
Oslo, Norway: Aug. 14-18.

World Library and Information Congress: 72<sup>nd</sup> IFLA  
General Conference and Council, 2006  
Seoul, South Korea.

World Library and Information Congress: 73<sup>rd</sup> IFLA  
General Conference and Council, 2007  
Durban, South Africa.



## Conference



## Announcements



"Call for Papers" for the 7th International Sudan Studies Conference. The conference is jointly organised by the University of Bergen (Norway), Sudan Studies Association (North America) (SSA), and the Sudan Studies Society of the United Kingdom (SSSUK).

The Conference is scheduled for the period 6-8 April 2006. Please visit the conference website at [www.sudan2006.org](http://www.sudan2006.org) <http://www.sudan2006.org/>

for details on conference accommodation, registration, time-line, etc.

"Fifty Years After Independence: Sudan's Quest for Peace, Stability and Identity," 7th International Sudan Studies Conference, April 6th - 8th, 2006.

University of Bergen Bergen, Norway  
Organised by: University of Bergen, SSA and SSSUK

# Vacancies

**New York University Libraries'** is currently looking for a Librarian for Africana Studies, Anthropology, and Food Studies.

Description: Subject specialist for Africana Studies, Anthropology, and Food Studies assigned to Bobst Libraries' Humanities and Social Sciences Center in the Collections and Research Services Division, NYU Libraries. Librarians are expected to serve as partners in the educational mission of NYU by establishing strong relationships with the faculty and students, building and maintaining appropriate research collections, and providing responsive and innovative information services.

Responsibilities include selecting and managing research materials in all formats, faculty liaison, providing a variety of research, consultation, reference, and instructional services to faculty and students, and participating in the Library's preservation program.

Qualifications: ALA accredited MLS and subject Master's degree required for tenure. Preference will be given to candidates with graduate course work in Africana Studies with a strong subject interest in Anthropology, and a reading knowledge of French. Previous library experience in collection development or reference is desirable.

Salary/Benefits: Faculty status and attractive benefits package, including five weeks annual vacation. Salary is commensurate with experience and background.

New York University Libraries: Library facilities at New York University serve the school's 40,000 students and faculty and contain more than 4 million volumes. New York University is a member of the Association of Research Libraries, the Research Libraries Group, the Digital Library Federation; serves as the administrative headquarters of the Research Library Association of South Manhattan, a consortium that includes three academic institutions; and is affiliated with The New-York Historical Society.

To ensure consideration, send resume and letter of application, including the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three references to Ms. Janet Koztowski, Human Resources Director, New York University Libraries, 70 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012, (fax) 212-995-4070, or e-mail: jobs@library.nyu.edu. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

**NYU ENCOURAGES APPLICATIONS FROM WOMEN AND MEMBERS OF MINORITY GROUPS.**

**University of California, Berkeley**  
Africana/Reference Librarian  
Assistant/Associate Librarian  
\$37,920 - \$64,164 per annum, based upon qualifications.

The University of California, Berkeley seeks an Africana/Reference Librarian to select and manage Africana Studies materials. The Africana/Reference Librarian serves as liaison to faculty and students researching Africana through specialized reference service and instructional programs. The Africana/Reference Librarian also contributes to general reference services for the humanities and social sciences in the Doe/Moffitt Libraries.

Internationally renowned, the Berkeley Library is the oldest and largest library in the University of California system, and a major research facility. The Library serves over 23,000 undergraduates, 9,000 graduate students, and almost 1,500 faculty. Current collections include nearly 10 million volumes and about 50,000 current serial titles. Library facilities on the Berkeley campus include the Doe/Moffitt Libraries, the Bancroft Library, the East Asian Library and fifteen additional libraries serving subject specialties. The Library is a member of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), and the Research Libraries Group (RLG). The Library is an active participant in the California Digital Library. The Library has a budget of over \$50 million, employing nearly 375 FTE and more than 600 part-time students.

The Doe/Moffitt Libraries, the primary resource for humanities, social sciences, and undergraduate services, have a collection that totals 1.8 million volumes shelved onsite in the Gardner Stacks and in the Moffitt Undergraduate Library, and 2.8 million volumes stored at a remote shelving facility. The Research, Reference, and Collections Department has 34 permanent staff, including 19 librarians, who are responsible for building the print and electronic collections for Doe and Moffitt, providing reference service, engaging in library instruction activities, and serving as liaisons to more than 58 academic departments, centers, and programs on campus.

## **Responsibilities:**

The Africana/Reference Librarian has chief responsibility as selector for Doe Library's collections and services relating to materials from Africa. Specific responsibilities include oversight and expenditure authority for funds to acquire materials in the humanities and social sciences. The Librarian provides advice and counsel for improving cooperative collecting activities with other UC, California and United States academic libraries, as well as the establishment of programs and procedures to incorporate electronic resources into the Library's Africana collections.

In addition the incumbent will promote active consultation with and provide recommendations to others in the Doe/Moffitt Libraries and UCB subject libraries concerning selection of materials about Africa.

The incumbent will contribute to the development and integration of web-based resources for collection development, library instruction, and reference services. Selection responsibilities include building the print and electronic collections together with identification of reliable resources on the Internet and developing library user guides and Web pages to facilitate user access. As a member of the reference team, the librarian contributes to the constant improvement of research services and user education, and the creation of new services.

This position falls under the general direction of the Head, Research, Reference and Collections Department. An important and integral reference position, the Africana/Reference Librarian will contribute actively to general reference in the humanities and social sciences through service at the Doe and Moffitt reference desks and scheduled consultations at Research Advisory Services.

Working in a highly collegial environment, the incumbent is expected to contribute to the Library-wide planning process through participation in function and subject councils, ad hoc task forces, and other committees as appropriate. UCB librarians are expected to participate in library-wide planning and governance, to be able to work comfortably in a shared decision-making environment, and to be active professionally. Advancement in the Librarian series is based in part on professional contributions beyond the primary assignment (e.g., active participation in university and professional settings, publications or other research and creative activity). The successful candidate will show promise or evidence of such contributions.

#### **Qualifications :**

**Required:** an MLS from an ALA-accredited institution, or equivalent degree; experience or coursework in collection development and reference service using print and electronic resources; demonstrated proficiency in using electronic and Internet resources to support humanities and social sciences research. Subject specific knowledge: familiarity with African Studies curricula and area studies research trends; familiarity with the African book trade and

bibliographic resources on Africa; working knowledge of written French.

**Desirable:** An advanced degree or an undergraduate degree with further course work in a subject field pertaining to African Studies; working knowledge of an African language (e.g., Afrikaans, Swahili, Yoruba, etc.); familiarity with other European languages (e.g., German, Portuguese); experience in general reference and library instruction; experience in grant writing and fundraising. Candidate must have excellent analytical, interpersonal, and communication skills, and show both initiative and flexibility; demonstrated ability to work effectively with a diverse population of faculty, staff, student and community members.

**DEADLINE:** Consideration will be given to applications received by July 29, 2005.

The Library at the University of California, Berkeley is committed to the support and encouragement of a multicultural environment and seeks candidates who can make positive and imaginative contributions in a context of ethnic and cultural diversity.

Librarians at UC are exclusively represented by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). This position is in the bargaining unit.

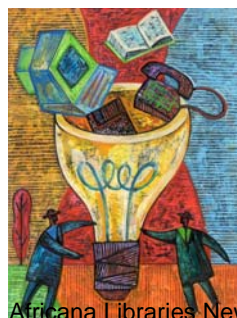
Applicants should apply in writing, including with their letter a complete statement of qualifications, a full resume of their education and relevant experience, and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of three references who are knowledgeable about their qualifications for this position.

Send applications to:  
Barbara Kornstein , Academic Personnel Specialist  
Library Human Resources Department  
110 The Library  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA 94720-6000

Or FAX to: 510-642-8675  
Or EMAIL: librec@library.berkeley.edu

**The University of California is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer.**

## **Literature on Libraries and Information Science**



***African Research & Documentation*** no. 97, 2005 includes:

Anthea Josias. "Setting up the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory and Commemoration."

Abiola Abioye. "Application of Information Technology (IT) in the Management of Court Records in the Supreme Court of Nigeria."

John Pinfold. "F.R. Statham's "Mr. Magnus": a Forgotten Novel of Cecil Rhodes."

Thomas Ofcansky and Terry Barringer. "Britons in Africa: Samuel Pasfield Oliver (30 October 1838-31 July 1907)."



## Vendor News

### **Distributor of (mostly) Nigerian films:**

<http://www.allafricanmovies.com/index.php>  
submitted by Dorothy Woodson, Yale University.

**Maggs Bros. Ltd.** has issued Catalogue 1373, "Africa Part One". 50 Berkeley Square, London, W1J 5BA, UK; Tel: +020 7493 7160; Fax: +020 7499 2007; email: [mark@maggs.com](mailto:mark@maggs.com)

### **Oriental and African Books has issued Catalogue**

Number Thirty, "Africa".  
33 Whitehal Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 5AD, England. Tel: +01743 352575; Fax: 01743 363432; email: [paul@afircana.co.uk](mailto:paul@afircana.co.uk)

**African Imprint Library Services** has recently received several shipments from Africa. For complete lists, please point your browser to : Web: [www.africanbooks.com](http://www.africanbooks.com)

The website has links to an up-to-date list of what's currently in stock, available on a first-come first-served basis.

Cameroon  
Kenya  
Namibia  
Niger  
Nigeria  
South Africa  
Zimbabwe  
What's in stock right now?

### **For more information, contact:**

Chris Boyd  
Managing Director  
African Imprint Library Services  
8122 Reynard Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
Tel.: (919) 968-9417  
Fax: (919) 932-5341  
Email: [ailscils@msn.com](mailto:ailscils@msn.com)

**Kenny's Bookshop** has a catalogue of current holdings on Sudan: A Select

List at:  
<http://search.kennys.ie/kvs-app/Pdf/SudanASelectList.pdf>  
<<http://search.kennys.ie/kvs-app/Pdf/SudanASelectList.pdf>>

To view 200,000 + academic and antiquarian books on similar subjects please refer to [www.kennys.ie](http://www.kennys.ie) <<http://www.kennys.ie/>>

This website enables you to create catalogues specific to your subject interests.

Please advise your areas of interest and we will forward relevant catalogues.

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<<mailto:weborders@kennys.ie>>

You can now shop online at <http://www.kennys.ie>  
<<http://www.kennys.ie/>>

### **La Librairie Africaine SOUMBALA**

offers books dedicated to Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahara. Titles can be viewed at: <http://www.soumbala.com>

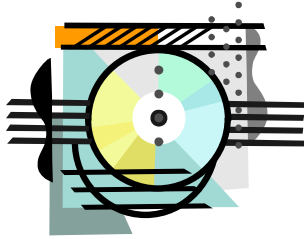
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Fax: 04 67 59 85 91

**Kenya Books** (academic and antiquarian bookseller located in Brighton, England) has approx. 6,000 out-of-print books on Africa listed on-line at [abebooks.com/home/kenyabooks](http://abebooks.com/home/kenyabooks), with browsable sub-catalogues on African Languages & Linguistics, Africa General, Travels & Exploration, Central Africa, German East Africa, Indian Ocean, KENYA 1 (Authors A-K), KENYA 2 (Authors L-Z), North Africa, North East Africa, Southern Africa, Tanganyika/Tanzania, Uganda, West Africa, & Zanzibar.

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## Pursuing Nigerian Video Films

By Lauris Olson

WorldCat reports that ninety libraries hold a copy of the California Newsreel video, Thunderbolt, a Nigerian

drama directed by Tunde Kelani. From the rest of the large body of work of this “reluctant elder statesman of Nigerian cinema” (Trenton Daniel, *Transition 95*, 2005), only single copies of two fiction features and two copies of a documentary appear in WorldCat.

The Nigerian home video industry – from all accounts, a decentralized collection of producers dominated by distributors and the national censors board – is claimed to be the third largest global entertainment industry after

Hollywood and Bollywood. The Nigerian industry is a straight-to-video shop. From Ken Nnebue’s early video hit features a dozen years ago, *Aje Ni Iya Mi* (in Yoruba, c. 1990-1993), *Living in Bondage* (in Igbo, 1992), and *Glamour Girls* (in English, 1994), Nollywood is now estimated to release more than 400 videos each year, comparable to US film output.

Nigerian videos get no respect. FESPACO ignored them for years. Until this spring – when AFI Silver ran a series, followed by this summer’s Nollywood Rising conference – the African Film Festival/NY served as the only Nigerian video exhibitor in the US, starting in 2001. The 1997 collection, *Nigerian Home Videos*, edited by Jonathan Haynes (expanded in a 2000 edition), remains the principal scholarly work, accompanied by a small and slowly growing body of journal articles. In recent years, an industry magazine has organized the THEMA Awards, an Abuja International Film Festival has issued at least one cycle of awards, and the (London) Afro-Hollywood Awards have been recognizing Nigerian videos for almost a decade.

Looking beyond Thunderbolt, I compiled a list of about 100 video titles, working from the Haynes collection and other readings. This approach gives students videos with some scholarly apparatus. For example, John McCall presents an ethnographic interview with a viewer of *Blood Money 1/2* (*Africa Today* 49, 2002). Searching this list within the inventories of seven online US Nollywood vendors – African Online Shop, <http://www.over2u.com> Klub Afrik, or <http://www.klubafrik.com> (rental and purchase).

JJJ Niger Movies, <http://www.jjnnigermovies.com>

Nigerian-movies.com,  
<http://www.nigeriamovies.net> (recently changed from ....com)

AfricaMovies.com, <http://africamovies.com>

AllAfrican Movies.com,  
<http://allafricanmovies.com>

Izogn Movies, <http://www.izognmovies.com>  
(rental only)

[An Alcasalist reader also recommended Sesan Dipeolu in Lagos]

– has been frustrating, with only 26 titles located and only a handful in stock. But some general tendencies have emerged.

Nollywood doesn’t look back. Videos older than a couple years are scarce, and videos produced before 2000 are now almost all unavailable. Klub Afrik offers an “Old Time Favourites” list, with several titles from 2002! This is too bad, as the published scholarship mostly examines videos from the 1990s. The African Online Shop advertises a collection of twelve classic videos, the Celebration series, as separate titles. Several of these videos – *Living in Bondage 1/2*, *Violated 1/2*, *Domitilla*, *Onome 1/2*, *Thunderbolt* – are discussed in published scholarship.

Nollywood has gone digital. Northwestern’s 173-page *Africana Video Catalog* lists more than 1100 videos (most, of course, not Nigerian video films), only six being DVDs. Today’s typical online vendor product is a VCD or, less often, a DVD. If the vendor doesn’t indicate the format, you can sometimes spot the “VCD” logo on the thumbnail cover image on the vendor’s web pages.

There’s little need to worry about formats, though. The VCD format presents an image more lossy than a VHS tape, but VCDs can be viewed with DVD players and typical desktop multimedia viewer software on computers with DVD drives. It seems that a VCD holds about 60 minutes of film, so be prepared for more than one disc per title. For DVDs, most vendors do not indicate region restrictions – Region 5 for Nigeria, Region 1 for US, or Region 0 (region-free). Most libraries with large DVD

collections have multi-region DVD players, so not knowing the format of a video shouldn't cause a problem.

Video film language is a secondary consideration. Most vendors group their videos in the same categories: Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa (less often), Pidgin (very rare), and a variety of genres including Christian. No vendor consistently indicates English subtitling and no vendor bothers to indicate the language of genre videos. In videos I've seen, actors switch into English for status or role purposes, so perhaps vendors can be forgiven their obscurantism.

Sequels are very common. Although some sequels are multi-parters (Living in Bondage 1/2, Ti Oluwa Ni Ile 1/3) or serials (Issakaba 1/4), most appear to be "Son of ..." knockoffs (Osuofia in London 1/2). A vendor's brief blurb may be accurate, but you may end up looking for Klub Afrika buyer comments or fan chat in Naija web sites.

Western film scholarship stresses the auteur filmmaker but vendors try to sell movies. Where the scholarly literature discusses a video director or producer – Tunde Kelani for Mainframe, Amaka Igwe for Moving Movies – vendors advertise stars such as Nkem Owoh, Liz Benson, or Richard Mofe-Damijo (usually called "RMD"). Klub Afrik's catalog presents personnel information most clearly.

"Caveat emptor" is a guideline and consolation when pursuing Nigerian video films, and we can all benefit from sharing our knowledge in collection building. Please pass on your thoughts, experiences, and recommendations through the ALN and Alcasalist.

Lauris Olson, University of Pennsylvania Library.  
olson@pobox.upenn.edu



Abdalla Uba Adamu, Yusuf, M. Adamu, and Umar Faruk Jibril (eds.). *Hausa Home Videos: Technology, Economy and Society*. Kano: Center for Hausa Cultural Studies, 204.

## New Books Noted

Roger S. Gocking, *The History of Ghana*. Westport, CDT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2005.

Mbaku, John Mukum, *Culture and Customs of Cameroon*. Greenwood Publishing Group, 2005.

## Awards

### Caine Prize for African Writing

The 2005 Caine Prize shortlist, announced by the Chairman of the Judges, Baroness Lola Young, is: S. A. Afolabi (Nigeria), for "Monday Morning," from *Wasafiri*, issue 41, spring 2004.

Doreen Baingana (Uganda), for "Tropical Fish," from *African American Review*, volume 37, number 4, 2003 (shortlisted two years in a row).

Jamal Mahjoub (Sudan), for "The Obituary Tango," from *Wasafiri*, issue 42, summer 2004.

Muthal Naidoo (South Africa), for "Jailbirds," from *Botsotso*, Botsotso Publishing, 2004.

Ike Okonta (Nigeria), for "Tindi in the Land of the Dead," from *Humanitas*.

George Bell Institute, Queen's College, Birmingham, volume 2, number 1, October 2000.

The winner will be announced on 4th July.

For more details see [www.africacentre.org.uk/caine-prize-2005.htm](http://www.africacentre.org.uk/caine-prize-2005.htm).

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*In this issue of*  
***Africana Libraries***  
***Newsletter***

*No. 117 (July 2005):*

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- **RSS - News feeds and African Studies**
- **Vendor News**
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