May 2, 2002 Notes - Title VI Librarians

Title VI Librarians
May 2, 2002; 3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
University of Albany University Libraries; Science Library.

Present: Karen Fung, Stanford U.; Ruby Bell-Gam, UCLA; Phyllis Bischof, UC Berkeley [recorder]; James Simon, CRL; Peter Malanchuk, U. of Florida; Joe Caruso, Columbia U.; Corinne Nyquist, SUNY New Paltz; Loumona Petroff, Boston U.; David Westley, Boston U.; Gretchen Walsh, Boston U.; Joanne Zellers, African Section, LC; Moore Crosse, Yale U. (retired); Margaret W. Hughes, Stanford U.; Dorothy C. Woodson, Yale U.; Miki Goral, UCLA; Akilah Nosakhere, Georgia State U.; Natalia Taylor, Georgia State U.; Jill Coelho, Harvard U.; Peter Limb, Michigan State U.; Joe Lauer, Michigan State U.

Absent because of plane delays: Peter Limb, Michigan State U.; Joe Lauer, Michigan State U.

Coordinator Marion Frank-Wilson called for introductions, and those attending introduced themselves.

1. M. Frank-Wilson reported on the Area Studies

Directors' meeting in Washington DC on April 18th. Although library issues were not formally on this agenda, she sent along a report summarizing our activities. The reaction received was a query as to whether more money would be desirable for cooperative projects. MFW mentioned a potential figure of $2,000 per institution, a higher figure than the present $1500, which IU's director thought might be approved if we were to request it.

2. Title VI common language for next proposal.

L. Olson raised a question regarding the level of specificity in this formulation. He suggests phrasing in broader terms in order to give more scope or freedom because too-specific goals can be negative in being too restrictive. MFW will send out a draft soon incorporating this idea.

3. Dissertations Project

Under this project various Title VI libraries took up specific countries-- often institutions in countries with which they had some kind of other institutional tie.

J. Zellers asked about the current status of DATAD from which Liz Levey has left to take other employment. Although it was set up to be an index to dissertations, DATAD was originally conceived as an African answer to UMI. It was hoped that American libraries would pay handsomely to acquire an index to dissertations even though we had little hope of acquiring
these materials because of the reluctance of African institutions to sell dissertations. Issues of copyright have been the most common problem.

The University of Illinois has received dissertations from Mozambique, and is currently acquiring dissertations successfully from Morocco (the first 28 have arrived); Joe Lauer was successful in Michigan State University's continued effort to acquire dissertations from the University of Zimbabwe. The University of Florida has not been able to acquire any to date. Yale buys South African theses from Proquest on relevant topics.

An action we might take would be to lobby UMI to try to include more African countries.

J. Zellers reported that in 1989 and 1995 CAMES, the Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l'Enseignement Superier, an organization in Ouagadougou, collected dissertations from all over French speaking West Africa. A number of universities sent copies of their theses to CAMES over the past 15 to 30 years, and CAMES was interested in filming them. R. Bell-Gam suggested that filming this collection might be explored as a possible CAMP project.

4. Update on Senegal project

Joe Caruso distributed two draft reports for CAMP: one on 'Lessons learned from Senegal' and other on the 'Archives Task Force' (ideas about future projects). Under the current circumstances, the project, Serie 10D, will probably be delayed six months, or a completion date of May 2003, instead of December 2002. The main reason is lack of staff; at the National Archives of Senegal, the senior film technician and his supervisor who were well trained, with many years of experience, and who participated in the Title VI/CAMP training of July 1999, have retired. A third film technician (who had participated in our training and who also attended a 6-week training course in France in the spring of 2001) is the only person currently working in the microfilm lab. Joe met briefly with Saliou Mbaye (Director of the National Archives of Senegal) on May 1st in New York City.

In sum: completion of the current project will be delayed and the subsequent project of 11D still has no funding; monies will need to be raised to continue the D series. The estimated cost to film 11D is $120,000. Detailed information concerning this is available on the website. Another option will be discussed in depth at the CAMP meeting. In brief, Dr. Mbaye has suggested that he could speed up the process of Section 10D by hiring back the retired senior technician on a part-time basis at a cost of up to $4,000. Joe remains concerned about the time gap between work accomplished on projects in terms of its impact on the quality of filming. However, it so happens that the French government is currently funding another small microfilming project, the filming of Serie H, a collection of records from colonial French West Africa, which has taken precedence with the Archives. In the proposal or plans for 11D, a training component is strongly recommended. In other words, we should think about planning to pay for a Senegalese technician to attend training classes in the USA and of encouraging the expansion of the preservation staff at the archives.