May 4, 2006 Notes: Title VI Librarians
Africana Librarians Council - Thursday May 4th, 2006 Boston University

TITLE VI Meeting -Summary

Attendance: A. Batoma (U Illinois), R. Bell-Gam (UCLA), M. Frank-Wilson (Indiana U), K. Fung (Stanford U), M. Goral (UCLA), A. Kagan (U Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), E. Kale (Northwestern U), B. Irele (Harvard U), P. Kuntz (Madison Wisconsin), D. LaFond (U Albany), J. Lauer (Michigan State U), P. Limb (Michigan State U), P. Malanchuk (U Florida), L. Mbabu (Ohio U), E. Miner (U Iowa), P. Ogedengbe (Northwestern U), L. Olson (U Pennsylvania), L. Page (LC), L. Petroff (Boston U), B. Restrick (Boston U), C. Riley (Yale U), J. Schultz (Georgia State U), G. Walsh (Boston U), D. Westley (Boston U).

Guests: Cristina Horta, Mozambican Ministry of Health Reference Center
James Pritchett, Director of the African Studies Center, Boston University

1. Greetings and Introductions:

Dr. James Pritchett, Director of the African Studies Center at Boston University, welcomed ALC members on behalf of Boston University.

2. Title VI news; FLAS Awards

Marion Frank-Wilson, Chair, reported that, while FLAS awards have been announced, news about Title VI/NRC awards have not yet been received. Dr. Pritchett announced that he learned at the National Outreach Conference in late April that awards may be announced as late as mid-to late June. Several Title VI librarians reported the number of FLAS awards received by their centers: Ohio University received FLAS awards, Boston University received 7 annual awards, U Illinois received 15 awards, U Florida received 12, Indiana University, Bloomington received 12 awards (+6 summer awards), UC-Berkeley received 5 academic year and 3 summer FLAS awards, and Stanford U. received 4 academic year and 3 summer FLAS awards, Michigan State U. received awards. Joe Caruso (Columbia U) could not attend the meeting but reported later that Columbia has received 10 awards. Olson had no information about U of Pennsylvania yet.

L. Olson raised the question of Title VI librarians' cooperative funds and who should benefit from them. While in the throes of putting an ASA panel with non-ASA participants together, he asked whether the group considered it appropriate to use Title VI funds to bring scholars from Africa to the ASA meeting, or to pay for their registration fees. He pointed out that the Title VI librarians' Common language section for cooperative projects is vague, and that the group had decided to leave it vague on purpose, to allow for flexibility.

Several members suggested that it would be appropriate to pay the registration fees of participants from Africa if their participation is linked to a particular ongoing project. For
example, if funded, the person might attend ASA while also receiving project-related training, or to further collaborate on ALC projects. One person commented that panels can be regarded as a way to start important partnerships. Some ALC members expressed a preference for a tangible use of cooperative funds, such as supporting an archival project. As an example, Bell-Gam pointed to the Liberian documents project where funds for travel were approved for a trip that contributed towards the project's implementation. This was a tangible use of funds that could be shown to Title VI center directors. While several Title VI Librarians thought that contributing to conference participation could be an appropriate use of funds, they suggested that perhaps a broader discussion of priorities and common language should occur.

Several suggestions and comments ensued from this discussion:

- Need for an addition to the ALC Website to include collaborative projects on an ongoing basis.
- Suggestion of a panel on cooperative activities as part of ALC or ASA.
- Bell-Gam suggested that the technician at the Senegalese Archive project has requested a refresher visit to look at how Archival Preservation is done in the U.S.
- D. Easterbrook pointed out that Northwestern, although not a Title VI institution, contributed funds towards collaborative projects which come out of the Herskovits Library's collection budget. He stated that Northwestern's contribution could therefore not be used to fund non-collection projects.

3. Other Title VI matters

Frank-Wilson asked whether there were any efforts (in progress or planned) to obtain African dissertations. The consensus was that this is less vital as a cooperative activity now, since an increasing number of e-dissertations are becoming available. Mbabu pointed out that DATAD would be the most comprehensive database of Africana full-text dissertations if the copyright problem could be addressed and solved. Another question concerned CRL, and its role in relation to DATAD. James Simon (CRL) did not attend the meeting and could therefore not address the question at this time. As an example for electronic access to dissertations, M. Frank-Wilson reported that IU Libraries are developing a partnership project with Moi University Libraries in Kenya and hope to share dissertations through the two institutional repositories, in an open access environment. Lauris Olson and Peter Limb reported subscriptions to Kwetu-Net.

4. Report on microfilming of the President Tubman papers

Dr. Verlon Stone, coordinator of the Liberian Collections Project, was unable to attend the meeting. He sent greetings and a report which was summarized by M. Frank-Wilson and subsequently mounted on the Title VI librarians' website at http://www.indiana.edu/~libsalc/african/Cooperative%20Projects.html

Dr. Stone reported that the conservation work of the President Tubman papers was completed on March 8, 2006, yielding 43 document center boxes of clean, stable, flattened papers. An
archivist began work on December 1, 2005 and reported that by May 1, 2006, 58% of the collection had been sorted into folder title groups. Once the arranging of the papers is complete, microfilming will begin and is anticipated to be completed by December 31, 2006.

Work on two other collections, which were also shipped to IU from Liberia, and which received Title VI cooperative funding (see meeting summary of November 2005 meeting), the Reginald Townsend & Evelyn Diggs Townsend Papers, and the Bai T. Moore Collection, are also in process. In March 2006, work was completed on the Townsend papers (only 7 boxes). By May 1, 2006, an estimated 30% of the Bai T. Moore papers had been processed, expected to be completed by the beginning of August.