Africana Librarians Meeting in Albany, NY

ALC members met for their annual spring meeting at SUNY-Albany, NY, from May 2-4. For 2 days, the librarians met in the beautiful Patricia and J. Spencer Standish Board Room of the Science Library to discuss various cooperative projects. In the evenings, they were treated to a variety of lectures and entertainment programs, including Penelope Andrews, a South African lawyer and former member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, who presented a lecture on human rights in South Africa; a presentation on music and censorship in Zimbabwe by musician and author Banning Eyre; and, last but not least, a Dance Benefit with Zimbabwean music, the proceeds of which went towards funding grassroots AIDS projects in Africa.

Many thanks to University Libraries Dean and Director Meredith Butler, Deborah LaFond (Social Sciences bibliographer at SUNY-Albany), and the many staff members at the SUNY-Albany library who made the ALC members feel welcomed and who worked so hard for this wonderful meeting.

Please look for minutes and reports from the Albany meeting in future issues of ALN.

The Africana Librarians Council extends its heartfelt thanks to Jill Young Coelho (Widener Library, Harvard University), who chaired the ALC during the year 2001, for all the work she has done on behalf of the ALC and its members.

The chair for the year 2002 is Greg Finnegan (Tozzer Library, Harvard University).

Sadly, the weekend after the spring meeting, we all learned of the passing of Dan Britz, Africana bibliographer at Northwestern University. Dan has been an active ALC and CAMP member for many years, and his expertise and leadership will be greatly missed. The Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies and the African Studies Program at Northwestern University hosted a memorial gathering in Dan’s honor on June 4th. Remarks from David Easterbrook, (George and Mary LeCron Foster Curator at the Melville J. Herskovits Library) expressed at the memorial gathering, as well as a statement by current ALC Chair Greg Finnegan (Tozzer Library, Harvard University) which was read at the gathering, are printed in this newsletter.

Due to space limitations, there are no vendor news and no list of selected new books in this issue of ALN. There will be slightly longer sections for both categories in the August/September issue.

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Table of Contents

ALC Minutes ........................................2
News from CAMP ....................................6
Calendar of Future Meetings .......................7
Conferences ........................................7
News ..................................................7
Penn State U. seeks Social Science Librarian ..................................................9

Literature on Library and Information Services ..................................10
Call for Applications for ASA-funded book donations ..........................12
Memories of Dan Britz ................................13
MINUTES

ALC Business Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, November 15, 2001
9:15 AM-12:00 PM
Houston, TX


Present: Walter Bgoya (Mkuki na Nyota Publishers, Dar es Salaam), Phyllis Bischof (UC Berkeley), Helene Baumann (Duke), Julianne Beall (LC), Ruby Bell-Gam (UCLA), Simon Bockie (UC Berkeley), Jill Coelho (Harvard), Jan Dauner, Geraldine Johnson, Andrew De Heer, David Easterbrook (Northwestern), Gregory Finnegan (Harvard), Marion Frank-Wilson (Indiana U.), Karen Fung (Stanford), James Gentner (LC), Miki Goral (UCLA), David Henig (U. of Wisconsin-Madison), Margaret Hughes (Stanford), Mary Jay (African Books Collective), Al Kagan (U. of Illinois), Joe Lauer (Michigan State), Robert Lesh (Northwestern), Peter Limb (Michigan State), Ken Lohrentz (U. of Kansas), Laverne Page (LC), Peter Malanchuk (U. of Florida), Loyd Nbabu (Ohio U.), Emily Ngo-Nguidjo (U. of Wisconsin-Madison), Afeworki Paulos (U. of Michigan), Loumona Petroff (Boston U.), Lauris Olson (U. of Pennsylvania), Oleg Semikhnenko (Hogarth), Shoshanah Seidman (Northwestern), James Simon (Center for Research Libraries), Paul Steere (LC Nairobi), Natalie Taylor (Georgia State), Dorothy Woodson (Yale).

Chair Jill Coelho called the meeting to order at 9:15 and welcomed new members. She reminded the group that the Africana Librarians Council is a constituent member of the African Studies Association and its earliest member committee. She asked new members to mention their email addresses on the sign-in sheet to indicate that they wanted to be added to the ALC listserv. Jill asked the members to introduce themselves and introduced Greg Finnegan, who will take over as ALC chair following the business meeting, and Bob Lesh, the recorder.

Agenda changes were announced (item no. 2). No. 7 (ALC website) is removed from the agenda, and in no. 9, items a and b (reports from the Cataloging Committee and the Bibliography Committee) are moved to the end of that list. In addition, Gretchen Walsh’s written report on cooperation will be added to the agenda as other business. Members leaving the ALC board include Dorothy Woodson and Ruby Bell-Gam. Jill C. expressed thanks to them for their service. There are three candidates to fill these two vacant positions on the board as members at large, serving until 2003: Lauris Olson, Andrew De Heer, and Afeworki Paulos. Candidates for chair elect/deputy chair are: Al Kagan (present), Dan Reboussin (absent), and Andrew De Heer (absent). The winner will serve as deputy chair until November, 2002, and as chair until November, 2003. Other nominations were invited. The ballots were passed out, and voting took place (item no. 4). Get-well cards were circulated for two members.

Peter Malanchuk presented his report on the ASA Publications Committee and conference papers (item no. 5). ASA has signed on with Project MUSE to present two of its journals online, and Peter M. will aid in this effort. He is helping to push for the ASA publications and will serve as liaison. ASA is interested in deriving as much revenue as possible from the publications and is very happy with the prospect of an online publication. It is very likely to occur, but Peter M. is not sure what revenue will be derived from this move. We could recommend the top ten Africana journals for online availability as well. Peter M. asserted that the Journal of African History must be improved. Peter M. will continue negotiations with African journals to proceed with Project MUSE.

Michigan State University is in a position to represent these journals, and there is an interest in having online access for both current and back issues. Questions were raised about terms and arrangements for JSTOR, and Afeworki Paulos offered to check with the JSTOR about this.
would be a logistics problem in sending over 500 email messages. Phyllis raised the issue of newly restricted access to Presidential papers, but Miki G. felt that this was another issue entirely. The membership approved the statement by vote, and the document will be referred to the ALC business meeting for action. Vendor reports are included in the agenda at this point (following item no. 6).

David Hogarth announced his semi-retirement and introduced his associate, Oleg Semkhimenko, who will be handling many of the day-to-day operations of the business. Nigeria will continue to be covered by an associated Nigerian vendor, and Oleg S. will assume responsibility for the remainder of Africa. An information sheet was distributed detailing this information. No new catalogs will be issued at present, but website catalogs are available, as well as specialized catalogs. The website was designed so as to avoid interfering with existing approval and blanket order plans. If orders are placed through the website, there will be no risk of duplication with existing order plans. David H. discussed the design of the website and the modalities of ordering titles through it.

MEABOOKS (Middle Eastern/Asian Books) has broadened its scope to include Africa. It is possible that books listed on its website are not included in blanket/approval deliveries.

Mary Jay of the African Books Collective asked the members to refer individual issues with book orders to the ALC vendor stand. ALC carries titles from 61 publishers but does not necessarily stock the publisher’s entire list. ALC is owned by the publishers and is their official means of distributing books. The entire list of some publishers is given; with others there is a selection of their list. ALC is happy to entertain feedback. The ABC website has been re-established and features full online ordering capacities. The website has given rise to a huge rise in demand for materials. ABC is classed as a non-governmental organization and is funded by a bank of international donors. One of the donors commissioned an evaluation of the operation, which is complete. Following consultations and a consultancy report on the North American market, a draft five-year plan has been prepared for 2002 onwards.

Meetings on the plan have taken place with donor organizations, and it is hoped to finalize the plan shortly.

Henrietta Dax reported that Clarke’s has 2,200 titles available in three catalogs, which were currently in a Delta baggage search limbo. The members were asked to retrieve copies of the catalogs at the Clarke’s stand when they are available.

Thorold’s has nothing special to report, aside from travel problems, and sends greetings to all.

Concerning future meetings (item no. 8), Deborah LaFond has invited us to Albany for the spring 2002 meeting. The May 1-4 meeting will be hosted by the SUNY-Albany State Africana Studies Dept. The events will include a talk on AIDS and a cruise on the Hudson, possibly even a cruise meeting. Deborah mentioned the options of meeting on campus with transportation or at the hotel. The campus meeting site was preferred by the membership. Deborah took the count of members who plan to attend and asked them to refer to her any special needs. The hotel site mentioned is the Best Western closest to campus. Arrival is advised for May 1, with meetings taking place on May 2-3.

As for the spring 2003 meeting, Afeworki Paulos offered the University of Michigan, and Dorothy Woodson offered Yale as possible meeting sites. Since the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana has been suggested as a meeting place, Al Kagan said that he could look into it.

Committee, task force and liaison reports follow (item no. 9). Deborah LaFond met with the Book Donation Committee, where funds were recommended for various locations in Africa. The ASA Development Committee is making an effort to create an endowment to support these donations, and there is a move to gather up personal collections of scholars to send abroad, emphasizing the partnership aspect of the undertaking. At present, $3,000 has been allocated for purposes of book donations. An increase in funding was denied last year. David Easterbrook mentioned that the Carnegie Endowment has funding to support donations to English-speaking countries. Joe Caruso noted that the ASA Development Committee likes the idea of establishing special endowed funds in individuals’ names for book donation.

Greg F., Jill C., and Ruby B.-G. are on the Conover-Porter Committee, and they are calling for nominations of bibliographies and other reference works for this award. Ken Lohrentz encouraged members to submit nominations even with insufficient information. Supporting information, such as reviews, can be added subsequently. Marion F.-W. stated that the new ALC newsletter was out. An effort will be made to clean up the mailing list, including the mailing of a card to addressees to find out if they preferred the online version of the newsletter or continued mailings of the print version. Joe C. led the members in giving thanks to Marion for her editorship of the newsletter.

Karen F. mentioned that occasional problems of bounced email occur on the ALC listserv when the member makes a mailing from a different email address. Jill C. expressed the members’ thanks for all of Karen’s work on the listserv.

Raising the issue of ABPR bibliography submissions, Jill C. said that suggestions of new reference titles are welcome.

Reporting on the Cataloging Committee, Joe L. said that the catalogers offered many suggestions for the upcoming Dewey 22 schedules. Joe ran through problems, procedures, and activities of the Africana cataloging at various institutions were received.

Concerning the Bibliography Committee, Ken L. reported that no further meeting was planned for the Conover-Porter Committee until additional nominations are received. The members were also raised. Concern was expressed about newly restricted access to government information, resulting in a resolution on freedom of information. There was additional discussion about the collection and distribution of website information.

Jill C. presented Gretchen Walsh’s report entitled Opportunities and Challenges in Africana Library Service: a Framework for Cooperation and Development at: http://people.bu.edu/ralvans/archpop.html. This draft was presented for discussion and approval by the membership. It was agreed to include cooperative projects in the text. Much information in Africa remains loosely controlled, and this requires greater emphasis in the report. AFRINUL also requires more emphasis. The updated report will appear on the web, but the membership present in the room was not able to approve the revised document. A call was made for approval, and Phyllis asked for the approval of the updated draft. Peter L. pointed to the value of the document but mentioned the need to correct some repetition of information. There is a need to update this document and to provide an additional document to complement it. There is a need to look at the challenges of Africana librarianship, and further ideas were encouraged. Joe L. cited a need to come to grips with the challenges of Africana librarianship. Greg F. mentioned other elaborations, such as using the ALC website for discussion, whereas there are resources to encourage to add new points of view. Joe C. said that the document could be entitled a “discussion document” or a “working document”, and it could be posted as revised on the website, and this suggestion was approved by the membership. Following discussion and editing, the document will be presented to the Title VI directors.

Beginning the Library of Congress reports (item no. 10), Laverne Page related Beverly Gray’s regards and mentioned that Joanne Zellers was recovering from surgery. There was much activity on digitization and on online reference services. The publication Online News relates to this. In the African Section, the ANED homepage has been very active, and Joanne Z. has been involved in this. The CDRS initiative is being actively worked on at the LC Africa Section. Involved with this is much scholarly outreach, lectures and many exhibits, including the ongoing World Treasures exhibit. The publication World of Books includes reviews of books relevant to Africana. Joanne Z. recently hosted a seminar on Malagasy traditions. Recent acquisitions include a nineteenth century inscribed Islamic flag. Recent publications include an illustrated guide in three volumes. Mention was made of the Children’s African Book Award. There is a concern about security at the Library of Congress reading room after the recent week-long closing of LC due to an anthrax scare. Jim Armstrong, field director of the LC Islamabad office, will replace Valery Mwalilino as head of Africana Acquisitions on an interim basis while the vacancy is advertised.

Continuing the LC reports, Paul Steree, field director of the Nairobi office, who has been in place for one year, reported a smooth transition. The
Nairobi staff is continuing its good work, with an increase of 13% in monographic acquisitions and a decline of 13.4% percent in serials acquisitions due to an unfortunate decrease in serials titles. Productivity on cataloging has increased 22% over the previous year, eliminating the backlog. Paul S. mentioned that he could give further information about individual monographs. The Nairobi office completed 14 acquisition trips to various countries, which involved the collection of 140 kilograms of materials shipped. Paul S. himself has personally made three acquisition trips. Phyllis B. asked about the Index of Southern and Eastern African Periodicals issued by the Nairobi office. Due to software and server problems, there is a delay in issuing this publication. The Index will be mounted on the LC website, following corrections. Most of the website use is coming from the U.S. Lauris O. brought up the subject of videotape products coming out of Nairobi. Due to a lack of proper video templates in Nairobi, there is a backlog of around 100 videos. At K. queried about the West Africa operations. Since the Nairobi staff visits the region sporadically, due to problems of travel connections within Africa, the acquisition of West African material has been on a feast or famine basis. Mary Jay questioned Paul S. about the acquisition of books from African publishers with established distribution channels (such as African Books Collective). The purpose of the LC Nairobi office is to provide titles without distribution channels, not to compete with established distribution networks. The LC Nairobi office is established primarily to serve the needs of the Library of Congress, and it also serves a small number of other institutions, 12-14 in number. Phyllis B. again raised the issue of the quarterly Periodical Index. She wondered how the ALC group could help in this effort, perhaps with a letter of support and concern. LC’s Judy McDermott expressed understanding for the importance of the Index. It is temporarily offline while operations are transferred from Nairobi to the States for website display. Ruby B.-G. touched upon the subject of participant programs. She does not see any duplication of services in the distribution of materials by LC Nairobi. James Gentner reported that Valerie M. went on to another job at the Library of Congress, and LC human resources has not yet filled her position. The position will be posted soon, and it will be open to all applicants. The cataloging of newspapers is performed at the LC Nairobi office, a new Voyager user, and there are records in the database for all items acquired, approximately 1,000 newspaper records. There has been no report of any anthrax threat related to the LC Nairobi office. LC Nairobi does not route mailings through the affected Brentwood postal facility. Likewise, there is no indication of anthrax contamination related to the New Delhi office. Due to the disruption of mail deliveries, participants’ payments have for the most part not been received by LC. Members should contact James G. and their own payments offices to ensure payments. There is the possibility of having one single office for all programs. There are also problems of vendor contact with LC during the anthrax scare. Joe C. mentioned the possibility of having one single office for all programs. He suggested: Representation of Africa in GIS Data for next year. Lauris F. said that ALC is entitled to two panels. He suggested: Representation of Africa in GIS Data for next year. Lauris asked how ALC could raise the money for travel and registration fees for the invitees.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

ALC Bibliography Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Houston, TX

Present: Jim Armstrong (LC), Helene Baumann (Duke U), Juliane Beall (LC), Ruby Bell-Gam (UCLA), Phyllis Bischof (UC Berkeley), Simon Bockie (UC Berkeley), Jill Coelho (Harvard), David Easterbrook (Northwestern), Greg Finnegan (Harvard), Karen Fung (Stanford), James Gentner (LC), Miki Goral (UCLA), David Hogarth (Hogarth Representation), Margaret Hughes (Stanford), Al Kagan (U of Illinois), Deborah LaFond (SUNY Albany), Joe Lauer (Michigan State U), Bob Lesh (Northwestern U), Peter Limb (Michigan State U), Ken Lohrentz (U of Kansas), Peter Malanchuk (U of Florida), Wonki Nam (Ohio State U), Lauris Olson (U of Pennsylvania), Laverne Page (LC), Alewko Paulos (U of Michigan), Loumouna Petroff (Boston U), Shoshanah Seidman (Northwestern), Oleg Semikhenko (MEABOOKS), James T. Simon (CRL), Paul Steere (LC Nairobi), David Westley (Boston U), Marion Frank-Wilson (Indiana U), Dorothy Woodson (Yale)

1. Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm.

2. The minutes from the Spring, 2001 meeting in Bloomington were approved as corrected.

3. Conover-Porter Award. The deadline for submission of nominated titles (published in 1999, 2000 or 2001) is in two months. A list of titles published during this time period including titles listed in African Book Publishing Record will be distributed by Lohrentz. Sibyl Moses suggested (via email) that the criteria for evaluating nominations be on the ALC website. No decision was reached and the discussion will continue on email. Woodson suggested adding the phrase “reference work in any format” to the Conover-Porter Award call.

4. Outreach. Olson was asked to prepare an outreach program for community college librarians as part of the Penn Title VI program. There was discussion concerning how others contribute to outreach programs on their respective campuses.

5. Library of Congress’ Collaborative Digital Reference Service (CDRS). Discussion of if/how ALC members participate in CDRS.
6. U.S. government information on the Internet. Since 9/11, some government Web sites have been revised or closed. There are serious implications for the availability of information for libraries and researchers. Lohrentz expressed concern about the covert manner in which federal agency personnel are making decisions about information access to the public, apparently without accountability or public announcement. He cited the danger of an entire source, such as the DOE “Information Bridge,” being taken down when only a small percentage of the information may actually be sensitive, thus affecting information access in other unaffected areas, including Africana sources. Goral, Kagan, LaFond, Lohrentz will draft a resolution to be presented to the ALC business meeting and then to the ASA Board. (See appended text of resolution.)

7. Website preservation. Lauer raised the issue of whether libraries print out PDF files and catalog them. This opened a discussion on the preservation/archiving of websites. No resolution.

8. David Hogarth reported on changes in his business and introduced Oleg Semikhnenko, who will handle Francophone countries and has created a website to replace Hogarth’s catalogs http://www.meabooks.com.


10. Bischof suggested that the Bibliography Committee send a letter to the Center for Research Libraries supporting the cataloging of the African and other foreign dissertations in their collection.

11. Malanchuk spoke about several issues to be discussed at the ASA Publications Committee - having ASA journals included in online services such as JSTOR or Project Muse and the ongoing problem of collecting copies of papers presented at the annual ASA conference.

12. Coelho asked for more participants and suggestions for reference books to be included in the ABPR.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm. Respectfully submitted.

Miki Goral

RESOLUTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Approved by the Africana Librarians Council and presented by the Council for consideration at the Business Meeting of the African Studies Association, November 14, 2001

Whereas, due to the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001, the United States Government, without notice, has restricted access to previously available public information; and Whereas this includes information important for the study of global issues, including the study of Africa; Therefore be it resolved that the African Studies Association urges all U.S. Government agencies to restore access to all information available to the public prior to September 11th; and Be it further resolved that this resolution be sent to President George W. Bush and members of the Cabinet.

ALC Cataloging Committee Meeting Minutes

Albany, NY, SUNY Science Library
Friday, May 3, 2002: 9:00-10:30am

Abbreviated Minutes (draft of June 13, 2002)

Present: Ruby Bell-Gam (Univ. of California, Los Angeles), Joseph Caruso (Columbia Univ.), Andrew de Heer (Schomburg Center), Gregory Finnegan (Harvard Univ.), Karen Fung (Stanford Univ.), James Gentner (Library of Congress), Miki Goral (Univ. of California, Los Angeles), Margaret Hughes (Stanford Univ.), Alfred Kagan (Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Patricia Kurtz (Edgewood Coll.), Joseph Lauer (Michigan State Univ.), Robert Lesh (Northwestern Univ.), Peter Limb (Michigan State Univ.), Lauris Olson (Univ. of Pennsylvania), Afeworki Paulus (Univ. of Michigan), Loumona Petroff (Boston Univ.), Gretchen Walsh (Boston Univ.), Joanne Zellers (Library of Congress).

The Spring 2002 Funnel report, which will be posted on ALC website. (A draft is already on web at: http://www.lib.msu.edu/lauer/)

A total of 26 new and revised subject headings have been submitted to LC since the Fall 2001 update. Lauer also made comments on other headings that appeared on LC’s Tentative Weekly List. There is an ongoing problem with someone’s preference for names as they appear in Ethnologue, regardless of scholarly and other usage. Lauer’s draft memo (Disentangling ‘Ovimbundu from Mbundu in LCSH) shows how Ethnologue and other secondary sources are sometimes unreliable. There was much discussion as to how to involve other authorities. DeHeer pointed out that catalogers working in Ghana supplement LCSH with local headings, which could be considered as additions to LCSH.

The absence of input from librarians working in Africa was noted and regretted. Walsh proposed posting something on AfLib, which does include some catalogers.

RESOR

Library of Congress (Gentner): Juliane Beall forwarded 2 documents related to Dewey Decimal Classification: EPC Exhibit 117-16.4 (Dec. 3, 2001) was distributed at the CCAAM meeting at ALA-Midwinter (see below). The second document, EPC Exhibit 118.12.2 (March 7, 2002) contains proposed revisions to Table 2: 56-99 Geographic Areas. There are numerous changes for Sudan, Ethiopia, and Morocco; and minor changes with other countries.

Newspaper records: Jeffrey Myers-Hayer of the Serial Record Division and Catherine Thuku of the LC Nairobi office have created bib records for the ca. 1000 newspapers acquired between 1985 and 2000. To see what is filmed by the LC Office in New Delhi, see http://www.loc.gov/acq/ovop/delhi/ or http://www.locdelhi.org/lcnewspapers/

CCAAM (Cataloging & Classification: Asian & African Materials Com.) (Lauer): The midwinter meeting of ALA’s CC:AAAMcovered several topics of interest to Africanists.

Juliane Beall distributed 2 documents related to Dewey Decimal Classification:

1) EPC Exhibit 117-16.4 (Dec. 3, 2001) responded to ALC proposals for changes in 960 (History of Africa). After careful review, many of the suggestions were accepted; others were found to lack enough literary warrant to justify their own numbers in the Dewey schedules. Examples of the latter include the administration of Senghor and subdivisions for Sierra Leone, 1961- (only 8 works in WorldCat). Subdivisions for early periods for African countries, especially Angola, Nigeria and Zimbabwe, will have to wait until the next edition.

2) “Countries with Changes in DDC” noted that changes in Table 2 (Area Table) have already been approved by EPC (the Editorial Policy Committee of DDC) for China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran & Asiatic Russia. Countries to be discussed by EPC during the May meeting: Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan, Morocco, Nigeria, and Tanzania. There was a lively discussion on the meaning and appropriateness of “Oriental” in AACR2, and this was referred to a task force. [In some cases, Oriental means only East Asia. But in rules 4.182, 21.30K1e and C.5, Oriental clearly implies nonwestern or nonroman and could include Eastern Europe and Africa.]

OLD BUSINESS Cataloging workflow survey: LC Nairobi acquisitions Nothing new on proposed survey. Issue of cooperative cataloging of African language materials, including gifts or faculty purchases, was discussed. North American Title Count Lauer contacted Cheryl Kern-Simirenko (chair of NATC) with suggestions for changes in the classification break-outs. She responded that changes for the next (2005) title count would be handled by a new committee. [This project began in 1973 as the National Shelflist Count, and they have been a total of 10 counts, reporting titles in ca. 200 (in 1973) to ca. 700 (in 2001) call numbers ranges. Earlier counts appeared in print and microfiche. Latest is to appear on the web. See ALA website for background. For University of Michigan data (with the complete list of categories) for 1993, 1997 & 2001, see http://www.lib.umich.edu/systems/compare.htm] Revision of DT schedule for Indian Ocean islands: Hughes and Caruso would be meeting later in an attempt to revive this project which started in the mid-1990s.
NEWS FROM CAMP

Onitsha Market Literature

Following the recent release of the Pantheon publication, *Life Turns Man Up and Down: High Life, Useful Advice, and Mad English* (http://www.randomhouse.com/knopf/pantheon/lifeturns.html), the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP) is pleased to announce its own popular press collection of Onitsha Market Literature. While not a new collection, this set of four microfilm reels has not previously been indexed and has been largely unavailable for researchers.

Considered by some as "cradles of modern African literature," the indigenously published pamphlets (also known as chapbooks) reflected a nascent print market aimed at the common man in Nigeria. The CAMP collection contains 78 pamphlets from such authors as Ogali Ogali, Maxwell Highbred, and Thomas Iguh. It also contains select texts of historical fiction plays ("The Statements of Hitler before the World War") and Igbo rhymes and proverbs.

For more details on this collection, please visit the CAMP Web site: http://www.crl.uchicago.edu/info/camp/onitsha.htm

CAMP is a joint effort by research libraries throughout the world and the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) to promote the preservation of publications and archives concerning the nearly fifty nations of Sub-Saharan Africa and to make these materials in microform available to researchers. CAMP material is available for interlibrary loan for CRL and CAMP members without restrictions.

CAMP Elections

The CAMP Nominating Committee is putting together a slate of candidates for elections to fill two positions: one Faculty representative, and one Vice-chair/Chair-elect, with terms beginning after the African Studies Association annual meeting in December 2002.

The Nominating Committee would appreciate your suggestions of candidates (including yourself, as appropriate) for the two available positions. Please email any of the committee members with your ideas by May 31, 2002. Detailed information about CAMP is available at http://wwwcrl.uchicago.edu/info/camp.htm
The CAMP By-Laws contain full descriptions of the duties and responsibilities of each office.

CAMP Nominating Committee, 2002
Ruby Bell-Gam, Chair (rbellgam@library.ucla.edu)
Helene Baumann (helene.baumann@duke.edu)
Karen Fung (kfung@stanford.edu)

Recent CAMP Receipts

For recent CAMP receipts, please go to: http://www.crl.edu/info/camp/campprops.htm
CALENDAR OF FUTURE MEETINGS

ALA

Philadelphia, PA, January 24-29, 2003 ALA Midwinter Meeting
Charlotte, NC, April 10-13, 2003
ACRL National Conference
Toronto, Canada, June 19-25, 2003
ALA Annual Conference
San Diego, CA, Jan. 9-14, 2004
ALA Midwinter Meeting
Orlando, FL, June 24-30, 2004
ALA Annual Conference

ASA & ALC/CAMP

Washington, D.C., December 5-8, 2002
ASA Annual Meeting

ALC Spring Meeting 2003, Yale University
ALC Spring Meeting 2004, Michigan State University

IFLA Annual Conferences

Glasgow, Scotland, August 18-24, 2002
Berlin, Germany, August 1-9, 2003
Buenos Aires, Argentina, dates TBA, 2004
Oslo, Norway August 14-19, 2005

NEWS

Mountain Plains Africana Libraries Association (MPALA) Formed

MPALA was formed in April as the result of a regional conference on Africana collection development organized by Ken Lohrentz at the University of Kansas. A major goal of MPALA is to raise awareness about resources and to develop sharing mechanisms. For more information, please contact Ken Lohrentz. Telephone: (785) 864-4593 E-mail: klorentz@ku.edu
SABDET/ZIBF
Seminar Series at the 2002 London Book Fair
Monday 18 March 2002
Club Room, National Hall, Olympia, London W1

The topic of this year’s seminars was “Changing Times – Changing Africa”.

Seminar One, on “Marketing Africa’s Best”, was chaired by Alastair Niven, member of the judges’ panel for Africa’s 100 Best Books and chair of SABDET. The speakers for this session were: Kassahun Checole, president and publisher, Africa World Press Inc./Red Sear Press Inc, New Jersey/Asmara Isobel Dixon, literary agent, Blake Friedmann Literary Agency, London Wangui wa Goro, writer, translator and member of the judges’ panel for Africa’s 100 Best Books.

Seminar Two under the topic “The Book Supply Chain In Africa” was chaired by Oluronke Orimalade, bookseller and chair of the Pan-African Booksellers’ Association.
The panelists were: Justus Mugaju, consulting/associate editor, Fountain Publishers, Kampala James Ng’ombe, managing director, Jhango Heinemann; Blantyre Barnard Bagenda, senior principal librarian, Uganda Public Libraries Board
For further information contact Paul Westlake at sabdet@impz.demon.co.uk

New Africana Librarian at Atlanta University Center

Akilah Nosakhere was recently appointed Librarian III/Supervisor of the Africana Studies Reading Room at the Robert W. Woodruff Library (AUC Woodruff) of Atlanta University Center. AUC Woodruff serves Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Spelman College, Morris Brown, and the Interdenominational Theological Center. The Africana Studies Reading Room is a unit of the Special Collections department. In her new position Ms. Nosakhere is in charge of the Reading Room special collection which is a working collection on the Black Experience in the American and Caribbean Diaspora and the African continent. The collection includes gift titles from Hoyt William Fuller, activist, writer and architect of the Black arts movement; Henry P. Slaughter, journalist-bibliophile and contemporary of Arthur Schomburg and John Cromwell. Recently, a significant gift with thousands of titles from the private collection of the late Dr. John Henrik Clarke, a prominent African American historian and professor, was added.

Ms. Nosakhere has held a wide range of library positions before joining ACU Woodruff, most notable Librarian/Instructor at Georgia State University; Head of the Circulation Department at DeKalb College (North Campus); Records Analyst/Reference Librarian with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and, most recently, Head Librarian/Assistant Professor in the Department of Collection Development at Georgia State University. We wish her good luck in her new position!
Announcement for Social Sciences Librarian Subject Specialist in Race, Gender, and Ethnicity

The Penn State University Libraries seeks a Social Sciences Librarian to provide leadership in developing collections and services in the subject areas of race, gender, and ethnicity. This interdisciplinary position reports to the Head of the Social Sciences Library. One of fourteen subject libraries on the University Park campus, the Social Sciences Library provides collections and services for international relations, politics and government, diversity, sports and recreation, law and administration of justice, telecommunications, media studies, mass media and journalism.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Develops collections in African and African American studies and additional Social Sciences areas. Likely areas of responsibility include women’s studies, and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender studies, or anthropology and sociology. Collaborates with the Libraries’ subject specialists to address the needs of faculty and students who seek to integrate race, gender, and ethnicity into their learning, teaching, and research. Serves as the Social Sciences Collection Development Group Leader. Selects information resources that support the wide range of research methodologies in the social sciences. Provides reference and instruction services with sensitivity to diverse learning styles. Participates in undergraduate instruction programs. Serves as a liaison and provides outreach services to a growing and dynamic African and African American Studies Department, the Africana Research Center, the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, and other assigned departments.

QUALIFICATIONS: Requires ALA-accredited MLS or equivalent advanced degree; academic background or equivalent experience in race, gender, or ethnicity studies; familiarity with electronic and networked information resources; excellent interpersonal, decision-making, and written and oral communication skills; and the ability to work in a collaborative environment. Prefer: Experience or academic preparation in African American Studies; collection development experience in the social sciences; reference or instruction experience in an academic or public library; demonstrated interest in building interdisciplinary collaborations; and experience working with diverse populations.

ENVIRONMENT: The Social Sciences Library collections include one million volumes, over 1,200 current periodicals, U.S. and European Communities depository collections, and large United Nations and other intergovernmental organizational collections (in paper, electronic, and micro-formats). The University Libraries’ collections exceed four million volumes. The University Libraries are located at University Park and at 23 other Penn State campuses throughout Pennsylvania, with about 6,000 faculty/staff and over 40,000 students at University Park. Penn State, a land-grant institution, is a member of the CIC (Big 10) consortium. A recent U.S. News & World Report survey ranked Penn State as 14th among large public research universities. Penn State University Libraries is a member of ARL, OCLC, RLG, CRL, and the Digital Library Federation. The University Park campus is set in State College, a university town located in the heart of central Pennsylvania. State College offers a vibrant community with outstanding recreational facilities, a low crime rate, and excellent public schools. The campus is within a half-day drive of Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City, and Pittsburgh. For more information visit our website at http://www.libraries.psu.edu.

This is a tenure-track faculty position. Evidence of potential for promotion and tenure will be considered. The successful candidate will be expected to be active in research, scholarship and service as a faculty member at Penn State. Salary and rank commensurate with experience. Excellent fringe benefits include liberal vacation; excellent insurance; State or TIAA/CREF retirement options; and educational privilege.

TO APPLY: SEND A LETTER OF APPLICATION, CURRENT RESUME, AND THE NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF THREE REFERENCES TO: SEARCH COMMITTEE, BOX RGE-ICPSR, 511 PATERNO LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND CONTINUE UNTIL THE POSITION IS FILLED. PENN STATE IS COMMITTED TO AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND THE DIVERSITY OF ITS WORKFORCE.
Literature on Library and Information Services


African Research & Documentation, no. 87, 2001, includes:
Kaye Whiteman, “‘West Africa’ as an Historical Source.”
Tom Ofcansky, “Ethiopia: a Selected Military Bibliography.”
Mandy Banton, “Historical Official Publications Relating to Africa at the Public Record Office.”
J. McIlwaine, “Writings on African Archives: Supplement 5.”
News from the Book Donations Committee 2001 Awardees

Africana Librarians Council Book Donations Committee selected the following three top proposals for 2001, ASA has awarded and sent checks:

Bibliotheque Villageoise de Bereba - Burkina Faso
University of Lagos - Lagos, Nigeria
Julie Okeyo Memorial Library - Nairobi, Kenya

Correction
The URL for Africa's 100 Best Books cited in ALN no. 107 is incorrect. The official document in PDF and the original press release is at:
http://zibf.org/newzibfsite/newsreleases/newsreleaseac.html
Joe Caruso (Africana librarian at Columbia University) has posted the list and other information at:
Call for Applications for ASA-Funded Book Donation Projects for the Year 2002

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS JUNE 1, 2002

The ASA makes available up to $3000 annually to assist groups with shipping costs for book donations to African libraries and schools. The Committee generally provides grants in amounts from $200 to $1000. Those applying for partial funding of a project should clearly show how additional funding will be solicited. The grants are intended to encourage innovative projects that incorporate essential elements, including:

1. Recipient participation
   Ideally all book donation programs will be part of a broader academic liaison between institutions in Africa and the US. While large scale donations of container-loads of books can be effective, the ASA is trying to fill a perceived gap by increasing the number of small to medium-sized projects that focus on specific, articulated needs.

2. High quality materials
   While books need not be new, they should be in good condition and relevant to the recipient's needs. Books can be procured from libraries' duplicates, personal libraries, bookstores, students and publishers.

3. Attention to details of logistics
   The project plan should include a place to store books as they are being collected, a means of reviewing the books for physical quality and relevance to the recipient's request, materials and staff for packing, a means of shipping to Africa, and all necessary paperwork for customs and shipping. The ASA cannot offer any services in arranging shipping or other logistics. Our role is to supply funding to the extent possible.

Applications for Funding

1. Project description: Send a 1-3 page description covering: the recipient and relationship to donor, the materials requested (specific titles or subject areas), the number of books and means of obtaining them, shipping and other logistical plans, status of the project---is it already underway, or just in the idea stage? Who will administer the project? Who is the liaison in Africa?

2. Budget
   What are total costs of the project? How much is the request to the ASA? How will ASA funds be used? For partial funding requests, how will other funds be solicited?

3. Deadline
   Applications are due in the ASA Secretariat, c/o Loree Jones, Executive Director, Rutgers University, Douglas Campus, 132 George St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1400 no later than June 1, 2002.

A report on the project and brief summary for ASA News are required at the project's completion. Previous grants are available on the website at the following URL: http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/amed/bkdn99aw.html.

For more information on Book Donation Programs:
http://www.albany.edu/~dlafonde/Global/bookdonation.htm
Africana Librarians Council, Book Donation Committee page:
http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/amed/bkdncte.html

The Book Donations Committee meets twice a year at the Library Spring and Fall meetings of the Africana Librarians Council. For more information, please see http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/amed/bkdncte.html.
Memories of Dan Britz

Remarks at the Memorial Service held for Dan Britz at the Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, June 4, 2002 by David L. Easterbrook, George and Mary LeCron Foster Curator, Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies, Northwestern University

In the 1940s, when Melville Herskovits envisioned the largest and most comprehensive library for the study of Africa here at Northwestern, he needed two resources in abundance, financial and human. Far more important than merely getting the funds to assure this goal was to ensure that the funds were entrusted to individuals with the skill and knowledge about what to acquire and the dedication to make those materials accessible. Herskovits met with initial success in both these needs. And, the Herskovits Library has been blessed throughout its history with extraordinary librarians. Today we honor Dan Britz, who served the library and the discipline of African Studies with the utmost of distinction, for decades he was devoted to building the library and to making the resources available to all.

Dan graduated with a B.A. in history from Northwestern University in 1961. His undergraduate studies included course work related to the Program of African Studies. He spent his junior year abroad at the Institute for American Universities at Aix-en-Provence. He spent three years with the Foreign Service in Ghana before returning to Northwestern in 1965 to begin graduate study in African history. He completed all course work and was admitted to candidacy for a PhD. He received an MLS from the Graduate School of Library Science at Rosary College in 1975.

Dan first began working in Africana in 1966. He worked on the weekends and was the only person present to assist users. At that time, Africana was located in the basement of the Deering Library and was at least as crowded, if not more crowded with materials, than the present Herskovits Library space is today. From the beginning, Dan earned a reputation with researchers for his knowledge of what was needed and where everything was. Dan was appointed Bibliographer of Africana in 1972, and from that day on held the major responsibilities for shaping the research collections of one of the world’s most comprehensive and significant libraries for the study of Africa in existence.

In both the ALC and CAMP, Dan took major leadership roles, chairing the ALC in 1980-81 and chairing CAMP for three periods, from 1974-80, from 1983-88, and again from 1997-1998. While Chair of CAMP, Dan oversaw a multitude of microfilming projects that required all sorts of inter-institutional cooperation. And he not only carried out the duties that normally go with chairing CAMP, he was also very willing to get involved in such projects as sorting catalog cards and preparing indexes for the CAMP catalogs.

He published widely, things that were very useful to researchers. They include bibliographies that in the pre-online catalog key word searching days made Northwestern’s resources more accessible to researchers. There are bibliographic contributions to such publications as the Journal of Commonwealth Literature, MLA International Bibliography, and The Akan/Ghana Studies Council Newsletter. There are also articles and commentary focused on issues in Africana librarianship which appeared in publications such as Africana Libraries Newsletter and Library Acquisitions; Theory and Practice. His most recent published contribution is found in the proceedings of the 40th anniversary conference of the Africana Librarians Council in 1998. Dan took on projects in the ALC and CAMP that benefited collections and access to them. One such project, completed in 1979, a bibliography of Africa-related dissertations held at the Center for Research Libraries, continues to be used. In fact, it was cited at the recent CAMP meeting held in Albany, NY in early May, as a model that CAMP needs to update in some form.

Dan’s contributions to African studies librarianship and research are however far greater than what I have just summarized and are based in the collection he built. With primary responsibility for building collections at the Herskovits Library of materials from much of Africa and world-wide about Africa, Dan’s passionate interest in acquiring materials and his intimate knowledge of those materials is legendary. He built a collection that is comprehensive not only in volume but in subject matter: One that is as inclusive of the scholarly and the popular as well as the ephemeral and the permanent. He believed that the scope of the collection must include archives and manuscripts, posters, videos, scrapbooks, diaries and photographs. His definition of comprehensiveness was all inclusive.

Dan was also central in many of the special grant funded projects that strengthened Africana’s collections, improved accessibility to them and provided for their preservation. The majority of these grants came from the Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He also edited for many years The Joint Acquisitions List of Africana.

Many can recall examples of Dan’s assistance when he knew exactly what was needed to meet an immediate research need. And not only did Dan know what was needed, he usually knew exactly where it was. His reputation for this is truly worldwide. At the Zimbabwe Book Fair in 2000, someone spotted my registration badge and noted my Northwestern affiliation. The first question

As Chair of the Africana Librarians Council of the African Studies Association, I’m voicing the appreciation of Dan Britz by his professional colleagues beyond Northwestern. ‘Colleagues,’ not ‘peers,’ because the great depths of Dan’s experience as an Africana librarian, depth in time served, depth in services rendered to us all, and, most of all, the immense depth of his knowledge of the scholarly literature of our field, and the overwhelmingly great percentage of that literature held here in the Herskovits Library, means that Dan had few, if any, peers.

It’s both hard and easy to prepare these remarks. Hard, of course, because of the great loss we have suffered, and suffered much sooner than any of us would have expected. Easy, though, because Dan did so much, knew so much, and helped so many of us, collectively and individually, that the task before me is to craft a reasonably brief summary.

When the Africana Librarians Council, originally known as the Archives-Library Committee, celebrated its 40th anniversary in 1998, paralleling that of the ASA itself, whose oldest constituent unit we are, we held an international symposium: “Africana Librarianship in the 21st Century: Treasuring the Past and Building the Future.” The final panel in that symposium featured 5 senior librarians reflecting on the topic from the perspective of long years of significant accomplishment in the field. Two of the three United States librarians presenting their views were, appropriately, from the Herskovits Library: Hans Panofsky and Dan Britz.

Dan’s remarks drew on 25 years experience as a librarian. As you all would imagine, his thoughts had two dominant themes. One was his characteristic bluntness in surveying changes in resources, technologies, and expectations—not all of which were positive and about some of which he was pessimistic. The other theme, equally if not more characteristic of Dan, was an emphasis on the articulation of libraries and their collections with the end users for whom we, at base, exist: collections matter because they serve the needs of scholars and students.

Dan rather enjoyed cultivating a curmudgeonly demeanor, but underneath it lay a profound, and profoundly effective, commitment to users. To speak personally, almost 30 years ago, well before I became a librarian, as an anthropologist using the Herskovits Library, I was awed by Dan’s grasp of the collection—by which I don’t mean merely its organization, but his sense of individual items in the flagship Africana library and how the rest of us could benefit from them. I vividly remember trailing behind Dan as he answered this or that question of mine by moving among the radial stacks, pointing out a particular source here, still others there, and so on—far beyond what I could imagine anyone knowing.

He was also a great presence personally as well as professionally in our group. I remember parties at both his Skokie and Glenview houses, during various ALC meetings at Northwestern. I even remember an occasion—perhaps driving with Dan to an ALC meeting in Urbana or Bloomington or East Lansing?—when I breakfasted with Dan at the Gold Coin on Howard Street, and, I believe, personally witnessed the Cheesburger Breakfast Dan delighted in being known for! Dan was also one of the key figures among a core of early ALC members who could be counted on to lead a pub crawl into the small hours at ASA meetings—occasions at which many of us newcomers became fully integrated into our group.

Dan’s service, as I noted, was to us collectively as well as individually. He was Chair of the Archives-Library Committee in 1980-81, the very time I joined (and, like everyone else new, was made very welcome!) The ALC meets twice a year, at the ASA meetings in the autumn and at an Africana library in the spring. CAMP, the Cooperative Africana Microform
Project, an independent organization, on whose executive committee the ALC Chair sits ex officio, meets in conjunction with ALC. Dan was a CAMP pillar--or should I say, 'tent pole'? He served as Chair of CAMP from 1974-80 and from 1983 through 1988. And since both ALC and CAMP chairs serve a sequence of chair-elect, chair, and past chair, he served formally for even more years as a leader.

In 1989, the ALC marked another, if less tragic, end of an era at Herskovits Library, the retirement of Hans Panofsky, with a festschrift reviewing "Africana Resources and Collections." Dan Britz figured then, too, as a major figure in our field. David Easterbrook, not yet at Northwestern, noted in his history of ALC and CAMP in Hans' festschrift that besides CAMP's usual joint purchase of large microform sets,

"Many special original filming projects focusing on individual titles, private collections, archives, and antiquarian books, for example, were coordinated by Daniel Britz (the chair) during virtually all of this period…"

In the same volume, the late Elizabeth Widenmann, reviewing developments in cataloging Africana, noted Dan's herculean work, with an impossibly tight deadline, in analyzing the Northwestern collection for the "Conspectus" project of the Research Libraries Group. Given the central position of Northwestern, this analysis was essential to this still-controversial effort at collection evaluation. Betsy noted that Dan's accomplishment was all the greater insofar as he was not a cataloger, and because the Conspectus assumed classification of books and journals according to the Library of Congress system--which Northwestern, like some other prominent Africana libraries, does not use.

Besides the various offices he held, and projects he coordinated, Dan Britz was a leader informally throughout his career. Because microfilming often requires previously assembling runs of newspapers, speeches, or magazines, leading CAMP requires a practical as well as a theoretical mastery of libraries as well as the literature. We must know not simply what's important, but who holds the different parts necessary to create a whole resource. Wherever Dan sat in the CAMP meeting, he could be counted on to be one who knew what was needed to make a project succeed. Not least, Dan's great experience with such projects meant too that he knew all the minor and hidden points and problems that had to resolved. A caveat or a suggestion from Dan automatically commanded attention.

Dan not only knew what to do, he often did it himself. Before the internet and remotely-accessible library catalogs, print guides were essential, the 1986 publication by the Center for Research Libraries of the first comprehensive CAMP catalog was an event of great importance to Africana scholars everywhere. When staff and budget problems delayed publication, Dan took on the indexing himself. With some work-study student help, Dan indexed some 7590 items, spanning 644 pp., himself. A 1987 CAMP report on how future catalogs would be prepared, noted that "the best feature of the current catalog is its index…"

Dan was truly an Elder of our profession, whose vast knowledge and long experience led those of us who came after. In many African societies, deceased Elders, the Ancestors, play a guiding role in the lives of their descendants. It is certain that the Spirit and Memory of Dan Britz will remain with us long after the sad event of his passing. Speaking for the many of us who could not be here in Evanston today, I want to say that we are here in spirit, and will remember the Herskovits Library not simply as the hub of our profession, but as the place where Dan Britz inspired us all. We share the grief of his family, friends, and the Northwestern Africana community, and wish to say that as long as those of us who knew him remain, so Dan will remain a part of us and our work.
In this issue of
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- News from CAMP
- Penn State seeks Social Science Librarian
- Literature on Library and Information Science
- Memories of Dan Britz

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Editor: Marion Frank-Wilson, Librarian for African Studies
Tel.: 812-855-1481; Fax: 812-855-8068;
E-mail: mfrankwi@indiana.edu
Website: http://www.indiana.edu/~libsalc/african/
Staff: Melissa Jones

Please send address changes to:
Librarian for African Studies
Indiana University Main Library E660
1320 E 10th Street
Bloomington IN 47405-3907
U.S.A.