On the Center for Research Libraries:

Supporting Africa Studies

We devote this issue of Focus to resources for the study of African history, culture, politics, economics, and societies. In large measure the issue is a tribute to the work of the participants and supporters of the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP), which marked its fortieth anniversary last April (see article, page 3). CAMP is an international collecting and preservation enterprise based at the Center for Research Libraries. It draws upon the knowledge, skills, and energies of North America’s foremost Africanists to identify documents and other primary sources of importance to scholars, and ensures their long-term availability. The Karis-Gerhart and Benjamin Pogrund collections, featured in this issue, are products of CAMP efforts.

The Center’s work with the Association of African Universities involves a different approach to preserving critical resources. Dissertations and theses produced by scholars as part of graduate degree programs at African universities are imperiled not by the temperature and humidity, the
usual enemies of documents, but by the absence of a strong scholarly publishing infrastructure on the continent. As a result little of the considerable knowledge and information contained in degree documents is shared with other scholars and researchers. The AAU has successfully launched DATAD, a database of theses and dissertations produced at a number of universities. We hope that through the Center's partnership with the Association of African Universities, the database will evolve into an effective full-text distribution channel that benefits all scholars.

We also report here what we learned from an experimental harvest of Web sites from the 2003 Nigerian elections, undertaken as part of the Center's recent Political Communications Web Archiving (PCWA) investigation. Because political parties increasingly turn to the Web as a medium for disseminating information and messages, the PCWA is an effort by the Center and its International Resources program to make provisions for the Karis-Gerhart and Benjamin Pogrund collections of the future.

Because the activities of the Center are supported largely by our member universities, we are happy to welcome Loyola Marymount University to the Center partnership (see article, page 14). Loyola Marymount now joins the nearly 200 other research libraries and universities that support and benefit from Center efforts to preserve the richness and diversity of research sources.

Bernard F. Reilly, Jr.
President
Cooperative Africana Microform Project: Forty Years of Collaboration and Scholarship

In May 2003, with little fanfare or demonstration, the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP) marked its fortieth anniversary. An international cooperative collection development effort, CAMP has established itself as a critical resource for Africana librarianship and African studies and a model for subsequent collaborative programs.

Roots of Cooperation

Africana libraries in the United States began discussing cooperative efforts as early as March 1955 at a meeting called by Melville J. Herskovits, founder of the African studies program at Northwestern University and the first (and largest) library devoted to African studies in North America. At this gathering, the assembled librarians and scholars considered strategies for strengthening research libraries in African studies. It was decided to establish a professional association dedicated to African studies, with interlibrary cooperation and information sharing among its top priorities. The Library Committee of the newly founded African Studies Association met first in 1958 and established an agenda of goals that included greater acquisition of publications from Africa, preparation of guides to Africa-related archival holdings, and support for national bibliographies in African countries.

In May of 1963, Africana librarians from 12 institutions gathered to discuss the need to preserve African materials not generally available to U.S. institutions. The Center (then the Midwest Inter-Library Center) proposed to host a cooperative endeavor to film a limited number of African periodical titles on a subscription basis. The group formed a consortial agreement, dubbed the Cooperative Africana Microform Project in 1964, to identify African newspapers, serials, and political ephemera and work towards their preservation. The Center’s Board of Directors supported the effort and made provisions to contribute financial assistance, to be matched by participating institutions.

While the program had preservation as its primary focus, it became apparent that widespread access to material was also critical to its success. Thus, the objective of preserving unique titles also incorporated purchase of existing material in microform to make these more widely available to U.S. institutions. At the time, a number of viable organizations, including the Center, were microfilming African newspapers, and CAMP identified microfilm holdings of these periodicals to acquire from such producers as Microfile in South Africa and ACRPP in Paris.

Aside from overseas film purchases, CAMP’s earliest materials were assembled mainly from the collections held in U.S. libraries. These included parliamentary debate papers and journals held by the Library of Congress, and personal collections assembled by preeminent Africana scholars. Early collections of this nature include field notes, oral texts, traditional histories, and collections of unpublished and published material issued by various political or social groups. Examples include:

- **Cameroun political ephemera, 1952-1961**, assembled by Drs. David Gardnier and Victor Le Vine and consisting of government documents, speeches, and pamphlets from individuals and organizations in the struggle for Cameroon liberation and unification.
- **Leo Kuper papers, 1952-1966**, consisting of interviews conducted between 1957-1963 with more than one hundred members of South Africa’s black professional class, as part of Kuper’s sociological analysis presented in “An African Bourgeoisie” (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1965).

However, it was quickly discovered that other organizations in Europe and Africa were engaged in similar collecting and preservation activities. The British Public Record Office, for example, was organizing and conserving its colonial and foreign office documents relating to its former territorial claims. The Kenya National Archives was preserving its government records in cooperation with Syracuse University. Coordination of information on activities happening worldwide and exploration of collaborative activities became another priority for CAMP.

Exporting Collaboration

In the late 1960s and 1970s, CAMP began working more closely with overseas institutions to identify collections and assist in preserving their material. Because of U.S. interest in Southern Africa, CAMP focused heavily on South African institutions and political struggles. In addition to its long-term collaboration with scholar and journalist Benjamin Pogrund (see article, page 6), CAMP partnered extensively with groups like...
the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) in preserving the material held in their archives. Under this effort valuable collections relating to political parties, labor and student unions, women’s organizations, and the institutional archives of SAIRR itself (documented in two large archival collections of records, press clippings, files, and a microfilm index of the SAIRR library catalog) were preserved. Other institutions, such as the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and University of Ibadan in Nigeria conducted important preservation projects under the CAMP umbrella, and these materials in microform were added to the burgeoning collection at the Center.

During the 1980s, CAMP’s collection grew to include missionary society archive material, newspapers, and journals in many European and African languages, and a wide array of major microform sets (such as “Government Publications relating to African countries prior to independence” including annual reports and government gazettes). CAMP’s coffers were sufficiently stocked to acquire and engage in large microfilming activities. Additional projects in the late 1980s that radically extended CAMP’s core offerings included copies of microfilm produced through the “Great Collections” preservation projects at Northwestern University and Michigan State University. These films have increased CAMP’s holdings by over 14,000 monographic titles and more than 1,500 newspapers and serials.

One noteworthy example is the large collection of primary source materials collected by Gwendolen M. Carter and Thomas Karis for their multivolume political history of South Africa, From Protest to Challenge: A Documentary History of African Politics in South Africa 1882–1964. A subsequent and equally important collection of ephemera assembled by Karis and Gail M. Gerhart expanded this collection of material to cover the period 1964-1990 (see article page 7). However, because of the immense challenges related to establishing strong linkages with institutions across the ocean, the work with archives and institutions in Africa has been slow to develop. Despite the increasing ease of technical outreach, true partnerships cannot prosper without trust, personal commitment, and intensive project management. The African studies library community is small, the needs of African institutions are immense.

Since 1993, CAMP has increasingly worked to expand and strengthen the preservation capabilities of its partners. CAMP has appointed a standing Task Force on Archives to identify opportunities for international projects and potential sources of funding extend its work with African partners. Rapid technological development, growing awareness of preservation needs, and increased professionalism in librarianship in Africa have presented new opportunities for CAMP and its members. Funds provided for cooperative library activities by individual Title VI National Resource Centers have allowed CAMP to launch important preservation efforts in Senegal (See article related to this initiative in FOCUS Fall 2002) and more recently Morocco and Liberia.

CAMP considers its continuing relationship with the National Archives of Senegal a model of international cooperation and points to the latest collection of materials received as proof of its continuing success (see sidebar). So, after its work and building of the past 41 years, within the next decade CAMP should see its labors develop into truly equal partnerships among U.S. and African institutions, formed with the objective of global access to scholarly material emanating from this important region of the world.

For more information on CAMP and its continuing activities, please visit the Area Studies section of the Center Web site.
African Archives Cooperative Project – Senegal  
Affaires politiques et administratives de Sénégal, sous-série 10D : 1785-1964  
Sous-Série 10D: Administration centrale de la colonie du Sénégal  

The National Archives of Senegal contains many important resources for the study of colonial Senegal (1816-1958), Afrique Occidentale Française (1895-1959), and independent Senegal (since 1958). The material is organized by fonds relating to these three periods and is separated into series and sub-series according to broad subject categories (administration, military affairs, correspondence, etc.). The Archives also possesses a library of secondary and periodical sources on Senegalese and French colonial history.  

In 1995 the Cooperative Africana Microform Project established a microfilming operation at the Senegalese archives, which has been steadily preserving these archives. Recently the Center received 171 reels of material from the archives relating to general governance of colonial Senegal. Sous-série 10D contains information on the central administration of the colony. Originating from the office of the Governor and other central departments (including Director of Political Affairs, Director of the Interior, Attorney General, Controller, and Commander of the Military), this material contains valuable historical documentation including a large body of correspondence between the Governor (variantly titled Lieutenant-Governor and Head of the Territory of Senegal), his ministries, and the Governor-General.  

10D1: Affaires politiques et administratives  
- Généralités  
- Réclamations et plaintes  
- Traités et conventions  
10D2: Consulats  
10D3: Correspondance  
10D4: Notes et rapports  
10D5: Notices et monographies  
10D6: Tournées, voyages et missions
Historical evidence is a frequent casualty of turbulent times. Documents that might enable historians to chronicle the events and actors in periods of war, insurgency, and political upheaval are too often lost or destroyed through oversight or deliberate action. During the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, journalist Benjamin Pogrund worked tirelessly and at great personal risk with the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP) at the Center for Research Libraries to ensure the survival of thousands of documents of the period.

Through the efforts of Pogrund and his CAMP affiliates the archives and published works of many labor organizations, political parties, editors, and activists engaged in the anti-apartheid struggle were assembled and are available for scholars to use today. These materials include the archives of the Black Sash Society; minutes, programs, photographs, newspaper clippings, and correspondence relating to the African National Congress; and the archives of the Trade Union Council of South Africa. The Pogrund Collection also includes transcripts and evidence from the now infamous proceedings against Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Isaac Setshedi, and other activists, and extracts from the evidence presented during the inquest into the death of Stephen Bantu Biko. The corpus of material preserved at the Center through Pogrund also includes print runs for scores of journals and serials in English and Afrikaans.

Benjamin Pogrund was a journalist and editor for the Rand Daily Mail in Johannesburg, South Africa from 1958 until its closing in 1985. Working with a series of visionary editors, Pogrund helped transform the Mail from a publication of the privileged class into an impartial daily that covered all sides of the news during the apartheid era. Because the Mail publicized anti-apartheid activities, the government attempted to suppress the paper, put Pogrund on trial several times, and imprisoned him once.

Pogrund contributed thousands of items to the Center for Research Libraries through CAMP, and these were designated the Benjamin Pogrund Collection of Southern Africa Materials. To review an abbreviated list of these holdings and further details in the Center’s online catalog, visit the Pogrund Dedication and Holdings.

A Tale of Two Collections

The Carter-Karis and Karis-Gerhart Collections exemplify the kinds of critical resources that have been developed under the Cooperative Africana Microform Project and made widely available to scholars, educators, and advanced researchers through the Center for Research Libraries.

These collections are the culmination of a long-running, ambitious scholarly enterprise, originating in the 1960s. It was then that American scholars Thomas Karis and Gwendolen M. Carter began production of a history of South Africa’s struggle for democracy, using the words of those who actively participated in that struggle. With assistance from fellow Africanists Sheridan Johns and Gail Gerhart, Karis and Carter assembled an enormous collection of primary source materials for the project. The first four volumes in their series called From Protest to Challenge: a Documentary History of African Politics in South Africa 1882-1964 were published between 1972 and 1977 by the Hoover Institution Press, and chronicled the liberation struggle through the conclusion of the famous Rivonia trial of 1964.

The Carter-Karis Collection

The documents, interviews, and other materials assembled to produce From Protest to Challenge were deposited at Northwestern University in Chicago. In the mid-1970s Susan G. Wynne produced a guide to the collection, titled South African Political Materials: a Catalogue of the Carter-Karis Collection, which was published by the South African Research and Archival Project in 1977. The first three volumes of Wynne’s catalog inventory the primary source materials in the collection and provide historical context. Volume 4 includes biographies, serving as a political “who’s who” of the 1882-1964 period. The collection on 71 reels is available for purchase or loan to Center members.

The Karis-Gerhart Collection

During the 1980s Karis and Gerhart began work on three supplemental editions of From Protest to Challenge. These histories cover the years 1964-1990, including the post-Rivonia Trial period and collapse of the apartheid regime. The resources and documents assembled for this effort constitute the Karis-Gerhart Collection: South African Political Materials 1964-1990. The supplemental histories were published jointly by Indiana University Press and the University of South Africa Press in 1997 and 2000.

In their introduction to the collection catalog, Karis and Gerhart note that the several hundred primary source documents cited in their histories represent only a tiny fraction of the available materials in the collection. Recorded on 101 reels of microfilm, the collection is available for purchase or on loan to members of the Center and the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP). An online edition of the Karis-Gerhart guide is available on the Center Web site.

In addition to the Karis-Gerhart Collection, the Center’s holdings include thousands of other apartheid-era materials. Note: This article revised by Gwendolen M. Carter, January 29, 2007.
Recent Developments in African Scholarly e-Resources
Peter Limb - Africana Bibliographer, Michigan State University

In African Studies in general and more gradually in Africa itself, new digital projects promise new access to scholarly resources and new opportunities for partnership with the Center and its members. The Center and other scholarly networks have a close interest in digital, as well as microfilm preservation, and the prospect of new digital projects in Africa or those that combine these two approaches is an exciting development warranting exploration.

These initiatives often involve a high degree of cooperation among partners, a wide range of formats—from archival collections and ephemera to scholarly journals or audio-visual material—and most are committed to the Open Archives Initiative. The Center, for example, is involved in the Political Communications Web Archive Project to preserve websites in Africa and elsewhere. CAMP and the Africana Librarians Council (ALC) are exploring digital initiatives, for instance in the AAU/ARL Global Resources Program’s African Newspapers Union List (AFRINUL), a database of holdings maintained at the Center. The eGranary Digital Library based at the University of Iowa aims to provide e-resources off-line to African institutions lacking adequate Internet access. The African Online Digital Library aims to provide a fully accessible online repository of multilingual, multimedia materials, with the partners at Michigan State University and in Senegal stressing that “digitizing projects must respect the rights of individuals, cultures, and nations who own the materials.” An example of their innovation and quality of material is “The history and culture of Futa Toro, Senegal and Mauritania” which provides audio clips of interviews by historian David Robinson in Pulaar language, linked to scrolling English or French transcripts. There are interesting digital projects elsewhere. The French Bibliothèque Nationale’s Gallica Project has digitized many rare books on pre-colonial Africa and the Museum of Central Africa in Belgium is digitizing historical photographs.

In Africa, emerging models are more often a combination of commercial and open access. The first viable African commercial Web site presenting hard-to-obtain ephemera is Kwetu.Net (“Our home” in Swahili) in Kenya, with full-text reports, papers, and some Masters theses obtained from national partners. An ambitious continent-wide venture, in which the Center is involved, is the Database of African Theses and Dissertations of the Association of African Universities. The use of e-journals is growing in Africa, aided in part by the underwriting of “free” e-journal provision by donors but also involving local experimentation. The latter trend is most pronounced in South Africa, the most technologically advanced African country. South African company Sabinet Online offers a package of 155 full-text South African (and a few West and East African) journals at a price reasonable for local subscribers, with a subsidizing overseas price likely to attract only wealthier research libraries. NISC South Africa has developed sophisticated, if rather expensive, databases such as African Studies and South African Studies that index African journal literature. These African-based (if at times foreign-controlled) databases provide better searchability of African journal content than Western databases, a major achievement suggesting solutions can be found in Africa, particularly when working with overseas partners.

Stable and successful journal web-storage projects such as JSTOR—now with a suite of high-quality Africana journals—and decreasing digital storage costs suggest digital preservation will gain in significance. The Digital Imaging Project of South Africa, funded by the Mellon Foundation, is modeling itself partly on JSTOR to become self-sustainable. DISA has digitized 38 hard-to-locate anti-apartheid periodicals and provides full-text searching. An extensive second stage will digitize archival materials and link up with another Mellon initiative, Aluka, that is developing national committees in the U.S. and Africa and which has identified three initial areas of digitization: liberation movements, botany, and heritage. Aluka’s mission is to “build and

“digitizing projects must respect the rights of individuals, cultures, and nations who own the materials.”
support a sustainable, online database of scholarly resources from the developing world, beginning in Africa."

Recent African digital initiatives such as DISA, Kwetu.net, and DATAD all involve a high degree of cooperation among partners. For example, DISA is a cooperative venture among South African librarians, archivists, and scholars across universities and other institutions that has developed national digital skills but also drawn on overseas funding and expertise. By developing effective partnerships based on mutual benefit in the interests of all researchers, such projects maximize their potential and help librarians and scholars share expertise and resources.

The financial and technical problems facing African journals are immense. The African e-Journals Project at Michigan State University aims to improve accessibility, visibility, and viability of African journals. Participants achieved only modest progress but gained visibility and valuable experience. Back issues of several leading journals will be online by Fall 2004 and two journals are publishing in Project Muse, with an interesting by-product being a database of journals. African Journals Online based in England has a model that is inexpensive to set up and maintain. It has promoted African journals and helped develop technological skills through mentorship and workshops on digitization and in 2004 plans to allow uploaded full-text and shift the project to Africa. Both projects face problems of long-term viability in Africa and a highly competitive global publishing market little interested in Africa.

Pan-African institutions such as CODESRIA and OSSREA have made good progress in digitizing issues of their journals. In agriculture, the Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL) developed a CD-ROM library available to developing countries and Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA), a portal is providing free access to over 500 major agricultural journals to public institutions in countries with an annual per capita income of U.S. $1,000 or less. Launched in October 2003 under the auspices of FAO, AGORA involves collaboration of public and private partners, including major Western publishers, USAID, and Cornell University Library.

To provide long-term solutions to the deep-seated crisis of publishing in Africa wide international collaboration and the further development of Africa-based resources and competencies is necessary. In all these projects, the future may lie in the combination of open archive with not-for-profit models to not only improve access to scholars globally but also to ensure sustainability.
In March of this year, the Center for Research Libraries, in cooperation with a number of partner institutions, completed an investigation into the challenges and opportunities relating to the selection, capture, and long-term preservation of Web-based primary resource material. The Political Communications Web Archiving Project (PCW A) was a research and planning initiative funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The joint planning effort focused on several aspects of Web “harvesting” for archival purposes. One of the chief foci of the investigation was on the necessary curatorial regimes and issues of sustainability for selective (thematic) capture of Web-based communications—in this case, sites produced by or for political parties and organizations, protest and social movements, activists, electoral bodies, or non-governmental organizations. Questions addressed included how best to select and “annotate” the Web communications to be archived, what standards need be required of selectors, what “artifactual” characteristics need be preserved for archived Web content, and how intellectual property restrictions should be addressed. The project also assessed the technical requirements and challenges, informed by the needs and optimal characteristics recommended by the curatorial team.

In examining these issues, the curatorial and technical teams collaborated on a set of investigations utilizing a test bed of data harvested from various regions of the world (Latin America, Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and radical groups in Europe). One particular case study relating to Africa sheds light on producer behaviors (individuals or institutions creating or hosting sites for consumption) and the potential impact on both the use and persistence of such sites for future research.

The April 2003 Nigeria presidential elections were Nigeria’s first civilian-run elections in 20 years. Voting for candidates for the Senate and House of Representatives was held April 12, 2003. A week later, April 19th, voting for the presidential and gubernatorial candidates took place. Incumbent President Olusegun Obasanjo was re-elected with 24.4 million out of 60 million votes. Runner-up General Muhammadu Buhari received 12.1 million votes.

The PCW A project performed a focused Web crawl of 38 sites mounted by Nigerian political parties and candidates surrounding the presidential and gubernatorial election. Karen Fung, Curator of the African Collection at Stanford University, identified the sites for inclusion, which included individual candidate pages, party sites (both for the general party platform and those subsites hosted for specific individuals), and overarching election sites such as the European Union Election Observation Mission to Nigeria. These sites are listed on Stanford’s “Africa South of the Sahara” Web portal.

The sites were crawled and examined intensively for a period of about one month (April/May), with several subsequent crawls made through December 2003. The sites were harvested by the San Francisco-based Internet Archive (IA), using its own proprietary crawler, and by Cornell University using the Mercator crawler. The resultant .arc files (which package up to 100 MB of data into a single file) from IA were organized on a capture date basis, with one day’s worth of all 38 sites bundled together in a single arc. As the list of captured sites grew, more than one 100 MB .arc file was necessary to package one day’s crawl.

As a whole, producers of the Nigerian electoral Web sites revealed a high level of sophistication and variation in the applications used, such as animated gifs, splash pages, javascript, and so forth. However, consistent with other political sites crawled in different regions, the majority of Nigerian pages were comprised only of the most common file formats including text/html, image/jpeg, image/gif, and application/pdf. Nigerian sites showed a smaller percentage of text/html objects (44.7% of all objects crawled), with over half the total mime objects being jpegs (41.3%) or gifs (9.9%), by far the highest proportion of any of the comparable crawls.

An April 2003 screenshot in a METS viewer featuring the Web site of gubernatorial candidate Loretta Aniagolu of the Nigerian state of Enugu. This site is no longer available online.
The size of the Nigerian election sites were smaller than comparable crawls in other regions. For the 38 sites, the average size of each site was 173 pages (compared to 1,433 pages in Southeast Asian sites). This number is inflated, however, by a few exceptionally large sites, such as the 2,345-page www.abdullahiadamu.com website, and a review shows 25 sites had fewer than 100 connected pages. The average size of sites (excluding abdullahiamdu) was 2,624,807 bytes (2.5 MB).

Interestingly, the vast majority of sites related to the elections were hosted out-of-country. Of them, 21 of the target sites were registered in the United States, five in Canada, five in the U.K., and one each in Sweden and Albania. The reasons are not immediately apparent, but one may speculate that the relatively low prevalence of computers and the available bandwidth in Nigeria may be factors. This phenomenon also points to the limitations of domain-specific archiving in capturing all of the content relevant to a national domain.

In terms of the frequency of capture, it was discovered that the Nigerian election sites were not actively used by most candidates or parties prior to the elections. A survey of sites after capture demonstrated that of the 16 gubernatorial candidate sites identified, only four showed some content change during the period leading up to the elections. Of the presidential candidates, only five of 12 sites showed some content change, with four of those five supporting one candidate, Buhari. Only one of his sites (buhari2003.org) showed changes with every examination.

These crawls also revealed a high rate of disappearance for the target sites over time. That is, within three months, three of the 38 sites went down or no longer contained election content. Within six months, an additional five sites had disappeared or changed content, equating to a 21.6 percent loss. A comparable survey for Latin American sites showed a loss rate of 16 percent in year one, 32 percent in year two, and 56 percent by year three. On the basis of this analysis, it is clear that on the Political Web persistence of content will be not only rare but difficult to predict.

Additional challenges will arise with the access to and use of the archived content. Aside from the technical complexity of Web archiving, the ability to accurately index and present content will require significant manual intervention. A technical assessment of the ability to extract meaningful metadata shed light on additional producer behaviors that challenge efficient archiving and description. Of the 38 sites, only five of the sites had included any descriptive metatags in the header of the pages (three sites were unavailable at time of study). One of the sites for the National Conscience Party included as its descriptive tag: "after years of misrule from the likes of Abacha, Obasanjo, Babangida, and the total collapse of our economy, the NCP is here to rescue the masses." Meta tags were also frequently misused or mis-applied, leading to duplicate tags (such as repetitive title tags) on several pages.

While technical solutions are able to extract a good deal of metadata from and about the various sites, this applies more to structural and administrative metadata and less for objective descriptors of the content itself. On the basis of this survey, it is apparent that most of the descriptive metadata will have to be input manually. In cases where site-generated metadata are present, it could be incorporated into the record as an additional, complementary, or supplemental matter.

To accomplish this task, the PCWA project recommends that the prospective archive of such material would need to be built around a consortial model with a mix of distributed and centralized activities. Area specialists or trained assistants at various institutions would supply time and expertise to identify and describe sites, calculate the frequency of capture, and submit to a centralized harvester and repository for inclusion in the Web archive. These activities and relationships are discussed in depth in the PCWA final report, due to be released in the next few weeks.

For more information on the project, please visit the Political Communications Web Archive Web page.

This article was prepared by James Simon with assistance from Karen Fung,
Disseminating African Scholarship: A Report on the DATAD Workshop

In February the West African port city of Accra, Ghana was the site of an international convocation of scholars, librarians, university administrators, publication specialists, attorneys, and others, who gathered to discuss how best to develop a cooperative system for organizing and achieving wider dissemination of African scholarly documents and “gray literature.” Organized by the Association of African Universities (AAU) in collaboration with the Center for Research Libraries, the two-day workshop focused on “Intellectual Property, Governance, Dissemination, and Funding Strategies” and was designed to consolidate achievements and promote continuing development of the AAU’s Database of African Theses and Dissertations (DATAD) initiative.

The Center is working with the AAU to develop a sustainable plan for DATAD, and guidelines and policies for managing intellectual property in dissertations and theses produced by scholars at African universities. The ultimate goal is to make African research and scholarship available electronically. The workshop provided stakeholders with an opportunity to acknowledge DATAD’s progress to date and a forum to present and discuss important issues affecting the equitable management and sharing of unpublished knowledge. The discussions at the Accra workshop will shape the business model developed for DATAD, and the development of a sustainable economic model and intellectual property management regime for disseminating African theses, dissertations, and other forms of “gray literature.” It also enabled participants to begin building consensus around the structure developed to date, prospective practices and policies, and possible distribution models.

Mapping the Future

The workshop was attended by representatives and presenters from numerous African nations, India, and the U.S. In addition to copyright and intellectual property issues, DATAD and the Center are working to devise a business model that is scalable, distributed, and extensible, and a mission-driven governance system that is flexible, stable, and self-sustaining. Implementation of the DATAD project is made possible by a grant from the Carnegie-Ford-Rockefeller Partnership for Higher Education in Africa and the IDRC.

To learn more about the AAU and DATAD, visit the AAU Web site. Information on workshop presenters and access to presentation materials are available on the Center Web site.

Participating DATAD Institutions:

Addis Ababa University ~ Ethiopia
Ain Shams University ~ Egypt
Council for Social Science Research in Africa ~ Senegal
Eduardo Mondlane University ~ Mozambique
Kenyatta University ~ Kenya
Makerere University ~ Uganda
Obafemi Awolowo University ~ Nigeria
Université Cheikh Anta Diop ~ Senegal
Université Yaounde I ~ Cameroon
University of Dar es Salaam ~ Tanzania
University of Ghana ~ Ghana
University of Jos ~ Nigeria
University of Zimbabwe ~ Zimbabwe
New Africana Acquisitions

Since September 2003 the Center has acquired the following Africana materials. As a convenience, OCLC record numbers are furnished as reference to more complete bibliographic information.

Dissertations

Doctoral theses, based on original research on African history, culture, film, politics, religion, and economics, most produced by scholars at English universities.


Newspapers

News reporting on twentieth-century politics, events, and history in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Liberia, South Africa, and Malawi, strengthening the Center’s existing holdings of African newspapers.

  Ilanga Lase Natal. Durban, South Africa. (Apr. 10, 1903-Mar. 6, 1965)

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Monographs


Archival Collection

Administration Centrale de la Colonie du Sénégal (a.k.a. Série D, Sénégal, affaires politiques et administratives, sous-série 10D. Sénégal. (OCLC #54830660) (See sidebar, page 5).
Program and Services Update

Loyola Marymount University

Loyola Marymount University became the Center’s newest Associate member on April 1, 2004. LMU elected to join the Center as the Los Angeles-based university expands its PhD programs, recognizing that the critical resources available through the Center would well support LMU faculty and student research.

“With one window on dynamic Los Angeles and another on the Pacific Ocean,” Loyola Marymount is one of 28 Jesuit universities in the United States. Founded in 1911, it has more than 80 degree tracks and courses of study and sets rigorous standards for graduate and undergraduate education.

LMU is home to two libraries—the Von der Ahe Library on the Westchester Campus and the William M. Rains Law Library—as well as a number of centers dedicated to both research and service. Construction of a new library complex “to promote a culture of academic excellence” is the centerpiece of the university’s new strategic plan.

Although a newcomer, LMU has moved quickly to exploit the benefits of its membership:

- LMU sent a representative, Glenn Johnson-Grau to the Center for an orientation and tour of the collections. Johnson-Grau is LMU’s Reference Librarian for Networked Resources
- Johnson-Grau also attended the Annual Meeting of Voting Members, and the print archive forum held as part of the Annual Meeting program.
- LMU created a CRL-dedicated Web page that enables students and faculty to learn about Center membership, borrowing policies, and practices. The Web page also includes direct links to Center topic guides, the Catalog Search system, and cites a wide variety of Center collections.

The Global Resources Network

In June 2004 the family of scholarly resource development initiatives based at the Center grew to include two Global Resources projects—the Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP) and the German Resources Project (GRP).

Global Resources was originally developed as a joint initiative of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the Association of American Universities (AAU), under funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Its general goal was to “expand access to international resources not currently available to North American students and scholars.” The two organizations recently decided to make this effort an ongoing one, creating the Global Resources Network (GRN). GRN will achieve its general goal through discrete projects that focus on significantly expanding the depth, breadth, quantity, range of formats, and variety of international information resources available to students and scholars, and making dispersed collections more complementary through coordinated acquisitions that are combined with powerful systems for access, discovery, presentation, and delivery.
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