Africana Libraries Newsletter (ALN) is published quarterly by the Michigan State University Libraries and the MSU African Studies Center. Those copying contents are asked to cite ALN as their source. ALN is produced to support the work of the Africana Librarians Council (ALC; formerly Archives-Libraries Committee) of the African Studies Association. It carries the meeting minutes of ALC, CAMP (Cooperative Africana Microform Project) and other relevant groups. It also reports other items of interest to Africana librarians and those concerned about information resources about or in Africa.

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Deadline for no. 73: January 1, 1993; for no. 74: April 1, 1993.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

After three retirements in 1991, September 1992 saw closures for two more experienced ALC librarians. Yvette Scheven retired from the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana) at the end of September as planned, and we fully expect to continue to hear from her. Elizabeth Widenmann of Columbia University died on September 26, after a few weeks in the hospital for chemotherapy.

There will be a memorial for Betsy in Seattle, but I am taking this opportunity to record some personal reflections. I still find myself shaken at the death of someone from my generation. I make exceptions for individuals who are visibly suffering or have been incapacitated by months of pain, but that was not the case here. Despite three episodes of cancer over eleven years, Betsy simply refused to miss a single ALC or ALA meeting. Although sometimes slowed, she seemed too tough to be overcome. Now instead of her words of advice and clarification, I have only memories. Memories of the initiatives she carried through and the little things she looked after. Memories of how she would not let ALC be a men's

-continued on p. 5

ACRONYMS

ALA - American Library Association (Chicago)
ABC - African Books Collective; or Africa Book Centre
ALA - American Library Association (Chicago)
ALC - Africana Librarians Council (formerly Archives-Libraries Committee) of ASA
ASA - African Studies Association (U.S.)
CAMP - Cooperative Africana Microform Project
CRL - Center for Research Libraries (Chicago)
IFLA - International Federation of Library Associations
LC - Library of Congress
MELA - Middle East Librarians Association
MSU - Michigan State University
SCOLMA - Standing Conf. on Library Materials on Africa
U. - University
UCLA - University of California, Los Angeles
AFRICANA LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1992

AFRICANA LIBRARIES COUNCIL / CAMP NEWS

CALENDAR OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Fall 1995, Orlando - ASA Annual Meeting.

SCHEDULE FOR ALC/CAMP MEETINGS IN SEATTLE

Nov. 20, 1992 (Friday)
9:00 - 10:00 am  ALC Executive Committee
10:00 - 11:30 am Cataloging Committee
11:30 - 1:00 pm Bibliography Committee
2:00 - 4:00 pm  ALC Business Meeting
4:00 - 5:00 pm  ALC Executive Meeting

Nov. 21, 1992 (Saturday)
8:30 - 9:30 am  Memorial for Elizabeth Widenmann
9:30 - 11:00 am CAMP Business Meeting
11:00 - 12:00 am CAMP Executive Meeting
5:30 - 6:00 pm Conover-Porter Award Presentation
6:00 -       ASA Gala Reception

Nov. 22, 1992 (Sunday)
1:00 - 3:00 pm Roundtable on African Bibliographies
5:30 - 7:00 pm  ASA Business Meeting

ALC BUSINESS MEETING NOTES

Nominations for ALC Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Secretary and Member-at-large should be submitted to Ruby Bell-Garn (310-825-1518), Karen Fung (415-725-3505) or Sharon Howard (212-491-2233).

Bylaws Amendments
The ad-hoc Bylaws Revision Committee (of Baumann, Easterbrook and Schmidt) wants to conclude its work at the Spring 1993 ALC meeting. The Bylaws as revised so far will be distributed in Seattle. There will be a discussion during the Seattle business meeting of the issues listed below. [An earlier list, with explanations for the proposed changes, appeared in ALN Oct. 1991, p.2-3. For discussion and decisions at recent meetings, see ALN Aug. 1991, p.3-4; Jan. 1992, p.3; and July 1992, p.2.]

NEWSLETTER (old no. 2):
Section II D: current wording: Support a newsletter carrying information on resources for African studies.
Proposed wording: Select a member who will edit and publish a newsletter to provide regular reports on the activities of the Council.

Seat on the EXECUTIVE BOARD for the ASA Publications Committee Liaison (old no. 4):
Section IV G: Ex-officio members shall be selected to represent the Library of Congress, the Africana Libraries Newsletter, the Cooperative Africana Microfilm Project and others as needed.
Proposed wording: Ex-officio members...Africana Microform Project, the A.S.A. Publications Committee Liaison and others as needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS of meetings (old no. 5):
Section VI C: Announcements of meetings, agenda, and minutes shall be printed in the African Studies Newsletter and the Africana Libraries Newsletter.
Proposed wording: Announcements of meetings, schedules, draft agenda and minutes shall be printed in the Africana Libraries Newsletter, and should be submitted to ASA News if appropriate.

PRIORITIES at business meetings (old no. 6):
Proposed addition of VI D: Priority will be given to agenda items which have been submitted in writing in advance of the meeting, and for which documentation has been distributed, where relevant. Documentation must be provided if the issue in question calls for a vote.

VOTING (old no. 8):
Section IX. A. Items requiring a vote should be included in the agenda distributed in advance of the meeting. Approval shall be by majority vote of those members present. The advance notice requirement may be waived by a 3/4 vote of those members present.
B. Votes that represent policy decisions in the opinion of the Chairperson require approval of 2/3 of those members present at a meeting of the full committee. Voting on policy decisions shall be by secret ballot.
Proposed simplification:
A. (1) Numbers necessary for council or committee action should be a 2/3 majority of members present.
(2) ...a 2/3 majority of a quorum (at least one representative from a majority of member institutions).
B. Voting on policy decisions shall be by secret ballot.

BYLAWS REVIEW (old no. 9):
Section XI (new) or add to Section VIII: Amendments.
Proposed wording: A review of these Bylaws shall take place every five years, or earlier if needed.

ROUNDTABLE: AFRICAN BIBLIOGRAPHIES:
COMPILATION & EVALUATION
(Sunday, 1-3pm)
Chair: Nancy J. Schmidt, Indiana Univ.
David Henige, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison.
Bernth Lindfors, Univ. of Texas, Austin.
Robert A. Myers, Alfred Univ.
Hans Zell, Hans Zell Associates.
Yvette Scheven, Urbana, Illinois.

ASA REGISTRATION FEES & DUES

REGISTRATION FEES for the 35th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, 20-23 November at the Westin Hotel, Seattle, are as follows:
ASA member: $55
ASA member earning less than $15,000 per year: $30
Non-Member: $90
Non-member earning less than $15,000 per year: $45
Persons currently teaching in an African university: $30
Charges for pre-registration (before Oct. 15) were less.
Participation in ALC activities is open to all ASA members.
The AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION (US) brings together persons with scholarly or professional interests in Africa, provides services to the Africanist community, and publishes and distributes Africanist materials. In addition to participation and discount rights, members receive three journals:

- African Studies Review (articles & reviews; 3 per year)
- ASA News (a newsletter, listing recent theses; 4 per year)
- Issue: A Journal of Opinion (on current topics; 2 per year)

Dues (1992) for regular individual membership in the African Studies Association are as follows:

- Income over $60,000: $70
- Income from $45-60,000: $60
- Income from $30-45,000: $50
- Income from $15-30,000: $40
- Income below $15,000: $20

For further details on lifetime and joint memberships or a form, contact the African Studies Association, Emory University, Credit Union Building, Atlanta, GA 30322. Tel: 404-329-6410.

OTHER NEWS

NEWS FROM OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

CALENDAR

ALA:
- June 24-July 1, 1993, New Orleans - ALA Annual Conf.

IFLA Annual Conference:
- Aug. 22-26, 1993, Barcelona

Book Fairs:
- Sept. 30-Oct. 5, 1992 - 44th Frankfurt Book Fair
- 2-8 August 1993 - Zimbabwe International Book Fair

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Asian and African Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries elected:
- Katharine K. Elsasser (LC) as vice-chair/chain-elect;
- Donald Clay Johnson as member-at-large.

Executive boards of the Association of College and Research Libraries and the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services voted during the annual meeting in San Francisco to begin participation in the AAAS Sub-Saharan Africa Journal Distribution Program. Beginning later this year, 50 copies of each association's journal, College and Research Libraries and Library Resources and Technical Services, will be made available through the Program to libraries in Africa.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (U.K.)

IGLA (International Group of the Library Association), in association with SCOLMA, sponsored the following 23 September 1992 meeting at the Library Association Headquarters:--Creating that Reading Habit: Publishing and Book Provision in the Languages of Sub-Saharan Africa. --(ARD, no.57)

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

Annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 28, at Portland State University. Business meeting (9:45-11:45am) will be followed by programs on collecting, using new technology, and preservation. Members will vote on changes in the by-laws, including provisions to open full membership to any person interested in Middle East library materials. For further details, contact Michael Hopper (MELA secretary/treasurer), Univ. of California, Santa Barbara, Library (Tel: 805-893-3454).

MELA Notes no. 55 (Winter 1992; [Sept. 1992]) carried minutes of the 1991 annual meetings of MELA and MEMP in Washington, DC, and rather more typos than usual. In her notes on a 1992 acquisitions trip to Tunisia, Elizabeth Vernon (Harvard College Library) mentions that microfilm copies of Tunisian theses are available from Arlette Doux, Centre Universitaire de Documentation Scientifique et Technique, 1 ave. de France, 1000 Tunis.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AFRICAN STUDIES SEMINAR held its fall meeting on October 3rd at the University of Virginia. Papers included "Educational Controversies: African Activism and the Politics of Education in Zimbabwe, 1919-1934," by Carol Summers (Univ. of Richmond) and "USIA: Its Exchange Programs and Democratization in Africa," by Robert La Gamma (Office of African Affairs). A roundtable on democratization and social change in Africa was chaired by Julius Nyang'oro (Univ. of North Carolina). Program sponsored by Carter G. Woodson Institute for Afro-American and African Studies included a reception at the home of Mary Alice Kraehe.

STANDING CONFERENCE ON
LIBRARY MATERIALS ON AFRICA

FREE MATERIALS OFFERED AND REQUESTED

Notes on requests for books are listed as received, without any endorsement by the editor, MSU or ALC.

Senegalese libraries seek the titles listed below. Their directors are keenly interested in establishing exchange relationships in order to make these titles accessible to Senegalese students and scholars. They will gladly accept either original imprints, photoprints or microforms. Further details available from Fred Schaffer or Phyllis Bischof, Univ. of California, Berkeley.

Amadou Dialo, Chair, Département de Linguistique, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, wishes to exchange publications of CLAD (Centre de Linguistique Appliquée de Dakar) for the following titles:

- Louis Faidherbe, Vocabulaire d’environ 1,500 mots français, avec leurs correspondants en Wolof... 1864. 70p.

Arame Diop Fal, Département de Linguistique, Institut fondamental d’Afrique noire, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, B.P. 206, Dakar, wishes to exchange IFAN imprints for the following:

- Max Mangold, Wolof Pronoun Verb Patterns and Paradigms. 1977.

Kenya Methodist University (PO Box 2277, Meru; tel: 011 254 164 30935) plans to open in 1994, with schools of business administration and theology and other ones. They plan to build a 20,000 volume library in the next year and then increase it by about 30 percent per year. For more details, contact address above or PO Box 47633, Nairobi; tel.: 724841/724897/724828.

RESOURCES AT LIBRARIES AND RESEARCH CENTERS


Yale University Library acquired the following:


GRANT APPLICATION

The following summary has been prepared from Gretchen Walsh’s application to the U.S. Department of Education’s Foreign Periodicals Program. Summaries or copies of other applications are also welcome.

Northwestern University’s proposal to the same program was to acquire the serial literature relating to new democratic movements and to catalog both these new titles plus other unique titles. The University of Iowa asked for funds to acquire current periodicals, primarily business and economics, from Africa and China. Michigan State University Library submitted a proposal for English-language newspapers from Asia, with unspecified serials from Africa to be added in year two. The librarians covering Southeast Asia prepared a joint proposal.

AFRICAN NEWSPAPERS PROJECT

A Boston University Proposal

The Boston University Library application to the Foreign Periodicals Program has the following objectives:

1. Survey of African newspapers: After synthesizing, verifying and expanding upon existing lists of newspapers (e.g., African Book World and Press Directory, Africa South of the Sahara and Benn’s Media Directory), create a database which will be made available and possibly published.

2. Selection and acquisition of African newspapers: Will expand beyond 14 currently acquired newspapers, emphasizing broad representation of African countries, titles not currently received, titles recommended by scholars, titles providing a range of viewpoints, and titles in national languages.

3. Evaluating the distribution infrastructure for African newspapers: Review and monitor existing and new arrangements and share information with other libraries through notices in ALN & discussion at ALC meetings.

4. Providing bibliographic and physical access to African newspapers: Newspapers will be housed in BU’s African Studies Library and be given priority cataloging. They will also be listed in African Newspapers Currently Received in American Libraries (an irregular that started at BU and was continued at Northwestern).

5. Preserving the newspapers: Filming is already done by LC & CRL, to which BU contributes. Other sources are Microfile, ACRPP, and AILS. New technologies will be explored, and BU will film titles that cannot be added to existing programs.

6. Indexing the newspapers: Newspapers currently received will be indexed, as well as those added as part of this project. Articles will be indexed according to place names, personal names and corporate names mentioned in the article. An authority file of names and abbreviations and acronyms will be created. Subject indexing will use keywords or a controlled vocabulary or a combination. A CD-ROM for either the index or the full text (via optical scanning) holds promise as the best format for distribution. There is virtually no indexing of African newspapers. The most ambitious indexing project, African Newspaper Index, published only three volumes in the early 1980s and covered only a handful of newspapers. From time to time, an index of a particular paper will be done or African newspapers will be indexed for a specific topic. Examples are Subject Index to the Nationalist, 1964-1972, by the Tanzania Library Service, and Reports on AIDS in the African Press, by Nancy Schmidt.

7. Arrange funding beyond three year grant period: Project seen as having potential to attract additional university or grant funds and as producing products for commercial distribution.
PERSONNEL CHANGES

Elizabeth Alice Widenmann died September 26, 1992, at Roosevelt Hospital in New York City. The immediate cause of death was pneumonia which developed during a heavy round of chemotherapy. She was 57. A memorial service was held at Montclair, NJ, on October 2d. She leaves behind four cousins, three in Germany and one in New York.

Ms. Widenmann was born in Montclair, NJ. After high school in Northampton, Mass., she received her bachelor's degree from Radcliffe College. She then earned two Master's degrees, one from the London School of Economics and her library science degree from Columbia University. She worked for Rockefeller Foundation before joining the library staff at Columbia, where she was African Bibliographer and Cataloger. (See New York Times, 9/30/92, for more details.)

Ms. Widenmann was very active within ALC, where she was known as Betsy. She wrote the "Dear Colleague" letter of November 1974 that led to the reconstitution of ALC and was the first chair of the Subcommittee on Cataloging and Classification. She later served as chair of the Committee in 1979-80 and played a leading role in the creation of the Conover-Porter Award for outstanding Africa-related reference works. Her Africanist colleagues have enjoyed her good judgment, her precise and concise knowledge of our institutional history, and her care with personal and professional details. Some of this is reflected in her "Recent Development in Africana Cataloging in the United States (1973-1988)," in Africana Resources and Collections, edited by Julian W. Witherrall (1989). The latest ASA News lists her as one of three benefactors for the ASA Endowment.

Betsy was also influential in ALA Africanist circles. She served on the Executive Committee of the ACRL Asian and African Section in several roles. She was the driving force in establishing the Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials, the only area studies cataloging group. She was very important in getting two adhoc subcommittees established, in identifying specialists and in preparing the reports that led to the creation of this permanent committee.

The Columbia University Library has established the Elizabeth Widenmann Memorial Fund for African Studies, which will be used to purchase books and journals for Columbia’s Africana collections, bookplated with the name of this memorial fund. Persons who wish to make a donation should write a check payable to Columbia University, listing the name of the fund as above in the memo section of the check. Checks should be sent to Daniel King, Columbia Libraries Director of Development, 314B Butler Library, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027.

Yvette Scheven retired at the end of September from the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana) Library, where she was Bibliographer for African Studies since 1969. Earlier experience included service in Tanzania. While at Illinois, she taught a library school course on Africana bibliography, edited this newsletter (1983-86), served as chair of the Archives-Libraries Committee (1977-78), and wrote or compiled many articles and books including the 1990 Conover-Porter Award winning Bibliographies for African Studies, 1990-1986 (Hans Zell, 1990). She also contributed in many other ways at her university and in ASA, and she is expected to continue her involvement with African Studies.

Deborah Perkal Balinsky, former cataloger at Northwestern University, died on May 7, 1992. She joined the Catalog Dept. in 1978 as a copy cataloger and cataloged Africana from 1982-87 while completing a Ph.D. in French.—C&RL News, Oct. 1992.

Alfred Kagan is the new Bibliographer for African Studies at Illinois, where he began on September 21. He had worked since 1984 in the Government Publications Department of the University of Connecticut Library. He has Master’s degrees in International Relations (San Francisco State University) and Library Science (Indiana University).

Lorraine Haricombe, formerly grad assistant at the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana), recently defended her Library School (GSLIS) doctoral dissertation on the effects of the academic boycott on South Africa. As of August 24th, she is Head of Circulation, Founders Memorial Library, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. Tel: (815)753-9845.

Colin Darch has accepted a position as university librarian in South Africa, effective October 1. Address: University Library, University of the Western Cape, Private Bag X17, Bellville 7535.

Angela Aluko started October 19th as Africana Cataloger in the Boston University Library. She has a library degree from Anambra State Polytechnic (Nigeria) and worked at the Federal College of Education (Abeokuta). Her telephone number in the Catalog Dept. is (617)353-3715.

VACANCIES

Michigan State University plans to hire an Original Catalog Librarian who will work 50% on Africana and 50% on general humanities and social science material. Knowledge of French required. Contact Colleen Hyslop, Assistant Director for Systems and Access Services Division, MSU Libraries 48824-1048.

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library has vacancies for an Assistant Director for Collection & Services, a Art Collection Manager, and a Curator. For further details, see C&RL News, July/August 1992, p. 480 & 490, and Sept. 1992, p.556; or write Human Resources Dept., NYPL, 8 West 40th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Editor's Comments, continued from p. 1

club; and how she could put away as much drink as any of the guys. For me she was an institutional memory and a defining presence. She was reliable and she was fair. It is hard to imagine an ALC gathering without her.

More details on personnel changes are in the Other News section. I have also included notes on Amharic romanization tables and gaps in newspaper holdings.

Copy and materials were contributed by many individuals, including Helene Baumann, Phyllis Bischof, Moore Crossezy, David Easterbrook, Victoria Evalds, Onuma Ezera, Karen Fung, Beverly Gray, John Howell, Al Kagan, Mary Alice Kraehe, Nancy Schmidt, Mette Shyanne, Janet Stanley, Gretchen Walsh, Elizabeth Widenmann, Arline Zuckerman.
RESEARCH ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

The following items have come to the attention of the editor.

THESIS


BOOKS


- Agricultural Abstracts for Tanzania
- ANAI Index (African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development)
- Devindex Africa
- Documentation List: Africa (University of Delhi)
- Educational Abstracts for Tanzania
- Index of African Social Science Periodicals Articles
- Index to South African Periodicals
- Industrial Abstracts (Lagos)
- Industrial Abstracts for Tanzania
- Namibia Abstracts
- Nigerian Rural Development Abstracts
- RESINDEX: Bibliographie sur le Sahel
- Zambia Science Abstracts

Another 48 services that were unavailable for analysis are also listed. Most abstracted titles are in English, but many in Spanish and some in French, Portuguese & Malay.

Publishing and Development in the Third World, edited by Philip G. Altbach (K.G. Saur, 1992), is based on papers commissioned for an international seminar in Bellagio, Italy (February 1991). Included are the following:

- “Africa: The Neglected Continent,” by Hans Zell


294p. ISBN 1559383836; $63.50. Includes:
- “Reentry of International Students to Home Library Environments,” by Andrew M. Kaniki (p. 175-95).

JOURNALS & ARTICLES

African Journal of Library, Archives & Information Science (Ibadan), vol. 2, no. 1 (April 1992) contains the following articles, in addition to short notes and 9 abstracts of 1991 articles in other African journals:

- “Large-scale Library Automation,” by S.M. Lawani; A.A. Azubuike & G.O. Ibekwe, on success at International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (Ibadan)
- “Information Needs for Rural Development: The Case Study of Malawi,” by Kingo Mchombu (U. of Botswana)
- “Public Libraries and Community Information Services in Africa,” by Albert Kantumoya (U. of Zambia)
- “An Examination of Records Management in the University Registry,” by Viola Ifeoma Ugwunze
- “Library Services to the Visually Handicapped at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia,” by Degife Gebre Tsadik and Sushima Gupta

African Research and Documentation, no. 57 (1991):

- “Libraries in Research and Scholarship in Ghana,” by A.A. Alemna
- “Malawi’s Hidden Bibliographies: A Preliminary Survey of Some Earlier Texts,” by Augustine W.C. Msiska; Covers bibliographies at the end of monographs

Information Trends: News Magazine (Gaborone), vol. 5, no. 2 (June 1992) includes:

- “Rural Development Information Communication in Africa,” by K.J. Mchombu
- “Conference on Library and Information Services for Future Development of Southern Africa,” by Peter Havard-Williams
- “Current Research Projects in LIS Department, University of Botswana.”

Innovation: Appropriate Librarianship and Information Work in Southern Africa, no. 4 (June 1992) carries articles and short contributions on censorship, the new South African media, access to official records and other information, communications policy, library services, a bibliographic introduction (by Leonie Prozesky) to new grey literature, and a review of Thami Mazwai’s Mau-mauing the Media. For issues, contact the University Library, University of Natal, P.O. Box 375, Pietermaritzburg.
**International Information & Library Review (London), vol. 24, no. 2 (June 1992) includes:**


**Journal Distribution Program (Washington: American Association for the Advancement of Science), vol. 2, no. 1 (July 1992), carries a note by Henri Sene on the use of CD-ROM in the Library of the Université Cheikh Anta Diop.**


**DATA ON DISKETTE**

Mansell is planning to publish *Index Islamicus* on CD-ROM. Initially the years 1981-1991 will be issued on one disc, and updated annually. Retrospective material will be added gradually. The CD-ROM will be sold on an annual subscription basis. Their questionnaire asks if £400 or £500 or £600 would be an acceptable annual price. For further details, contact Veronica Higgs, Publisher, Mansell Reference, Mansell Publishing Limited, Villiers House, 41/47 Strand, London WC2N 5JE.

**NEW REFERENCE TITLES**

*The following items or issues are noted. For more titles, see the annual “Africana Reference Books” in The African Book Publishing Record, no. 2.*


Lists 376 titles in alphabetical order, with details on place, frequency, years, holder of negatives and number of reels. Each entry also has 1-3 paragraph historical summary, covering publishers, variant titles, etc. Lists sources consulted and addresses of institutions holding negatives. Includes indexes for variant titles and places of publication.

Insert of 7 pages lists titles and reels available from State Library and from Microfile. Note inserted in book gives Inter Documenta­tion Co. (PO Box 11205, 2301 EE Leiden, The Netherlands) as the agency for overseas orders of the State Library microfilm.

*History in Africa, v. 19 (1992) carried following notes on archival resources:*

- “The National Archives—Kaduna (NAK), Nigeria,” by Jörg Adelberger (J.W. Goethe-Universität), p. 435-9


**REFERENCE SOURCES**
LETTERS & OPINIONS

The following essays are by the editor. Other opinions are welcome.

ETHIOPIAN ROMANIZATION TABLES
Which One Do We Use? Which One Should We Use?
An Essay, by Joseph J. Lauer

Ethiopians and scholars use romanization systems that vary significantly from the tables prepared by LC and approved by ALA. Should American librarians encourage them to adopt our system? Should we adopt their system? What systems are American libraries using?

I raise this issue for two reasons. First, the MSU Library has a backlog of Amharic titles which I am going to have to transliterate before cataloging, and we have not consistently used the approved tables. I need advice. Second, many records in both OCLC and the Joint Acquisitions List of Africana (JALA) were obviously not produced according to LC policy.

For those who have never looked at the Amharic romanization table (and this included me until 3 years ago), a knowledge of Amharic is not required to determine whether or not a library follows LC policy. Distinguishing characteristics of the LC system are no doubled consonants, no "ä," and an abundance of strange diacritics, including an acute accent over s. For examples, see LC’s Accessions List: Eastern Africa (but not volumes before 1975) or Fassil’s Contemporary Amharic Creative Literature (1982). Records with numerous doubled consonants or "ä" are following other systems.

The basic reason for the conflict between most users and LC is that the goals of phonetic transcription differ from those of character romanization. Ethiopians and Ethiopians attempt to approximate pronunciation, and linguists want a system that helps the learner. They even make their phonetic transcriptions more precise than the original by indicating gemination (or consonant lengthening) with doubled consonants and by varying the vowel after certain consonants. They are not concerned about the problems of converting transliterated titles back into the original script, since they have no plans for a machine conversion. Besides, they know the original characters and there is some freedom is selecting among symbols for a sound.

In contrast, the Library of Congress and most librarians involved in the creation of machine-readable records want a table that permits a future conversion of romanized characters into Ethiopian characters. By following the principle of reversibility, they hope to avoid the need for human intervention or the cost of an Amharic specialist. They are not concerned with an accurate phonetic transcription, partly because English spellings are so frequently non-phonetic and partly because some of this involves improving upon the original.

The differing solutions for these two distinct problems affect more than just a few cases. Excluding special combinations (mostly with "w") and the foreign "v", Amharic has 231 characters, or 7 vowel variants of 33 consonants. LC provides 231 different syllables (264, if 6th order variants are included) to represent these symbols. Most other systems provide only 188, with "h" being used for 6 or 7 distinct Amharic characters. In contrast to others, LC uses diacritics to distinguish between the different h, s and alif-ayn characters which are no longer pronounced differently. The common use of gemination, or doubled-consonants to indicate lengthening, probably would not affect future reversibility. But it does affect the spelling (and current machine retrievability) of about half the words.

The case for abandoning the LC table could be summarized as follows:
1. Ethiopians do not use it.
2. Scholars do not use it.
3. American libraries have used it only sparingly. Very few deliberately ignore it, but several including LC and Northwestern store most Amharic titles in their uncataloged backlog and others simply accept transliterations submitted by a student or linguistic assistant.
4. If Ethiopia ever abandons its script (unlikely), it will follow a system close to current transcription practices.
5. No known dictionary uses it.
6. Frequent errors and failures to follow system makes a future machine conversion unlikely, except possibly as a first step.
7. It requires the use of more diacritics than other systems.

Arguments for using the LC table:
1. It is unambiguous, except for some details which need to be addressed.
2. It does not require the use of a native speaker or dictionary, except for 6th order vowels; and those could be eliminated or routinely added except when final.
3. LC-Nairobi has romanized titles since about 1974, though not without errors.
4. There is no agreement on a single alternative. While non-LC alternatives usually follow the same principles, they are far from agreement on transcribing vowels and some consonants. There are even differences in the tables adopted by the National Library of Ethiopia, the Government of Ethiopia (see Birgit Negussie, Traditional wisdom ... (1988), p. 286) and the Academy of Ethiopian Languages. Apparently Ethiopians value the right to select among systems.
5. No known dictionary uses it.
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3. LC-Nairobi has romanized titles since about 1974, though not without errors.
4. There is no agreement on a single alternative. While non-LC alternatives usually follow the same principles, they are far from agreement on transcribing vowels and some consonants. There are even differences in the tables adopted by the National Library of Ethiopia, the Government of Ethiopia (see Birgit Negussie, Traditional wisdom ... (1988), p. 286) and the Academy of Ethiopian Languages. Apparently Ethiopians value the right to select among systems. As Bahru Zewde (History of Modern Ethiopia (1991) p.235) noted: "In spelling his or her personal name in English, an Ethiopian may of course choose any preferred form of transliteration. We may find the variants Eyasu, Iyasou, Iyyasu; Shawaragad, Shewareged, Shoaregued; Webe, Wibe, Wubay, Wubie, and others."(p.235)

One compromise solution would be continued use of the ALA-LC tables, with the following changes (some of which are already under consideration by ALA’s Committee on Cataloging: Asian & African Materials and by Ben Tucker, consultant to LC): 1. Readable graphics, and a table with numbers and years. 2. More instructions for catalogers, e.g. no gemination, capitalization after certain prefixes in the 245c, conversion of Ethiopian years to Gregorian calendar years, etc. 3. Decision to omit vowel for 6th order characters; or better guidance on how to determine when vowel should be used. 4. Cross references for variant systems. It is already possible to list variant forms of a name. (But too many Ethiopians still think American libraries enter an Ethiopian name under the second (father’s) name.) We could also list variant titles (in the 740?), using one or more of the other romanization schemes.

Two new books should also be noted:
The Tseng volume simply reproduces for each language the relevant pages from the LC Cataloging Service bulletins. The Barry/LC volume has a revised table that corrects errors and resets some of the characters. Unfortunately, the graphics still lack the clarity of standard textbooks and the accompanying instructions do not contain the necessary detail.

Responses, clarifications and suggestions are welcome.

GAPS IN NEWSPAPER HOLDINGS ON MICROFILM
Is Anybody Interested?
Notes by the Editor

In the drive to expand holdings of newspapers on microfilm, the issue of missing issues is frequently not addressed or judged hopeless. What is the standard for complete? A review of CAMP's holdings of Le Soleil (Dakar) illustrates the problem.

Le Soleil 1970-1977 is available at CAMP on 29 reels. A total of 193 issues are missing from the 14 reels which have gaps. Another 4 reels were only completed by the addition of issues at the end of the reel. The worst year was 1972. Details on missing dates follow (with partial issues counted as missing issues):

1970: Lacks 55 of 195 issues (28%):
Start-1 juillet, 12 oct. & 8-27 nov.
1971: Lacks 34 of 312 (11%):
1972: Lacks 91 of 303 (30%):
3-4 mai, 17 mai, 19 mai, 23 mai, 26 mai, 9 juin, 18-31 juillet, 1-10 sept., 12 sept.-27 nov., 21 dec, 28 dec.
1973: Lacks 5 of 296 (2%):
31 jan, 6 fev., 4 avril, 11 avril, 26/27 mai.
1974: Complete
1975: Lacks 4 of 300 (1%):
2 mai, 6 juin, 10 juin, 19 dec.
1976: Lacks 3 of 301 (1%): 23 avril, 10/11 juillet, 5 nov.
1977: Lacks 1 of 301 (0%): 10 oct.

NOTES ON MATERIALS AND VENDORS

VENDOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adam Matthew Publications (8 Oxford St., Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1AP, England) has drawn attention to 3 serials on microfilm:


African and Caribbean Imprint Library Services has moved to 236 Main St., Falmouth, MA 02540. Their telephone number remains 508-540-5378; fax: 548-6801.

African Books Collective Ltd. (The Jam Factory, 27 Park End St., Oxford OX1 1HU, England) has issued a new free catalog: “Books for Multicultural Education” or “Books from Africa: A Starter's Pack.” This lists with illustrations and descriptive notes 121 new or recent titles of interest to public and school libraries, plus 64 African-published children's books and folktales.


African Publications Resource (15 Court Square, Suite 460, Boston, MA 02108; 617-720-0222) is a new firm supplying Nigerean newspapers and other materials. The director is Olu Ademulegun. Their services are used by Boston University, which receives Daily Times in monthly batches, for about $110 per year.

Safari Press announces Hunting in Tanzania and Hunting in Zimbabwe, at $125 each, as the first volumes in its African Country Series of luxury editions featuring hunting stories selected by Tony Sanchez. They also carry videos and other books. Address: 15621 Chemical Lane #B, Huntington Beach, CA 92649. Tel: (714)894-9080. Fax:-4949.

Senegal. Direction de la Statistique (B.P. 116, Dakar) has issued “Catalogue de vente des publications du Sénégal.” No. 1 lists 63 titles. More are promised.

World Wide Hunting Books sells collectible antiquarian big-game hunting books of better quality. Their June 1992 catalog lists 216 annotated titles, including many about Africa. Along with Safari Press, they are part of Woodbine Publishing Co. Their address is listed above under Safari Press.

The South-North Book Project of the Zimbabwe Book Marketing Scheme at Grassroots Books (Harare) is a new “positive action campaign from Africa to get African books into school libraries in the countries of the North.” Their campaign to improve the North’s understanding of Africa and support publishing in Africa is “directed at librarians and professors who are interested and involved in African Studies.”

The project coordinators are looking for individuals who would register with the Scheme as a South-North Book Project Agent. These agents would:
• receive catalogs of Project books
• survey schools as to needs
• raise funds to purchase and ship the books to the schools concerned
• raise issues and problems faced by Africa and by young
people’s lack of knowledge of Africa.
Interested individuals should contact Todd Nyoni or Ruth Levine, Zimbabwe Book Marketing Scheme, The South-North Book Project, P.O. Box A267, Avondale, Harare. Fax: 263-14-703435.

BOOK AWARDS

1992 Noma Award winners:
• Souad Khodja (Algeria) for her scholarly study A comme Algériennes (Alger: Enterprise Nationale du Livre, 1991).
Honorable Mentions:
• Jeremy Baskin, Striking Back: A History of COSATU (Ravan);
• Peter Horn, Poems, 1964-1989 (Ravan);
• Pamela Reynolds & Colleen Crawford Cousins, Lwanyika: Tonga Book of the Earth (Baobab);
• Etienne van Heerden, Casspiss en Campari’s (Tafelberg).

ZIMBABWE INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

The Seventh Zimbabwe International Book Fair at the National Gallery in Harare (August 2-7, 1992) honored Hans Zell for his immense contribution to African publishing. The other trustees are Nathan Shamuyarira, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and David Martin of Zimbabwe Publishing House and the founder and driving spirit of the Fair.

A total of 136 exhibitors from 29 countries participated in the Book Fair. The African publishing industry was represented by exhibitors from 18 countries. A total of 31,000 people visited the Fair.

The next Fair will be held 2-8 August 1993, with the theme of Reading is Development. The All-Africa Poetry Festival will run concurrently. Further information is available from ZIBF, 12 Selous Ave., Harare; or The Herald, Aug. 4.

LITERATURE ON THE BOOK TRADE

Actes de la Table ronde sur le partenariat dans l’édition francophone, Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire), 3-5 December 1990, sponsored by Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique (ACCT), Ministère de l’éducation nationale de Côte d’Ivoire, Association internationale des Editeurs africains francophones (AIEAF) & Union des Editeurs de Langues françaises (UELF). Contents include the final report, working documents, and contributions by Mamadou Seck, Guy Fennette, R. Vezina and William Mouchia on publishing in Africa and elsewhere.


Zeitschrift für Kulturaustausch (Stuttgart), 41,3 (1991):
• “Africa: the Neglected Continent,” H. Zell
• “Scholarly Publishing on Africa: The case of Africa and Nigeria,” S. Bodunde Bankole

• “Co-operation and Conflict in SADCC Publishing,” P. Brickhill.

SERIAL CHANGES

History in the Making has been replaced with SAHA Annual Acquisitions Catalogue, produced by the South African History Archive. 1991 is available for R45/$30. Address: P.O. Box 31719, Braamfontein 2017.

South African Patriot-in-Exile, nos. 30 and 31, is a new serial that continues/replaces the original South African Patriot and Patriotic Press’s South African Newsletter, which produced only 8 issues before leaving South Africa. For more information, contact Alan D. Harvey, Editor, BCM Sapat, London WC1N 3XX.

NEW SERIALS


Monthly Regional Bulletin has been announced by SouthScan Ltd., which also publishes the weekly SouthScan. Rates are $110/£65/ R300, with concessionary rates for subscribers to the weekly and for educational institutions in Southern Africa and elsewhere. Pilot issue: 16 pages. Address: PO Box 724, London N16 5RZ.

The People, vol. 1, no. 2 (14 Sept. 1991) is a new publication in English and French Creole and ?French. It is produced by the Information Services of the Seychelles People’s Progressive Front, B.O. Box 91, Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles.

A Semana na Africa: Clipping sobre PALOP e Africa Austral is a weekly reproduction of Portuguese-language newspaper articles on southern Africa and the PALOPs(?), produced by the Programa de Estudos Africanos, Centro de Estudos Afro-Asiaticos. The 12-page issue for 9-15 August 1992 was no. 50. It is free for African students in Brazil; $250 for overseas addresses. Address: CEAA, Conjunto Universitário Candido Mendes, Rua da Assembleia, 10, Sala 501, CEP 20011, Rio de Janeiro.

The South African Township Annual is being published in multiple 1992 editions. Price is $500 (£300) for the national edition (450p.) or $325 (£195) for the Transvaal or Natal, OFS & Cape provincial editions. Publishers are labor relations consultants and a market research company. Available from SA Township Annual, PO Box 2292, Rivonia, 2128.

St. Petersburg Journal of African Studies (SPBIAS) is a new scholarly journal to be published twice a year, starting in 1992, by the St. Petersburg Association of Scientists and l’Edition de l’espace européen en St. Petersburg. It will cover social science and humanities research in Russia or other states of the former USSR. The first issues will provide English translations of the most important works written by Russian scholars during the last 30 years. Annual subscriptions: $19 (individuals) and $38 (institutions); $11 and $19 in Tropical Africa and East Europe. Send orders to Valentin Vydrin, Managing Editor, African Dept., Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology, University Embankment, 3, St. Petersburg, 199 034 Russia.


**ELECTRONIC FORMATS**

The Islamic Computing Centre (73, St. Thomas’ Road, London N4 2QJ) offers the Al-Qur’an Database, the Al-Hadith Database, and the Islamic LawBase.

**SELECTED NEW BOOKS**

This section is generally limited to titles outside the regular book trade, or titles received by the editor. Many more titles and/or details on publisher addresses can be found in Joint Acquisitions List of Africana (Northwestern University Library), The African Book Publishing Record (Hans Zell Publishers), American Book Publishing Record (Bowker), Accessions List: Eastern Africa (Library of Congress Office, Nairobi), or in one of the current national bibliographies.


CIRAD (Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement, B.P. 5035, 34032 Montpellier, France) has the following 1992 titles, at 150FF per volume, in its Collection Documents systèmes agraires:

no. 16: La transition cafétière (Côte est de Madagascar);
no. 17: Le développement agricole au Sahel. tomes I-IV;
no. 18: Pour une prise en compte des stratégies des producteurs.


Kenya National Archives (KNA) has following available:

2. Guide to Private Archives or Records (1990) ............. 4.00
7. Guide to Government Monographs, Reports ... (1984) ... 8.00

**SPECIAL ISSUES OF JOURNALS**
