

# NOTES AND NEWS

## SCOLMA NEWS

The annual SCOLMA conference was held at the Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, on 25<sup>th</sup> May. The conference was on the theme "Sharing Information – African Perspectives", and included contributions from Mary Materu-Behitsa (Association of African Universities), Javed Iqbal (British Council), and Bridget McBean (European Centre for Development Policy Management). Selected papers from the conference will be published in future editions of *African Research and Documentation*.

As recorded in the last issue of *African Research and Documentation*, Sheila Allcock stepped down as Chair of the Committee of SCOLMA at the AGM in May 2004. Sheila had been Chair since 1999, and has recently retired from her post as Librarian of the International Development Centre.

David Blake, Librarian at the Commonwealth Secretariat, was elected as Chair of the Committee at the AGM. David has been an active member of the Committee for several years, most recently as Secretary. The role of Secretary has now been taken on by Ian Cooke, Deputy Librarian at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London.

## INSTITUTIONS & ORGANISATIONS

The **Institute of Commonwealth Studies** has received funding for an 18 month project to catalogue donated collections of African Monographs. These include nearly 750 books originally held by the United Africa Company, dating from the 1790s until the 1960s, and covering history, geography and ethnology. More recent donations particularly focus on Southern African politics. The project is expected to start in August 2004.

The virtual **International Institute on Gender and HIV/AIDS** was launched on the 7<sup>th</sup> June in Johannesburg. The Institute has been formed as a collaboration between the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, Dalhousie University, Canada, the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA), and the AIDS and Rights Alliance of Southern Africa (ARASA).

Nancy Spence, Director of the Social Transformation Programmes Division at the Commonwealth Secretariat, described the organisation as an "Institute ... without borders. It will move from region to region, acting as a catalyst in the sharing of knowledge and experience for effective strategies."

The Institute will promote the use of research in developing and implementing national and regional policy. Researchers, policy makers, and Civil Society representatives from five countries (Canada, Lesotho, Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland) were present at the five-day meeting at which the Institute was launched.

## **AWARDS & PRIZES**

### **Commonwealth Writers Prize**

The award for Best Book in the Africa region was won this year by South African author Damon Galgut, for *The Good Doctor*. Diane Awerbuck, also from South Africa, won the Best First Book award for *Gardening at Night*.

The Commonwealth Writers Prize annually awards £1,000 to authors for Best Book and Best First Book in four regions: Africa; the Caribbean and Canada; Eurasia; and South-East Asia and South Pacific. One winner from these regions is awarded £10,000 for Best Book overall. This year the prize was awarded to the Caribbean-born UK author Caryl Phillips for *A Distant Shore*.

### **Harry Brittain fellowship**

Three African journalists were among the ten senior Commonwealth journalists to be awarded the Harry Brittain fellowship for 2004. The fellowship covers a six-week programme in the UK, designed to broaden experience and encourage close international relationships.

Wilton Mamba, editor of Swaziland-based, *The Weekend Observer*, and one of the ten fellows, described the importance of the programme, "as an editor of a small newspaper ... I hope to learn a lot from other newspaper companies, especially small companies the same as my own, on how they run their affairs and the way they operate."

Other fellows included Francis Pabai, Assistant Editor-in-Chief of *The Independent* (Gambia); and Kay Karriem, Assistant Editor of *Huisgenoot Magazine* in South Africa.

The Harry Brittain Fellowship is named after the founder of the Commonwealth Press Union, and is awarded annually by that body to up to twelve journalists, aged between 28 and 38, and fully employed by a member newspaper. Enquiries about the 2005 Fellowship are invited from October 2004.

### **Coutts Nijhoff International West European Specialist Study Grant**

Helene Baumann, African and Western European studies librarian at Duke

University, has been awarded the Specialist Study Grant. The grant covers the costs of travel to, and accommodation in, Europe. Helene will travel to Europe to translate the subject thesaurus of the Pictorial Archive of the German Colonial Society (Bildarchiv der Deutschen Kolonialgesellschaft).

## **PUBLISHING & THE BOOKTRADE**

### **Oneworldbooks**

Launched in June 2004, Oneworldbooks is an online bookstore, specialising in subject areas such as HIV/AIDS, law, politics and development. It holds titles from African and International publishers, including the Nordic Africa Institute, the South African Institute of International Affairs, and the Institute for Democracy in Africa.

Oneworldbooks can be found at: <http://www.oneworldbooks.com>

### **Turning Points**

A new history book series was launched by the South African Department of Education to celebrate 10 years of education reform. The series, *Turning Points*, is an initiative of the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, and aims to portray an African view of South Africa's history. High schools throughout the country will each receive eight volumes from the series.

### **Writing about the Book trade**

Isabelle Bourgueil ed., "Ou va le livre en Afrique," *Africultures*, 57, 2003, 5-162. Includes sections for "Publishers and readers", "The scholarly press", "Children's books", "Publishing in national languages" and "African literature".

Tony Zurbrugg, "A perspective on the trade in books from and about Africa in Anglophone Europe," *Africa Bibliography*, 2002

## **ON FILM**

The third Commonwealth Film Festival was held in Manchester, UK, from 30<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2004. The festival saw a number of screenings of documentaries and other films from Africa. Interest in South African film-making was high, and one of the highlights of the festival was the UK premier of Ntshaveni Wa Luruli's *The Wooden Camera*. The winner of "Best Feature Film for a Young Generation" at the 2004 Berlin International Film Festival, *The Wooden Camera* examines interracial tension, social injustice, and growing up in a South African township.

*Roots Calling*, a documentary about the return to South Africa of musicians who had fled to the United Kingdom during apartheid, received its international premiere at the festival.

Films from elsewhere in Africa were also well-represented, with an introduction to Nigerian Cinema; documentaries on political problems in Zimbabwe and AIDS orphans in Kenya and Malawi; and a showing of Jason Xenopoulos' *Critical Assignment*, described as the first ever high-budget pan-African action movie.

## ONLINE

**Swahili Manuscripts Database** <http://www.swahilimanuscripts.soas.ac.uk/>  
Online catalogue for the collections of Swahili manuscripts held at the School of Oriental and African Studies Library. This represents some 250 items (the largest collection of its kind in Britain), in Arabic and Roman script, and ranging in date from the 1790's to 1970's. The manuscripts include letters, essays on history, stories, and secular and religious poetry.

The collections represent a rich source for the study of Swahili language and thought, and provide examples of regional dialects and the use of Arabic script in Swahili. A number of texts in Arabic script have been reproduced digitally, and may be accessed from the website. For each digitised text, it is possible also to hear a recording of a recital of the text by Shaikh Yahya Ali Omar, one of few leading scholars in the reading of such manuscripts.

To coincide with the launch of this database, Adam Matthew Publications will be publishing a microfilm copy of nearly 100 of the manuscripts. See the entry under "Reference Sources, Bibliographies and Information Work" for further details.

**Nuer Field Notes** <http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/collections/nuer/>  
Digitised field notes on the Nuer language compiled by Eleanor Vandervort, a former missionary to South Sudan. Project funded by the Indiana University African Studies Program, and carried out by Marion Frank-Wilson (librarian for African Studies at IU), Edward Miner (International Studies Bibliographer, University of Iowa) and Indiana University's Digital Library Program.

The site contains images of Eleanor's notes, a database of transcriptions from the notes, letters, and slides.

**South Africa's Struggle for Democracy: Anti-Apartheid Periodicals 1960-1994** <http://disa.nu.ac.za/>

A selection of forty South African periodicals have been digitised by the Digital Imaging of South Africa (DISA) project, with funding from the Andrew Mellon Foundation. The full text is available for research purposes. The content, publication and distribution methods of these titles meant that few libraries were able to keep entire runs (if at all) of many of these periodicals. The project makes an important contribution to research in this area by bringing together entire, or near-complete, collections. The periodicals can be browsed by title, and subject and personality indices are being compiled. A second phase of the project will add more digital content.

### **Internet Mission Photography Archive (IMPA)**

<http://library.usc.edu/uhtbin/catstat.pl/impa>

Hosted by the University of Southern California. This is a database containing images from mission photograph collections held in Europe and North America. Coverage dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to World War II, and includes Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean, as well as photographs from Africa. The collection is growing, but currently numbers more than 2,000 images. Comments and suggestions about the project may be sent to Jon Miller, the Project Leader, at [jonmill@usc.edu](mailto:jonmill@usc.edu).

### **African Journals Online (AJOL) <http://www.ajol.info>**

African Journals Online has been re-launched at the new online address. Registration and use of the database is free. Search results include links to abstracts and online locations of articles, where available, and there is a document delivery service for obtaining the full text of articles. The latter is a charged service, with proceeds being paid back to participating journals. The database now covers more than 175 journal titles published in Africa. Subject areas include: agricultural science, health, humanities, social sciences, and arts.

Since its launch in 1998, AJOL has proven to be a much valued tool for both researchers interested in Africa and publishers of journals based in Africa. Nearly 4,000 people registered to use the database in 2003. An evaluation of the service, carried out in 2002, demonstrated that publishers benefited from increased international submissions and citations.

### **Nigerianet <http://www.nigerianet.org>**

Nigerianet is an online information and networking portal designed for civil society and donor agencies working in and around the field of human rights in Nigeria. The website contains a directory of organisations in Nigeria; a learning resources section aimed at capacity building for Civil Society organisations; and news and job listings. It also contains an area for registered members, which allows access to discussion fora and a facility for organisations to create their own work area.

Nigerianet is a British Council Nigeria project, supported by the European Commission, and was launched in December 2003.

**ICTs for Intercultural Dialogue – A UNESCO Project for Indigenous People** Launched in February 2004, the project will work to improve access to and develop skills in ICTs for Indigenous People. The aim is to encourage the preservation of cultural resources, and to support the creation of new resources, through use of new media. The project will involve ten communities, including the Pygmies and Himbas in Africa.

## JOURNALS

### New Titles

#### *African Renaissance*

Bi-monthly, launched in June 2004 from Adonis-Abbey publishers. This title intends to mix academic and "higher end" news and features. Its editorial policy is to take articles and features on any topic of relevance to Africa, but with particular application to policy making and policy makers. The journal aims to be "non-ideological and non-sectarian". The first issue focused on historical and contemporary Arab-African relations, recent economic development in Nigeria, and politics in South Africa and Zimbabwe. Further details are available via the publisher's web site at [http://www.adonis-abbey.com/journal\\_1.htm](http://www.adonis-abbey.com/journal_1.htm)

## AFRICAN STUDIES

### Reference Sources, Bibliographies & Information Work

#### AFRICA IN GENERAL

"From Africa to the world – the globalisation of indigenous knowledge systems," Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL) – proceedings of 2002 Conference. These are available from the Development of Information Science in South Africa website at: <http://www.dissanet.com/jsp/index.jsp>

Barringer, T, *Administering Empire: an annotated checklist of personal memoirs and related studies*, London, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, 2004

A checklist of 489 works, roughly three-quarters of which cover the experiences of colonial officials in Africa. Many of the entries include a brief commentary, and an indication of published reviews. Copies may be obtained for £15 plus postage by contacting Terry Barringer, OSPA Project, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, 28 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DS, UK

Barringer, T (ed), *Africa Bibliography 2002*

Containing some 4512 citations.

Djebbar, A and Gerdes, P, *Mathematics in African history and cultures. An annotated bibliography*

Over 1,500 entries. This will be available, in English, French and Arabic language editions, from September 2004.

Henderson, Patti, *Annotated Bibliography on Childhood, with Emphasis on Africa: Outline, General Findings and Research Recommendations*

Annotated bibliography of works relating to child studies published between 1995 and 2000.

Henrichsen, D and Miescher, G, *African Posters: A catalogue of the Poster Collection in the Basler Afrika Bibliographien*. Basel, Basler Afrika Bibliographien, 2004

Catalogue containing reproductions of some 900 full-colour posters, selected as a representative cross-section from the Library's poster collection. Coverage is mainly from Southern Africa, with some additional material from West and North-East Africa. The catalogue is grouped by topic, under the headings: liberation movements and exile; solidarity and anti-apartheid; elections; nation building; awareness and health; economy; knowledge, information, belief; and leisure and pleasure.

Moahi, K H, "Copyright in the Digital Era and Some Implications for Indigenous Knowledge", *African Journal of Library Archives and Information Science*, 14.1, 2004, pp. 1-14

Scott, R J, Holt, T C et al.(eds.), *Societies after Slavery: A Select Annotated Bibliography of Printed Sources on Cuba, Brazil, British Colonial Africa, South Africa, and the British West Indies*. Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press 2002

Taole, N, "Use and Application of ICTs in Education and Information Provision in Africa: a gateway to quality resources", *Information Development*, Vol. 19 Pt 4, 2003, pp. 289-94

Topan, F (ed), *Swahili Manuscripts from the School of Oriental and African Studies* Adam Matthew publications 2004

Microfilm copies of nearly 100 Swahili Manuscripts, dating from the 1790s to 1970s in Arabic and Roman script. This is the largest collection in Britain, and contains probably the only example of Hamziyya in Europe, and possibly the oldest Swahili manuscript in any collection. This publication coincides with the production of an online catalogue of the collections (including some digitised examples and recordings of readings from the manuscripts). See "Online" section for further details. The microfilm will be available in Autumn 2004 from Adam Matthew Publications, price £1,800 for c. 20 reels. Orders and enquiries to: info@ampltd.co.uk, <http://www.ampltd.co.uk>, tel. +44 (0) 1672 511 921.

## NORTH-EAST AFRICA

### Ethiopia

Pankhurst, R, "Two early periodical publications, *Djibouti* and *Le Semeur d'Éthiopie* as sources for late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Ethiopian history," *Annales d'Éthiopie*, 19, 2003, 231-256

*Djibouti*, was a weekly newspaper published February 1899 to October 1903;

*Le Semeur d'Éthiopie* a missionary monthly published in Harar and later in Dine Dawa, 1905-1911. The article includes a chronology, 1899-1911, of the most important political events recorded in the two titles, and a thematic index to the principal articles that they contain on "substantive issues".

## EAST AFRICA

*Notre librairie*, issue 152, 2003 is devoted to "Littéraires Anglophones de l'Est de l'Afrique: d'Addis-Abeba à Harare"

### Kenya

Kavulya, J M, "Challenges in the Provision of Library Services for Distance Education: A Case Study of Selected Universities in Kenya," *African Journal of Library Archives and Information Science*, Vol 14 Pt 1, 2004, pp. 15-28

### Uganda

Ikoja-Odongo, R, Ocholla, D N, "Information Seeking Behavior of the Informal Sector Entrepreneurs: The Uganda Experience," *Libri*, Vol 54 Pt 1, 2004, pp. 54-66

Omona, W, "Providing Online Information Services in Makerere University Library," *Information Development*, Vol. 19 Pt 4, 2003, pp. 274- 9

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Botswana

Molefe, C, "Current developments in library co-operation among special libraries in Botswana," *South African Journal of Library and Information Science*, Vol 69 Pt 1, 2003, pp. 62-70

Mutula, S M, Molefe, C, and Rathapo, S, "Information for the Vocational Education and Training Sector in Botswana," *Information Development*, Vol. 20 Pt 1, 2004, pp. 51-60

### Namibia

Otto-Reiner, A "The need for an intellectual centre: looking back at 75 years of the Namibian Scientific Society," *Journal of the Namibian Scientific Society*, 50, 2002, pp. 5-54

A detailed account of this private Society founded in 1925 and building up over the years both a museum, taken over by the Government in 1957, and a library.



## South Africa

Tise, E R, "Strategies by LIASA to Develop Library Services and the Profession in South Africa," *Information Development*, Vol. 20 Pt 1, 2004, pp. 36-42

*South African Journal of Library and Information Science*

Recent articles of interest include:

Vol 69, Pt 1, 2003

Shokane, J K, "The use of business information by small and medium-sized enterprises in Acornhoek," pp. 55-61

Jayaram, V, "The merger process between libraries of ML Sultan and Technikon Natal: reflections of a practitioner," pp. 84-91

Vol 69, Pt 2, 2003

de Jager, K, Nassimbeni, M, "An exploration of the current status of information literacy tuition in South African tertiary institutions and proposals for curriculum design," pp. 108-114

Fredericks, G H, Mvunelo, Z, "Publication of books in indigenous South African languages and their availability and use in public libraries," pp. 133-139

Snyman, M, Snyman, R, "Getting information to disadvantaged rural communities: the centre approach," pp. 95-107

Vol 70, Pt 1, 2004

Henrici, I, "Approach to the formulation of a National Information Policy for South Africa," pp. 30-38

Jiyane, V, Ocholla, D N, "An exploratory study of information availability and exploitation by the rural women of Melmoth, KwaZulu-Natal," pp. 1-8

Raju, J, "First level library and/or information science qualifications at South African universities and technikons: a comparative study of curricula," pp. 9-19.

Stilwell, C, "Alumni perceptions of a post graduate Information and Library Science Education programme at the University of Natal, South Africa," pp. 20-29

New CD Database from AFRICAN SUN MeDIA

A new database of catalogue entries for 4,500 books, articles and unpublished theses in Afrikaans or Dutch written about South Africa during the period 1875-1998. The entries can be searched by author, subject heading or keyword. All titles are also translated into English. For more details contact AFRICAN SUN MeDIA at [africansunmedia@sun.ac.za](mailto:africansunmedia@sun.ac.za), or 021 808 2611/2612/2401.

## WEST AFRICA

### Ghana

Adjei, E, "Health Sector Reforms and Health Information in Ghana," *Information Development*, Vol. 19 Pt 4, 2003, pp. 256-65

Adjei, E, "Retention of Medical Records in Ghanaian Teaching Hospitals: Some International Perspectives," *African Journal of Library Archives and Information Science*, Vol 14, Pt 1, 2004, pp. 37-52

### Nigeria

Ajayi, N A, and Omotayo, B O, "Mutilation and Theft of Library Materials: perceptions and reactions of Nigerian students," *Information Development*, Vol. 20 Pt 1, 2004, pp. 61- 6

Bello, A S, Ajala, S F, "Newspaper Use for Satisfying Basic Information Needs in The Polytechnic, Ibadan Community, Nigeria," *African Journal of Library Archives and Information Science*, Vol 14, Pt 1, 2004, pp. 53-64

Coleman, S, "Librarianship and information science in Nigeria 1966-1999," *International Information and Library Review*, Vol 35- 36 (see below)

An annotated bibliography of articles, books, conference papers, dissertations etc, regarding librarianship in Nigeria. The bibliography is based on searches carried out across *ERIC*, *Dissertations Abstracts Online*, *Library Literature*, *Library and Information Science Abstracts*, *British Education Index*, and *Education Abstracts*. The list is in four parts, arranged by subject heading, and then alphabetically by author within each heading. The four parts were published as follows:

Authors A-M: Subject Headings Academic Libraries to Multimedia – Vol 35, Pt 1, 2003, pp. 51-129

Authors N-Z: Subject Headings Academic Libraries to Multimedia – Vol 36, Pt 1, 2004, pp. 55-86

Authors A-M: Subject Headings National and Government Archives to Withdrawals – Vol 36, Pt 2, 2004, pp. 111-140

Authors N-Z: Subject Headings National and Government Archives to Withdrawals – Vol 36, Pt 2, 2004, pp. 141-162

Okiy, R B, "The Universal Basic Education (UBE) Programme and the Development of School Libraries in Nigeria: a catalyst for greater female participation in national development," *Information Development*, Vol. 20 Pt 1, 2004, pp. 43-50

Oyeniya, J O, Bozimo, D O, "The Relationship between Author Collaboration and Productivity: A Study of Sorghum Literature in Nigeria," *African Journal of Library Archives and Information Science*, Vol 14, Pt 1, 2004, pp. 29–36

Sanni, G A, Idiodi, E A, "Library Computerisation at the University of Benin Library, Nigeria," *African Journal of Library Archives and Information Science*, Vol 14, Pt 1, 2004, pp. 65–76

Sierra Leone

Kargbo, J A, "Book publishing in Sierra Leone," *International Information and Library Review*, Vol. 36 Pt 2, 2004 pp. 87–93

M'Jamtu-Sie, N, "Disseminating Health Information in Sierra Leone: the challenge," *Information Development*, Vol. 19 Pt 4, 2003, pp. 250–5

## CONFERENCES

**"Debating Africa" African Studies Association of the UK Biennial Conference Goldsmiths College, University of London, September 13<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

The programme includes panels on "The South African Book Development Education Trust", and on "Post-colonial Perspectives on Writing African History"

Marion Wallace (British Library) has convened a panel on behalf of SCOLMA on the theme of "Libraries, Archives and Constructing Knowledge," with contributions as follows:

"Unnatural selection? The Political Materials Collection of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies," Danny Millum (Institute of Commonwealth Studies)

"Missionary archives in the Archives and Special Collections at SOAS," Susannah Rayner (School of Oriental and African Studies)

"Accidental archives: some records on Africa in the British Library," Marion Wallace (British Library)

Further details, including a provisional programme, can be obtained from the ASA UK website at: <http://www.asauk.net/conf.htm>

### **AEGIS European Conference on African Studies**

**School of Oriental and African Studies and Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, 29<sup>th</sup> June– 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2005**

The Africa Europe Group for Inter-disciplinary Studies is organising a conference on Africa South of the Sahara. Around 100 panels will discuss a wide range of themes, with some emphasis on Europe-Africa relations during the past fifty years, and implications for the future. A panel examining the role

of Libraries will be convened by Barbara Turfan (School of Oriental and African Studies, and SCOLMA Committee).

The call for panels has now closed, although the call for papers will remain open until December 2004. More details will be made available on the AEGIS website at <http://www.aegis-eu.org/>.

### **OSPA Research Project at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies**

With the support of the Overseas Service Pensioners' Association, the ICS continues to run a series of conferences, examining a broad range of themes in 20<sup>th</sup> century colonial administration.

The most recent conference, *The United Kingdom Overseas Territories: past, present, and future*, was held at the Institute on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2004. This focused mainly on the Caribbean and South Atlantic.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2004, there will be a conference on Islam and the Colonial Service, which will look mainly at West and East Africa.

Conferences planned for 2005 will look at education (in conjunction with Teachers for East Africa), and the French and British experience of colonial service.

Further details of all of these may be obtained by contacting Terry Barringer at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Email: [TABarringer@aol.com](mailto:TABarringer@aol.com)

**"African Renewal, African Renaissance: New Perspectives on Africa's Past and Africa's Present" African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific 27th Annual and International Conference.  
University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia, 26–28 November 2004**

The conference will cover a broad range of themes relating to Africa, and of interest to academics and postgraduates, as well as government, NGO, media and cultural groups and African communities.

The second call for papers has now closed, and it is expected that some of the major subjects to be discussed will include:

- "State of the Nations": Appraisals of the African Renaissance
- The Rainbow Nation ten years on: critical perspectives on the New South Africa
- "Failed States, Rogue States and Dangerous States?": the state and conflict in Africa
- Sexual violence in Africa, past and present
- Africa's War on Terror: new realities in the post 9/11 world
- Disease, Health and Medicine in Africa: social, political and economic perspectives

The conference will be preceded by a Postgraduate Workshop on the 25<sup>th</sup> of

November. Workshop attendees with valid student IDs will also be entitled to attend the main conference.

Further details will be posted to the conference web site <http://sponsored.uwa.edu.au/afsaap2004/>