Working with Librarians in Africa

South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda

Mortenson Center for International Library Programs
SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES
Mortenson Center Projects

- Setting the Context for Scholarly Research 2008-2009 – 2 groups of South African Academic Librarians (Carnegie Funding)
- University of Pretoria Leadership Institute: November 2008 to 2011 (Carnegie Funding)
There are nine Provincial Library Services according to the provincial demarcations in South Africa serving a population of 43 686 000 catering for the 11 official languages.
• PLS are housed within the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology.
PLS

- Provinces could be equated to that of the various States in US.
- PLS are required to work together with other Government Departments in an integrated manner therefore memorandums of agreements between Departments are signed.
FUNDING

● The PLS in South Africa is funded by the Provincial Governments.

● The budgets varies from Province to Province depending on the economy of that region.
RESPONSIBILITIES

- Policy and legislative framework
- Establishment of library facilities
- Provision of information resources for libraries (Purchasing, Processing and Distribution)
- Provision of an ICT network, computer hardware, software and the maintenance of the Provincial database
RESPONSIBILITIES cont.

- Promotion and Marketing of libraries
- Development of Reading Awareness Programmes
- Skills Development of librarians
CHALLENGES

- The challenges facing the PLS is mainly one of diminishing funds.
- Duplication of functions due to the arise of the new demarcations and Metropolitan Councils.
PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

A South African Context
TARGET GROUPS

- Diverse Community
- Different levels - education/ literacy/ employment/ age
- Languages - 11 Official
- Major target group - children
CHANGING ROLE

Previous
- Recreation
- Information
- Education

New role
- Education
- Information
- Recreation
- Support school libraries
SERVICES and PROGRAMMES

Traditional services and Programmes:
Library week
Adult Basic Education and Training
Information sessions @ library
Mobile services/ Homebound
Art and Cultural developments
Reading circles
Open days
Library orientation
Holiday programmes and story hours
Skills development workshops
Enthusiasm and creativity are essential ingredients to develop a library literate community.

The following are some examples of such innovative projects:
LIBRARIES WITHOUT WALLS
LIBRARIES WITHOUT WALLS

- To render a service where there is no formal library building
CAYA CHILDREN’S ARTS FESTIVAL

14,900 children attending 2002
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- Local Government - Community Participation
  Ward Committees / Taxpayer Groups
- Existing groups - Friends of the library
  Library committee
  Volunteers
  Library Advisory Board
- IDP Process - Integrated Development Plan
CHALLENGES

- Lobbying
- Creating Library Awareness and a Reading Culture
- Expanding Services
- Addressing Shortages
- Establishing Libraries as a Priority
Academic Libraries

- TYPES OF ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS
- Public:
  - Universities (21) – postgraduate diplomas/degrees
  - Technikons (15): are colleges that offer undergraduate diplomas and degrees which are career-oriented
  - Private universities – recent development; most of their parent institutions are in foreign countries
FUNDING FOR PUBLIC ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

- Government subsidy worked out on student number enrolment
- Tuition fees
- Donors
STRUCTURE OF GOVERNANCE

- External governance: Dept of Education
- Internal governance: University or Technikon Council
TYPE OF USERS

- Academic staff
- Administrative and support staff
- Students
- Community members (to a limited extent – nominal fee)
SERVICES OFFERED

- Online services (databases, internet)
- Reference and information services
- User education
- Interlibrary loans
TYPES OF MATERIALS

- Books
- Serials
- Electronic resources
- Audio-visual
- Reserve collection
- Special collections e.g. Africana, Gov Pubs
DEVELOPMENTS …

- **CONSORTIA:**
  - Academic libraries fall under 4 consortia; two of which have a common library system (Frelico / Gaelic)
  - GAELIC (Gauteng and Environs Library and Information Consortium)
  - ESAL (Eastern Seaboard Association of Libraries) – KwaZulu Natal region
  - CALICO (Cape Library and Information Consortium)
  - FRELICO (Free State Library and Information Consortium)
    - Benefits are networking, co-operation, collaboration, resource sharing
COSALC (Coalition of South African Library Consortia)
- is an umbrella body of all the library consortia

SASLI (South African Site Licensing Initiative) is the office run by COSALC – looking into electronic database joint licensing agreements among member libraries, e.g. Ebscohost database
LIBRARY PROMOTION

- Library Week
- Newsletters
- Annual Reports
- Orientation
- Open Days
- Database demonstrations
CHALLENGES …

- Impact of technological developments
  - Inadequate:
    - technological infrastructure
    - technological skills
    - IT support
- Budget constraints
MERGERS: the South African government (DoE) has announced mergers of some technikons and universities in order to reduce the number of institutions.

- management of change
  - resistance
  - uncertainty
- integration of systems, services and facilities
Library Schools

- Approximately 11 schools throughout SA
  - 3 technikons offer 3 year National Diplomas, 4th year Btech, as well as M and Dtech degrees
  - 8 universities offer 3 year degrees up to PHD level

- In-service training

- Traditional roles of librarianship – challenged
  - Research, Education and Training Interest Group (RETIG) of LIASA –
  - scope – expanding to that of ‘information professionals’

  to establish standards for the professional training of librarians
East and West Africa

- Ghana
- Nigeria
- Tanzania
- Uganda
Funders

Projects supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Project Goals

- To assist librarians from Carnegie grantee institutions to move into a fully automated online environment that will better serve the research and learning needs of their users.

- To provide users of university libraries with better access to research and information materials, either in print or electronically.
Project Dates


Project Activities: On-site Training

On-site training and consultation.
Project Activities: Eight-Week Program at Mortenson Center

Group photo taken in Chicago during eight-week intensive training program at the Mortenson Center.
Project Activities: Site Visits

Group photo taken outside of University of Jos Library.
Ghana:
University of Ghana – Legon
University of Education, Winneba

Retrospective conversion project in process at the University of Ghana – Legon.

Reading room in the library of the University of Education, Winneba.
Uganda: Makerere University
Tanzania: University of Dar es Salaam

Computer lab at Makerere University.

Statue of readers outside University of Dar es Salaam Library.
Nigeria: Obafemi Awolowo University
University of Jos

Cataloging team at Obafemi Awolowo University.

Newly remodeled entrance to the University of Jos Library.
Nigeria:
Ahmadu Bello University
Bayero University

Instructional lab at Ahmadu Bello University.

Computer lab at Bayero University.
Nigeria:
Ibadan University
University of Port Harcourt

The Ibadan University Library building.

Reading room at the University of Port Harcourt.
Challenges for Academic Libraries in Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda
Difficult Political Settings

- Statue of war victim displayed in Makerere University Library in Uganda
Harsh Environment

- Heat, humidity and dust make the preservation of library materials difficult
Manual Systems

- Circulation records at Obafemi Owolowo University Library in Nigeria
Lack of Resources for New Acquisitions

- Books are in poor condition
- Most monographs pre-date 1990
Lack of Resources for New Acquisitions

- Donations of journals, most are out of date
Poor Facilities

- Lack of resources and weather wreak havoc on library facilities
New computer lab in Ghana shut down because of lack of electricity
Unfamiliarity with New Technology

- New computer lab in library is only open for students when librarians schedule training
Security

- New arrivals are locked up for use only in the library
Opportunities for Academic Libraries in Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda

Mortenson Center for International Library Programs
Foundations

- New computers bought with Carnegie funds
Retro conversion

- Staff members working to input materials in WorldCat
New Technologies

- Training offered to users on new technologies
Digitization

- Digitizing a historic newspaper collection in Nigeria
New Construction

- New addition to a University Library in Ghana
Internet Cafes

- Popular sites for students on campus
New Computer Lab

- Ugandan students trained in electronic resources work on assignments
Back-up Power Systems

- Solar panels used to generate back-up power