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National Library and Documentation Service

EDITORIAL

Very little information on the development of the NLDS has filtered down from the Ministry of Education and Culture to members of the ZLA in recent months. Readers will learn, however, from the brief report on a meeting of the National Library and Documentation Council that remarkable progress has been made. A site has been identified for the national headquarters, funds for its construction and equipment are available, and the preliminary drawings have just arrived from Paris. A fair amount of money has already been committed for the purchase of the initial book stock and equipment, and the preliminary drawings have been made available. This remarkable progress has been made possible by the energy and enterprise of Mr John Mapondera, Deputy Chief Cultural Officer, who was responsible for the whole exercise.

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An enlarged association

Mr Mapondera, Deputy Chief Cultural Officer, who was responsible for the whole exercise, has made great progress in the initial book stock and equipment. Funds have already been committed for the purchase of the initial book stock and equipment, and the preliminary drawings have been made available. This remarkable progress has been made possible by the energy and enterprise of Mr John Mapondera, Deputy Chief Cultural Officer, who was responsible for the whole exercise.

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S M Made

SCECSAL VI will be even more successful than the previous sessions. 

VI will be even more successful than the previous sessions. We have been fortunate to have received a number of suggestions on how to make the conference a success. We are happy to accept these suggestions, which include increasing the number of members of the association, conducting more workshops, and organizing more sessions. The association committee of SCECSAL VI, appointed by the University of Zimbabwe, has already started planning for the conference, and we are happy to announce that the conference will be held in Harare in 1984. We hope that the conference will be a success. The ZLA Council has already acknowledged responsibility for the organization of the conference, and we look forward to the support of the ZLA and the ZLA Council.

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Chairman's Column

SCECSAL VI 1984
While there are common issues relating to publishing in all countries, there are a variety of special problems that affect Third World nations — among them African nations — in ways which differ from industrialised nations. Questions such as copyright, book distribution and production problems are inter-

cultural and require a different perspective than the problems faced by industrialised nations. For example, the problems of copyright, book distribution and production difficulties are more acute in Third World nations than in industrialised nations. This is because the economic infrastructure of these nations is less developed and the book publishing industry is less advanced. As a result, the publishing industry in these nations faces unique challenges.

Publishing is a highly important function in any society because without publishing there can be little dissemination and diffusion of knowledge. This is particularly so in societies where the infrastructure of other means of communication is not fully developed. Publishing has been a low priority item in the development plans of most Third World governments which have been faced with much more immediate and pressing demands on very limited resources. Indeed, some of the interest in book publishing expressed by Third World governments was stimulated by the concern, evident mainly in the late 1950's and early 1960's, of various foreign-aid agencies and the international community. As a result of this concern, the major national aid agencies began to allocate funds and expertise to book development and issued a number of publications stressing the importance of books in Third World development.

Books, in particular school and college textbooks, were seen as an essential component of the educational process. As a result, the publishing industry in these nations faces unique challenges. These challenges include the need for new institutions to be developed, the need for new patterns of education to be developed, and the need for new patterns of book production to be developed. Among other agencies particularly active in this field were the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), the World Bank, and the Ford Foundation. The approaches of the agencies to publishing differed to some extent. For example, British programmes were more interested in providing reading materials produced in the industrialised countries. These programmes were controversial although a large number of Third World nations participated in book-aid schemes. The important point, however, is that these programmes stimulated the development of the publishing industry in these nations and helped to build the infrastructure necessary for the development of the publishing industry.
African economies and book requirements

In African economies, the development of publishing houses, book production, and distribution faces significant challenges. The independent development of publishing houses, which is critical for the growth of a nation's literary and educational infrastructure, is hindered by several factors. Aid agencies, with their focus on education and development, have played a role in shaping the publishing landscape. However, the impact of these initiatives has been mixed, with many African publishing houses unable to sustain themselves due to high costs and limited access to markets.

Low literacy rates and limited purchasing power have resulted in small sales volumes and low demand for books. This has led to high unit costs and difficulties in obtaining supplies, particularly paper. The high costs of importing paper and other materials have restricted the ability of publishers to produce books, especially in small editions. This has had a cascading effect on the entire publishing industry, leading to the consolidation of large publishing houses and a decrease in the number of independent publishers.

The lack of a strong, locally owned publishing sector has also been a significant challenge. Foreign publishers, often with larger resources, have been able to take advantage of the market and establish successful publishing ventures. This has further marginalized local publishing houses and contributed to the dwindling numbers of books in indigenous languages.

Despite these challenges, the publishing industry in Africa continues to evolve. The rise of digital publishing and the increasing availability of electronic resources offer new opportunities for growth. However, the success of these initiatives will depend on the ability of the industry to navigate the complex web of international copyright conventions and the need for local content that resonates with the African audience.

In conclusion, while the publishing industry in Africa faces many challenges, there are also opportunities for growth and development. The key is to create a conducive environment that encourages local ownership, supports indigenous publishing, and leverages digital technologies to reach a broader audience.
African economies and book requirements

The British publishing industry has had a profound influence on the educational system in the developing countries. In the 1960s, the Ministry of Education and Libraries in the United Kingdom established the Africa Education Advisory Committee to investigate the situation in African education and its implications for the country. The committee published a report in 1967, which recommended that African countries should develop their own publishing industries to meet the educational needs of their people. The report emphasized the importance of developing African publishing industries and recommended that African countries should be encouraged to establish their own publishing houses to produce educational materials in their own languages.

The report noted that the lack of indigenous publishing industries in African countries was a major problem, as most of the educational materials used in schools were imported from Europe and North America. The report recommended that African countries should be given assistance to develop their own publishing industries, including financial support, technical assistance, and training for local publishing industry personnel.

The report also emphasized the importance of developing African publishing industries to meet the specific needs of African education systems. The report noted that the educational materials produced by European and North American publishers were not always suitable for African educational systems, and that African publishing industries should be encouraged to produce materials that were specifically designed for African education systems.

In conclusion, the report recommended that African countries should develop their own publishing industries to meet the educational needs of their people. The report emphasized the importance of developing African publishing industries to meet the specific needs of African education systems and recommended that African countries should be given assistance to develop their own publishing industries.
African economies and book requirements

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African economies and book requirements

The British publishing industry, which has been the dominant force in educational book publishing in most developing countries, has faced significant challenges in recent years. These challenges are primarily due to the rise of indigenous publishing houses in Africa, which have been able to produce books that are more relevant to the local context.

It is important to note that economic imperialism is a far more subtle and slippery animal than his political brother. He will do anything, compromise any principle, as long as he can still see something somewhere in it for him. He only turns nasty when he loses all hope.

Foreign industrialists have been able not only to retain but even to extend their hold in most African countries, using window dressing directorships, the initial acceptance of inefficient national distributing agencies, the involvement of the new elite, the exploitation of corruption and human vanity and the establishment of the fifty/fifty firms whose management is an integral part of the management of the parent company. The British economy and the French economy are the two most successful examples of this kind of enterprise. The British economy has been the most successful in Africa, but the French economy has been the most successful in the rest of the world.

A major problem in publishing is the amount of capital required. Capital is the key issue because publishing expects its returns over a much longer period than other manufactures, e.g. clothes or detergents. It is almost impossible to raise this kind of long-term finance for publishing within the region. It is, however, relatively easy to raise it from foreign publishing circles, but they will always try to get the best possible terms for their publishing activities. This will force the foreign publishers to raise it from the local or indigenous publisher. It is therefore important to ensure that the local or indigenous publisher has access to a market in which he can sell his publications somewhere in the world.

The question of money is the main reason why one becomes pessimistic about the possibilities of establishing more genuinely independent publishing houses in Africa in the foreseeable future. As Nottingham observes, it is this problem of finance that has led some countries in Africa into the dangerous cul-de-sac of creating state publishing houses in partnership with outside publishers, e.g. British publishers. If the objective of these outside interests were the eventual creation of self-sufficient indigenous publishing units then one would have no objection to the state being involved in this kind of development. But the outside interests get much of their profits from producing the material concerned outside Africa and then bringing it into Africa. This is why it is so important to ensure that the indigenous publisher has access to a market in which he can sell his publications somewhere in the world.
African economies and book requirements

Selling it to these state publishing houses, which thus become mere merchandising depots. There is no attempt to import publishing skills to the region.

One of the chief dangers of state publishing houses in Africa is that they are usually combined with the state distribution of school books. Since over 80 per cent of the book trade in African countries is in school books, this means the virtual extinction of the rural book trade unless the State runs its own rural bookshops. There is no indication as yet in those countries where school book distribution has been taken over that rural bookshops are being opened.

Publishing for the local market

Henry Chakava says, "On its own, the local market is not large enough to support viable publishing. Unless a book is specially educational with a direct outlet into the schools, the sales are normally quite modest. This is because there are very few people with time to devote to books or the money with which to buy them, or with the habit to continue reading after formal education has been completed." Consequently general or non-educational books are printed in very small quantities and as a result the unit costs are so high and the published prices so unrealistic that the few would-be readers are discouraged. Thus, publishers find themselves in a vicious circle; they cannot print in larger quantities without a market, yet in order to attract readership, the books must be reasonably priced. Since the textbook market is the only safe one, local publishers find themselves in needless competition, rivalry and duplication of effort, while such areas as children's books, technical books, and adult literacy books are not fully exploited.

There is also a problem of production. There are not enough qualified people, nor enough local facilities to sustain high quality standards and a reasonable speed in the production of books. There are only a few local printers who undertake to print books and quite often do not keep to agreed schedules.

The third major problem, that of distribution, is largely due to an underdeveloped infrastructure. Road, rail and postal services are slow, infrequent and expensive, particularly in the rural areas. The poor bookseller is forced to mark-up his prices to recover transportation charges, thereby overburdening the already expensive book with a price which the market can hardly bear. In some areas books cannot gain a foothold because there is neither a bookshop nor a public library.

Other factors which should be considered when looking at the problem of publishing are: firstly, most African countries have a low per capita income and a high percentage of unemployment. The cost of living is high and most of the population is preoccupied with securing the bare necessities of life — food, clothing and shelter. To these people books are a luxury. Secondly, the cost of producing books has risen sharply over the past few years. This is attributed to world inflation and to the price of paper. Thirdly, the publishing industry itself is under-capitalised, and this is specially true of the indigenous publishing houses. It is difficult for publishers to secure bank loans and overdrafts because book publishing is generally considered to be a risky, slow and long-term form of investment.

Publishing in local languages has its own problems. In the first place there is considerable local variation in the same language. Many of the languages do not have standard orthography, and where an attempt is made to use a standard script, it is not adopted universally. These books are not likely to find a market in the bookseller's or publisher's shops unless the publisher has made special efforts to get them distributed, or unless there is some special scheme to promote them, such as by being sold from the country's educational departments' stores and distributed to schools. There is no policy of promoting books in local languages and it is left to the good will of individual publishers.
African economies and book requirements

TOWARDS AN ASSOCIATION

FOR LIBRARIANS,
ARCHIVISTS AND OTHER
INFORMATION SCIENTISTS

The problem is not a matter of being
without a means of communicating
with the outside world. It is also
not a question of there being
nothing to communicate. The
problem is the nature of the
communication. The medium is
the message. The language of
the medium is the message. And
the message is the language of
the medium.

In many African countries bookselling
is simply one type of commercial
activity for which there is demand.
But in others, the book trade is
seen as a potential source of
income and an instrument of
development. In some countries,
serious books as a general rule
do not. For most people, reading is
not regarded as a leisure activity.

Consequently, like book publishers,
booksellers must make a profit on a
small volume of book sales. In
times of the year, for example, at the
beginning of school terms. In order for
shopkeepers to be able to devote
margins on their sales. In most countries,
however, it is difficult for booksellers to
make book acquisition a top foreign
priority. In some countries,
other reference tools have not yet been
provided and the only possible access to
books is through the use of
translation.

Any outsider attending our meetings
would be excused for forming the impression that the
library profession in Zimbabwe is in a state of
an unprecedented apathy. Any outsider
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Towards an association...
The Swedish Library Scene

The Swedish Library Scene

The second part of the programme was composed of two parts: firstly, participation in an international course in Stockholm on Hospital Library Services for the Disabled and other special education, followed by a study tour specially arranged for me by the Swedish Board of Education. This tour entailed visiting all types of libraries and their services which could be adopted and adapted in Zimbabwe; 2. To study the use of technology in libraries and its cost; 3. To study the use of centralised cataloguing, book ordering, bookbinding, furniture design and interlibrary loans; 4. To study the use of bookmobiles; 5. To make possible artistic and cultural experiences and needs of disadvantaged groups; 6. To guarantee that the cultural policy is one of the tools used to improve social conditions; others are the social welfare policy, the educational policy and other aspects of national life. Hence in the following objectives:

1. To help to protect freedom of speech and the Right to Read. The right to experience and read as one pleases is a Swedish project designed for E.R. books. These guidelines will provide the basis for an understanding of the problems of the production of literature for readers of all ages. The group is therefore engaged in developing ideas and criteria for E.R. books.

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The Fifth Standing Conference of Librarians (SCECSAL) was held in 1982 in Malawi. The conference was officially opened by G C Motsi, Director of the National Library Service of Malawi. Motsi challenged the delegates to implement national library services in their respective countries, as such services were often the biggest, the best staffed, and best stocked of all libraries in the region.

The conference papers covered a range of topics, including the importance of library and information services in national development, the need for professional and sub-professional training in librarianship, and the establishment of indigenous publishing industries in Africa.

Some of the key resolutions passed at the conference included the need for national and successful information services; the establishment of the appropriate curricula and training of librarians and information specialists; and the need for national and successful library services in the region.

The conference was attended by delegates from the member countries of SCECSAL, including delegates from Zimbabwe, Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Lesotho, and Swaziland. The conference papers were published in a special issue of the Journal of the SCECSAL Conference, and a comprehensive report of the conference was published in the SCECSAL journal.
The Arusha Workshop

Co-ordinator: Arusha, Tanzania 26 July-6 August 1982

The Arusha Workshop, held in Arusha from 26 July to 6 August 1982, was sponsored and organised by UNESCO's Division of Literacy Development in co-operation with the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI) which provided accommodation for the participants; the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) which funded all travel and hotel accommodation; the Organisation of Eastern and Southern African Heads of Libraries (OESAL) which provided financial support for adult education and critically examined ways and means of improving them for rural areas where, in most countries of the region, 90% of the population are illiterate.

The workshop was attended by 21 delegates from countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The objectives of the workshop were to determine the most suitable form of adult education and critically examine ways and means of improving them for rural areas where, in most countries of the region, 90% of the population are illiterate.

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Health sciences librarianship

Health sciences librarianship cannot be over-emphasised; no single library nowadays can afford to possess all the materials necessary to satisfy its users. In the developing countries, the financial problems are aggravated by insufficient foreign currency. Furthermore, even if the money were available, no one library would be able to house all the materials necessary for its users at the rate at which they are being published.

For the achievement of the recommendations, it is essential that the health sciences libraries in the country should be designated; it should become the national focal point for each country's health sciences libraries. Such co-operation is necessary if librarians are to provide the health sciences periodicals to the health sciences libraries in the country; the exchange of photocopies of health sciences periodicals to the health sciences libraries; the publication of a directory of all the health sciences libraries in the country; the preparation of a union list of periodical holdings in all health sciences libraries in the country; and the development of a national focal point for health sciences libraries in planning the operation component of the workshop for network structure, tools required for networking, standardisation, acquisition and personnel to prepare tools and develop procedures for co-operative activities.

On a lighter note, the social highlight of the visit to Tanzania was a trip to the second largest volcanic crater in the world — the beautiful Ngorongoro Crater, acknowledged as one of the great wonders of the world. To reach the floor of the crater which covers 102 square miles, one has to drive down the precipitous 2 000-foot rim. The floor of the crater is famous for the variety and number of animals to be seen — wildebeest, zebra, gazelle, lion, jackal and white rhinoceros. We also saw a variety of birds, such as guinea fowl, storks, pelicans and thousands of magnificent pink flamingoes in the crater's salt lake.

The workshop was a success insofar as it was able to achieve the immediate objectives. The workshop was a success insofar as it was able to achieve the immediate objectives. The workshop was a success insofar as it was able to achieve the immediate objectives. The workshop was a success insofar as it was able to achieve the immediate objectives.
Mr John Mapondera, Deputy Chief Cultural Officer, called the meeting to brief the council on the progress made in the establishment of the National Library and Documentation Service.

On 2 September, the Ministry of Education and Culture had signed an agreement with the French Government worth Z$2300000 for technical services and equipment to be supplied by Sopha Developpement. Approval had been given by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development as part of the three year transitional economic plan.

The main task of the meeting was to examine the drawings and recommend improvements before they were submitted to the Minister. No financial provision had yet been made for library personnel but a sub-mission had been made in the supplementary budget which would be presented to Parliament early next year. The immediate need was for teaching staff: the British had offered two, the French, and Sweden would probably provide two and Swaziland would probably provide one, in terms of the contract, would send one.

The main library was to be a seven-ton lorry, seven three-and-a-half ton vans, two smaller vans and two 18-seater buses, one for the training school and one for a touring theatre company. The mobiles would be equipped with a radio telephone and loud speaker system to announce the mobile’s arrival.

Mobile Library

Each mobile library will be manned by a driver/technician and a librarian. The initial contract was for six mobile libraries, two for the French winner, a trip to France for the French logo designer, and two for the French airline, UTA, had agreed to sponsor a competition in Zimbabwe and the equipment required to play them — and book boxes for distribution to intermediate centres between provincial headquarters and culture houses. Details of the competition entry would be two-week trip to France. No financial provision had yet been made for library personnel but a submission had been made in the supplementary budget which would be presented to Parliament early next year. The immediate need was for teaching staff: the British had offered two, the French, and Sweden would probably provide two and Swaziland would probably provide one, in terms of the contract, would send one.

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What they didn't teach you in library school

ADVERTISING YOUR SERVICE

by Robin Doust

The sixth in a series of practical hints for library assistants

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The Library

The Library is a national lending library and national centre for inter-library loan services. It is open to the public and provides a range of services, including the provision of books on loan, access to electronic databases, and reference services.

ECARIBA 7


The conference was attended by representatives from eight countries in the region and a number of guest speakers: Dr Frank Evans of Unesco; Dr SA Tirmizi, recently retired Director of the Indian National Archives who represented the International Council of Archives; Mr Michael Roper, head of the Public Record Office at Kew; Mr A. Leisinger, former head of the ICA Microfilming Committee, who stayed on after the conference as a consultant to the National Archives of Zimbabwe; and Signora O S Paolini, an expert on restoration from the Florence State Archives. Historians were represented by Professor T O Ranger, Dr H Bhila and Professors R S Roberts and M Gelfand.

Professor Ali Mazrui, an eminent African political scientist, gave a public lecture at the National Gallery after a display of traditional singing and dancing.

The conference agreed to investigate the setting up of an International Microfilming Assistance Fund; and to adopt joint programmes for the microfilming of migrated archives for presentation to bodies such as Unesco, and a regional approach to the problem of access, particularly with regard to legislation.

The presence of visiting experts on archives was of particular value for their guidance on procedures for drawing up project proposals and their familiarity with current practices. For Zimbabweans, the discovery that we had not lapsed into the archival dark ages as a result of our years of international isolation was heartening. In fact, by regional standards, NAZ is extremely well off in terms of qualified staff, equipment and other facilities.

Ec ARIBA 7

After the conference, the Canadian workshop will be held in Prince Edward Island on 9-12 September, with the theme "Archives and the New Order". The workshop will be attended by librarians from the region and guest speakers, including Dr Frank Evans of Unesco and Dr SA Tirmizi of the Indian National Archives.

The conference proceedings will be published in full.

Berlin Workshop

A Workshop on Teaching Material/Preparation of a Reader for Library Training was held in Berlin from 1-9 September 1982 and attended by two Zimbabwean delegates, Stan Made and Bradshaw Mushonga. The workshop was sponsored by the German Foundation for International Development with the main objective of preparing a manual for use in the teaching of librarianship and information science in eastern, central and southern Africa, in response to a request at SCECSAL IV that as most of the teaching material locally available was foreign to the region, suitable teaching aids should be developed.

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Books, periodicals, stationery and lottery tickets are available.

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IN BRIEF

The new library building at Gweru Teachers' College was opened on 6 October by the Secretary for Education and Culture, Dr Nicholas Makura. The building was opened at a cost of $250,000 and is equipped with a reading room, a library, and a number of other facilities.

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A writers series designed for Zimbabweans. Candle for Readers.

Nineteen delegates from twelve countries from the region were invited, as well as experts from the UK, to prepare a reader for library training. The second readers' series was arranged by the School Libraries Section of Zimbabwe's Ministry of Education and Culture. It was attended by 32 representatives from secondary schools, one from a primary school and two from Zintec centres, and generated a great deal of interest and enthusiasm.

The manual emphasises the problems of underdevelopment and illiteracy and tries to show how libraries and information centres can assist in solving these problems. It is made up of the following sections: Foundation concepts; Library information services; Sources, organisation of information; User education services; and Local and regional information services. It was attended by 32 representatives from secondary schools, one from a primary school and two from Zintec centres, and generated a great deal of interest and enthusiasm.

The manual will be published by the Government Press, Harare, and distributed free to countries throughout the region. The manual will be published by the Government Press, Harare, and distributed free to countries throughout the region. The manual will be published by the Government Press, Harare, and distributed free to countries throughout the region.