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THE ZIMBABWE LIBRARIAN

VOL. 17, NO. 2 — DECEMBER 1985

Journal of the Zimbabwe Library Association
Hon. Editor: Devi Pakkiri

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The views expressed in the Zimbabwe Librarian are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect those of the Zimbabwe Library Association.
Editorial

It is regretted that the 1986 A.G.M. and Conference is reported in the 1985 issue of the Journal. This is in no way an indication of the clairvoyant capabilities of the Zimbabwe Library Association (ZLA). Non-availability of funds during 1985 delayed the publication of the Journal.

Contributors in this issue try to elaborate the conference theme, “Libraries and National Development”. The libraries' link with crucial services (health, education) is highlighted.

Helga Patrikios's article is a historical perspective of the development of Zimbabwe's National Medical Library; its contribution to health workers and the medical profession in accessing historical and current information. In the next issue of the Journal she will explore some new developments in the role of the National Medical Library.

In Time to Reflect some of the problems confronting libraries, librarians, archivists, and the book trade in general, and raised by the ZLA, are reviewed in the light of prevailing constraints. The choice of the two books reviewed is based on their emphasis on the social and political conditions which influence development.

The Book Section attempts to keep libraries and librarians who work away from the city centres informed on selected publications. This section will also be useful for public and tertiary library selection. Arrakis (school library newsletter) adequately takes care of suggestions of appropriate books (both fiction and reference) for school libraries. I invite all librarians to co-operate in keeping this section alive!

Librarians are mindful that the Journal acts as a forum for sharing ideas, for raising important issues and for pressuring the ZLA to persuade appropriate authorities to act. If this role is not adequately fulfilled by the Journal then it is time librarians looked for reasons. Remember the Journal exists to serve our needs.

A section of the Journal will continue to be devoted exclusively to Branch News. Any suggestions for improvement?

It is generally felt that the ZLA must continue to act as a pressure group to promote a climate in which book production, book promotion and libraries flourish unhindered, so that cliches such as "free flow of information", "information for all", and "information for development" become realities.
The 26th A.G.M. and Conference of the Association was held at the National Forestry Commission College, Mutare, on Saturday and Sunday, 26th and 27th April, 1986.

The papers presented on the theme of the Conference - Libraries and National Development were:
- Libraries: Can we afford not to have them? Robin Doust - Librarian, Bulawayo Public Library.
- School libraries as an aspect of national development. D.D. Mparutsa - Senior Librarian, Ministry of Education.
- Role of municipal libraries in the development of urban communities. Councillor, E.M. Phillips, City of Mutare.

ROLE OF MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN COMMUNITIES
by Councillor E.M. Phillips, City of Mutare.

I've travelled the world twice over,
Met the famous, saints and sinners,
Poets and artists, kings and queens,
Old stars, and hopeful beginners,
I've been where no one's been before.
Learned secrets from writers and cooks,
All with one library ticket
To the wonderful world of books.

Mr Chairman, these words by Janice James appear on the fly-leaf of all the books published in large print by the Ulverscroft Foundation for those with defective vision due to disease or old age, and describe succinctly the pleasure and knowledge the use of a library can give the individual who loves reading, either for pleasure or information.

I know little about libraries other than as a user, but I am Chairman of The Turner Memorial Library in Mutare, a private library some 83 years old. This comes about, because in the terms of its constitution there are four representatives from the Mutare City Council on its management committee, one of whom must be Chairman. They gave the job to me.

So you will understand my hesitation when your Secretary asked me to speak to you - the people who know all about libraries - on the role of municipal libraries in the development of urban communities. She was most persistent, so I eventually agreed, but I speak to you as a layman, and as such can only give you my ideas as to what we should aim at, and then what hopes we have of achieving those aims.

So far as I understand there is no comprehensive Municipal Library Service in any town in Zimbabwe. This is due to the accounting procedures of municipalities, whereby the accounts of the rateable areas, and the townships, now known as high-density suburbs, were, and still are, kept separate. All welfare funding for the latter, under which libraries would come, comes from profits of selling beer in the municipal beer halls and other outlets, hence, in the rateable areas we find private subscription libraries, while in the high-density suburbs we have libraries funded from welfare funds. Municipalities are moving towards a one city accounting system, as operates in other countries, such as Britain, so it is probable, that at some time in the future, the private libraries, which all receive municipal grants, will be taken over and all libraries administered as a municipal service.

Our Municipal Library Service in Mutare, is minimal. We have a small library in Sakubva, and just one room in the community hall in our newer suburb of Dangamvura, although we look forward to improving this in the near future, as we are being given $106,000 by three cities in France, Germany and the Netherlands, who assist developing countries with needed projects. They wrote to us asking what was needed, and settled for a library as the most worthwhile project. We accepted gratefully.

Let us now look at what should be the aim of a municipal library service and whom it has to serve. An urban community consists of a large number of people living close together within a few kilometres of each other. It covers all age groups from babies to those nearing the end of their lives. We can broadly divide them into four categories:
1. The very young and those just beginning to read.
2. The school child, both primary and secondary.
3. The student, studying for University courses.
4. The adult, who has finished with formal education and now wishes to read for pleasure and general information.

To my way of thinking the handling of (1) the young child is perhaps the most important. If we can attract children into a library at an early age, and ensure that they enjoy their visits and want to come again to listen to stories, look at pictures, and so gradually learn to read stories for themselves, the battle is half won. We shall slowly build up a population who can read for themselves, enjoy doing so, and thereby become far better-informed about the world around them than the people of today, despite all the potted information they are fed on radio and television.

Young children cannot be expected to travel long distances, with or without mothers escorting them, so this would necessitate the establishment of satellite libraries in each of the main suburbs, with a central library organizing the whole service.

I would hope that by the time the child reaches the second section of our breakdown, the school child, having enjoyed the stories and picture books of earlier years, he would continue to use the libraries, which all receive municipal grants, will be taken over and all libraries administered as a municipal service.

While I know there is a general shortage of school textbooks I would not consider it the job of the libraries to keep these. This is the responsibility of the schools, the libraries should build up wider range of reference books for more general education. The single most important facility which a municipal library should seek to provide for this, and the next age group, is one, which is perhaps not normally a library responsibility but is vital to the development of the child, and can
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Conference 1986

Gone are the narrower confines of formal study, now we want books to entertain and inform. The busy housewife with a family to look after will probably want something light she can pick up and put down again at any time. The young marrieds may want do-it-yourself books to help in fitting out their first house, or looking after the first baby, or to introduce variety into their meals to get away from the eternal sadza or baked beans on toast. The older people more settled in their ways will again want a different style of book, the men frequently books on hobbies. I believe the elderly ladies in general never tire of light romances. The choice is almost infinite.

Mr Chairman, I have outlined in broad terms how I see the set up should be for a municipal library service, with a central library and satellite libraries in each of the main suburbs. Obviously, not all books will be kept in all libraries, the main collection would be in the central library with books on demand to the others, but what must be available in each library is the facility for study. This involves an initial cost, but thereafter continues as a service with little recurrent expenditure but meeting a great need.

However, whether a municipal library service, or any library service for that matter, achieves its full potential depends on you, the librarians operating it. We can have a magnificent library, all facilities included, well stocked with a variety of books, but unless the librarians in charge are keen and sufficiently motivated, the place will be dead.

There is no tradition of reading in this country, nor would you expect there to be, as the bulk of the population is still illiterate or semi literate. It is only since the last world war, 40 years ago, that any real effort has been made in education and then only for a small proportion, until
the past few years when general education for everyone became the aim.

I have the greatest admiration for the young people, who over the past years, have studied so hard to qualify, and also for their parents who with limited means somehow found the money to pay for this education so that their children should have better chance in life than they had. They studied so assiduously to obtain the maximum qualification that they had no time for anything else, with the result, that their general knowledge is minimal, and anything that happens, other than what has been encountered within the narrow confines of their course, leaves them at a loss.

You librarians therefore, have a tremendous responsibility in disseminating information and widening the knowledge and understanding of the people with whom you come in contact, whether you are working in a public library or one attached to a school, college or university. I don't know the extent of your training, but I hope there is some instruction in it of how to deal with people, for after all, if there were no people there would be no libraries or librarians. People are all different, they can be delightful or exceedingly irritating, but you have got to sell your library to people, just as much as a person in a shop has to sell his goods to make a living. You will have to know your books, then get to know your people, understand their likes and dislikes, make friends with them, then you can guide them, giving them pleasure in their reading, not only for relaxation, but enabling them to acquire a wider knowledge of life and the things around them. If you can do this and slowly build up a reading public with your libraries you will be contributing to the maximum to the development of the country as a whole.

Mr Chairman, having outlined what I think should be the basis of a plan for a municipal library service, what chance have we got of this coming about? Regretably at present very little, purely for reasons of finance as libraries must be well down on the list of priorities for the limited funds available.

Municipalities function on the funds levied from their residents to meet all revenue expenses and loan repayments. The only loans received from government are for essential capital works such as housing, sewage and waterworks, with limited grants for health and fire brigades.

It is government policy to channel the major portion of their available funds to upgrade the standard of life in the communal areas, a policy with which one would not wish to disagree. But it does make things difficult, financially, for municipalities, who indirectly assist in subsidising this policy, for not only do we pay in excess of $1.5 million yearly in excise duty and sales tax on our beer sales, a figure which would build three schools or a very nice library, but we have the added responsibility of providing primary schools and increased health facilities which government previously financed. Also, from time to time we are faced with compulsory wage increases, the last one cost us $880,000 per annum, so you will appreciate, we have financial problems and difficulties in finding the necessary money for items of absolute necessity. The first priorities must be housing, health and schools and I can see no chance of catching up with any of those in the foreseeable future.

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Our only hope, perhaps, lies with the commission of taxation which is due to present its report towards the end of this year or early next. If municipalities could get some contribution from national taxation, such as occurs in some other countries, effective municipal libraries might become a reality, but without some such assistance I can see little hope.

Mr Chairman, I am sorry to end on this depressing note, but one has to face facts and take account of national priorities, no one would be happier than I should my dismal forecast be proved wrong.
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were nominated officers for 1986-87:

- Mr S M Made - Chairman
- Mr R Doust - Vice Chairman
- Mrs D Pakkiri - Editor
- Mr S R Dube - Secretary
- Mr G Motsi - Treasurer

Other members of Council:

- Mr L Mutepfa - Chairman (Manicaland)
- Mr L Nkiwane - Chairman (Matebeleland)
- Mr A Chinyemba - Chairman (Mashonaland)
- Mr C D Mparutsa - Schools Section Representative.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the ZLA revives the Education Committee with a view to continually reviewing the appropriateness of Library courses at Harare Polytechnic.

2. That ZLA Council recommends to the Ministry responsible for Library training that full-time Library trainees at Harare Polytechnic be regarded at the same level as teacher trainees in respect of grants given during the period of training.

Zimbabwe’s National Medical Library — Its Origins.
by HELGA PATRIKIOS

The University of Zimbabwe’s Medical Library was established 22 years ago. Its purpose was to serve staff and students of the newly founded Godfrey Huggins School of Medicine.

By the end of its first year it was already receiving 300 biomedical journals and had a fast-growing collection of monographs, textbooks and country reports. When, in 1978, as a newly diplomated librarian, I first came to work in the Medical Library, it was still housed in its original home—a gloomy cavern with high barred windows, down-stairs from the main library on the campus of the University of Rhodesia. By then it was very well-stocked with journals—it was receiving about 800 titles—and had a collection of about 10,000 textbooks and other monographs.

The library’s users were almost all students and lecturers from the medical school. Occasional nurses or doctors from government or private practice began to find their way out to Mount Pleasant. They were registered as Approved Borrowers with the same borrowing conditions as students, and their numbers grew steadily.

What other sources of medical information were available to the country’s health workers? Until 1955 there was no general medical library in the Federation (although there were specialised collections such as the one at the Research Laboratory in Salisbury). In that year the Editor of this journal, Michael Gelfand, called for the creation of a medical library for the doctors of the region; he appealed to readers to donate their old medical journals, as a start.

The response was great. Boxes of journals and books were delivered to the Editor’s house in almost unmanageable quantities. A few months later, at the Journal’s headquarters—which happened, still, to be the Editor’s house—50 feet of steel shelving was put up, to support a basic collection of key medical journals. So it was the Library of the Central African Journal of Medicine got, off the ground.

The Journal, and with it its Library, thrived. In 1957 the Library was moved to the newly opened Medical Association House at 84 Baines Avenue. Now it had a qualified librarian, and was open until 8 p.m. every day. It was not always manned, and doctors were asked to sign a book for whatever they borrowed. Autre temps, autre.

There were about 400 monographs and 120 long runs of journals. The C.A.J.M. had by now set up agreements to exchange subscriptions with no less than 65 other publishers of medical journals. Valuable donations of books and journals continued to arrive—from local doctors, from other medical libraries in Africa and Britain. In the Journal’s report of these donations the names of the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Natal, of Makerere, of the Malvern Trust and Lord Malvern, of the United States Information Service, recur again and again.

There could be no better way of acknowledging the value and importance of such a library than to contribute to its resources.

By early 1958 the Librarian, A.R. Taylor, reported in the Journal that its 65 currently received journal titles were being sent for listing in the Federation Union Catalogue. He recorded its first inter-library-loan—from the Witwatersrand Library. The Journal Library became a participant in an exchange scheme for duplicate books and journals, based at the Wellcome Historical Medical Library in London and run by the Medical section of the British Library Association.
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By the end of 1959 there were over 1000 books in the Library. They were arranged by the Barnard classification, which was developed by the librarian of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, C.C. Barnard, who also revised the scheme for use by the WHO Library in Geneva.

The C.A.J.M. was now attracting 172 journals by reciprocity. That year there were 98 recorded loans of books, 122 journals, the Librarian also reported an urgent need for more space and more stock.

The February 1960 C.A.J.M. column on its Library announced a development of international importance in medical information services — the creation of Index Medicus. It would replace the old Current List of Medical Literature and would be produced by the American Medical Association and the National Library of Medicine, with funds from the Council on Library Resources. By April of 1960 the Journal Library announced the arrival of the first issue of Index Medicus. Index Medicus has become (with its computerised data-base, MEDLINE) probably the most important single tool for medical information retrieval worldwide. At US$260.00 per year it is one of the more expensive items in a medical library’s budget for materials — but it would also be the very last one to be given up in times of financial hardship.

The following years saw continued growth of the stock of the library in Medical Association House, and extensions in the building itself. In 1963 The Editorial Board of the Journal presented the building and its contents, including the Library, to the Mashonaland Branch of the British Medical Association (now the Zimbabwe Medical Association).

Meanwhile, in 1963 the new Medical School of the University of Rhodesia took in its first students — and a medical library was established within the main University Library to serve its staff and students. The Board of the Journal announced in May 1983 that it had arranged yet another excellent exchange. In this case the Journal Board would present to the U.R. Medical Library its entire journal collection, including its exchange subscriptions to current titles received in reciprocity for the C.A.J.M. In return the Medical Library at U.R. would open its doors — and offer its facilities — to all medical practitioners in the country.

Thus was born the national medical library. This admirable, very practical cooperation between Journal Board and University Library made possible the early integration and centralization of the country’s medical information resources. It laid the foundations for one of the best stocked medical libraries in Africa and indeed the developing world. Most important, it provided an excellent core collection of about 200 runs of medical journals, out of which has grown the present priceless collection of 800 odd current titles. The country’s health workers have reason to be thankful for the energy and foresight of Michael Gelfand, Joseph Richken and the Journal Board in initiating and establishing such a collection, and for the flexibility of University Library policy in accepting the principle of providing medical information to all those who need it, nation-wide.

In 1979 the Journal library’s collection of books, now considerably enlarged by the Medical Association’s collection, was presented to U.R.’s Medical Library. These books were processed — catalogued and reclassified — and incorporated into its stock. The University of Rhodesia Library had adopted from the outset the classification system developed by the U.S. Library of Congress — LC. It is in many ways an imperfect system, but it is reasonably flexible, and its combination of letters and numbers helps users (and librarians) to become familiar with the location of books in their subject areas; and the Medical Library wisely adopted...
the Medical Subject Headings (MESH) thesaurus or list of "used" terms which the National Library of Medicine developed for the subject listings in Index Medicus and MEDLINE, its computerised on-line data base.

In December 1978 the U.R. Library moved house. Its staff worked right through the Christmas and New Year's holidays to settle in for its January opening. The Godfrey Huggins School of Medicine had been given headquarters in the new Andrew Fleming teaching hospital, and a very handsome and spacious library had been incorporated into the plans for the new school. It occupies the four sides of a courtyard, wherein plays a somewhat Bauhaus-cross-neo-Hellenic fountain. There are spacious stacks, a huge reading room where current journals are displayed, pleasant offices; staff room; kitchen and common room for seekers of insulated solitude, with facilities for audiovisual equipment; carpets everywhere . . .

This new library is not only good-looking, comfortable and quiet — it also functions well. It is an enviable working environment for library users and library staff alike. But the time is not far off when more space will be needed. There are 400 more registered borrowers and five more members of staff than when it opened six years ago. The Medical Faculty is opening two new departments — Nursing Science, and Rehabilitation. In spite of some funding difficulties (particularly, of course, the recurrent shortages of foreign currency) the stock continues to grow. In recent years the flow of donations has not diminished — books from the British Council and the still generous United States Information Service, books and back runs of journals from many private donors; the very valuable contributions of current journal titles — about 140 from the still fertile exchange agreements of this Journal with other publishers, and a further 100 from W.H.O.'s aid programme. The Library attracts many generous allies — there is even a friendly neurologist who presents us not only with books and current journals but with paintings and plants too.

The Library is achieving recognition as an extraordinary asset both to the University, and to the whole community of health workers in Zimbabwe. Those who use it and those who work in it have come to realise its value; all of us are determined that it shall flourish and grow, and that its services will be prized not only in Harare but throughout Zimbabwe and the Southern and Central African region.

Editor's note: This article first appeared in *The Central African Journal of Medicine, vol. 31, no 9, Sept., 1985

*Helga Patrikios is Sub Librarian, Medical Library, University of Zimbabwe.

TIME TO REFLECT

by D. Pakkiri*

As the country embarks on the First Five Year National Development Plan it may be timely to take stock of issues previously raised by contributors to the Zimbabwe Librarian and gauge our achievements.

- NLDS. The need for establishing an integrated library service has often been expressed. The Bill to establish the NLDS was enacted by Parliament in 1985 — it has yet to emerge from a period of gestation. However, some of the impediments are beyond the negotiating jurisdiction of the ZLA.

- National Book Council. In vol 15, nos 3 and 4, 1983, Burford Hurry fully explores the reasons for establishing a council and the role it can play in assisting the book trade so that books become tools of national development. Perhaps a colloquium organised jointly by concerned parties (printers, paper importers, booksellers, publishers, librarians) is a possibility the ZLA should lobby for vigorously.

- Tariff on books. This is a perennial bone of contention to everyone who has a stake in the book trade librarians included. The ZLA has issued a statement on this and listed below is an extract from the statement. [Full text is available from Council].

1.1. The Zimbabwe Library Association is very concerned about the problems being experienced by libraries in the import of books and periodicals and supports the concerted efforts being made to effect the removal of tariff barriers which inhibit the free flow of information.

1.2. The ZLA is also very concerned at the present high cost of books and periodicals, which could be greatly alleviated by the removal of customs charges, import surcharges and sales taxes.

1.3. The ZLA therefore, urges the Government of Zimbabwe to become a signatory of the Unesco 'Florence Agreement' and its Protocols, and to join other members of the international community in removing tariff barriers on books and other educational materials.
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* HOW THE STEEL WAS TEMPERED by Nicolai Ostrovsky
Recommended for 'O' level. A favourite of young people all over the world. A tale of courage, love and struggle in the lives of young revolutionaries in the early years of Soviet power. $14.76 (hardcover edition).

* NIKITA'S CHILDHOOD by Alexei Tolstoy
Recommended for Form II. This classic of children's literature, translated into many languages, is dedicated by Tolstoy to his son. It tells of the happy world of childhood, friendship and first love. $3.59 (paperback edition).

* DANKO'S BURNING HEART by Maxim Gorky
Recommended for Forms I and II. This superbly illustrated romantic tale, written by one of the world's great authors, recalls the heroic legend of Danko, who, with his burning heart and great love for people led his tribe to happiness. $3.29 (paperback edition).

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1.4. It is not intended here to go into details of the difficulties experienced by booksellers in importing books on behalf of libraries; it is assumed that the case will be adequately put forward by the Booksellers Association. The University Library, the only major library which purchases directly from overseas, has also presented its own paper.

1.5. It should be noted, however, that library services are directly affected by the difficulties which beset booksellers who import books for libraries.

1.6. This brief paper, then, concentrates, firstly, on specific problems facing libraries and, secondly, on the consequences of these problems on library services in general.

• ZLA Members. Librarians have often expressed the need for the ZLA to issue guide-lines on:
  - maintaining professional standards
  - salary structures in force
  - need for continuing education (to maintain currency in knowledge, skills and attitudes)
  - compiling book lists for appropriate libraries (a flair for book selection is no longer sufficient when every Z$ has to be made to work).

Committees which have been set up to look at some of these issues should submit reports on their respective areas for the next issue of the Journal.

What of the future and the Association’s contribution to the First Five Year National Development Plan? Librarians should:
  - work towards eradicating illiteracy
  - become champions of free flow of information
  - advocate quality library service
  - recognize that the growing financial climate means managing with less.

Any comments?

Devi Pamiri is Sub Librarian, University of Zimbabwe.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**


- Databases and networks in development, 4th-6th September 1986, Brighton Polytechnic, Falmer, Brighton, organized by the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes Working Group on Information and Documentation. Discussion will be on the role of bibliographic databases and networks in promoting the study and well-being of the Third World, and there will be working demonstrations of computerized retrieval systems. Conference organizer: Jim Downey, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RE.

- SCECSAL VII (7th Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Librarians), Gaborone, Botswana, 3rd-9th August 1986. Theme: ‘Libraries and literacy’. The aim of the conference will be to share practical experience in assessing the information needs of new literates and illiterates and the provision of reading materials and other forms of information of these groups. Conference organizer: Kay Raseroka, University Librarian, University of Botswana Library, Private Bag 0022, Gaborone, Botswana.

- NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT - eighth summit will be held in Harare, Zimbabwe from 27th August - 7th September 1986.
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BOOKS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Founded in 1983, Books for Development launched a major appeal on 20th November 1985 at Stationers' Hall, London for £1 million in cash and kind to help developing countries through sending books and basic educational materials from the U.K. Joanna Lumley launched the appeal, Edward Heath, James Callaghan, the Secretary General of Unesco and the High Commissioners for Tanzania, Ghana, Kenya, Guyana and Jamaica were among those present. The appeal is for educational materials, such as paper, pencils and pens; for set texts for schools, colleges and universities; for materials such as radios, cassette players, tapes etc. to support rural literacy campaigns; and for the capital to support the administrative and distribution systems required to maintain the programme. In the Annual report 1983-1985. Lady Gifford, the founder and Director provides a detailed account of the reasons for setting up the organization, and the activities of its first two years of existence.

Donations of cash, writing materials, stationery and books, and the provision of free carriage by organizations such as Elder Dempster enabled educational materials to the value of over £750,000 to be shipped to Ghana, and nearly £45,000 worth to Tanzania. The report outlines some possible projects for the future: exchanges for school-teachers in the U.K. and developing countries; cooperation with learned societies and professional associations in the U.K. for the provision of complete runs of journals; encouragement to major pharmaceutical companies to donate laboratory equipment for schools, colleges and hospitals; cooperation with organizations such as the National Union of Journalists and the Womens Institutes to collect old but still servicable equipment (e.g. manual typewriters and sewing machines) for refurbishment and donation.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOK SERVICE (ELBS)

British Council's English Language Book Service (ELBS) (1959-). Funded by the Overseas Development Administration. (ODA), 36 countries in Africa are current recipients, and the present budget is £1.2 million. Most books in the scheme are textbooks for undergraduates, and are selected by the Council with specialist advice. Production of titles is subsidized, and prices are normally under £5.00. Between 1959 and 1982 some 800 titles were brought into the scheme, and since 1982, 200 have been added and a number of older titles weeded.
DESTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT: Southern Africa at War


This is a well researched and timely book edited by two experts on African affairs. It is evident from the book that they have had unique access to information. The other contributors in the book are equally well-known. Together they have portrayed the stark reality of the political, economic and military destabilization policies of South Africa. The collusion between South Africa and the reactionary forces within the Frontline States is exposed and analysed, while the negative role of some Western powers is well documented. Their overriding commitment to vested interests and disdain for human dignity, justice and stability in the region is made abundantly clear.

It is a historical account of the "People's struggle" in the face of brutality and torture—a nation at war with its own people. The evidence supports the view that the country is becoming rapidly ungovernable and that it will soon be reduced to a siege economy within a garrison state.

The myth that South Africa can withstand international sanctions is dispelled. Sanctions will not end apartheid—nevertheless, it is the first moral step in dismantling the regime.

The weakness of the current UN arms embargo is also revealed. The regime has built considerable weaponry, aided and abetted by the Western powers who have used the loopholes in the embargo on arms agreement to supply South Africa with foreign expertise and components (80%) towards the manufacture of arms. While mindful of its awesome military strength it is nevertheless sowing the seeds of self-destruction:

"Well over 60 per cent of white adults are now directly involved in managing the institutions of apartheid—i.e., in the police and armed forces, in the various departments of state, in executive and managerial positions of the economic infrastructure, and in other forms of non-productive employment. As opposition to the regime mounts, this sector of white employment can only become more extensive and, since the distribution of income heavily favours whites, more expensive. Capital will ultimately have to bear these costs without any certainty of social and political stability or a resumption of high rates of return on investment_".

The SADCC is now perceived by the S.A. regime as a dangerous enemy and menace to its regional hegemony. This perception will destabilize the regime if the SADCC as a tangible embodiment of the political economy of the Southern African states becomes a force to reckon with.

Recommended reading for all who want to be informed on the politics of race and power in Southern Africa and its implication for peace and stability in the region.

D.P.

The Struggle for health: Medicine and the politics of underdevelopment by David Sanders with Richard Carver. Published by Macmillan ISBN 0 333 37529 7 / 0333 37530 0 (Pbk)

This book by Dr Sanders (lecturer at the Medical School) comes at a time when there is mounting pressure to improve health in Third World countries. He addresses the issue of health provision in all its ramifications, and shows how health care is inextricably related to political and social issues.

The author analyses the health care system of both developed and developing countries. The historical development of health services in the industrialized countries and the outcome of the struggle to redress the imbalance in the system is documented.

The impact of the colonial service and the raison d'etre of the service is poignantly recreated by the author:

If the productivity of the East African territories is to be fully developed, and with it the potential capacity of those territories to absorb manufactured goods from the United Kingdom, it is essential that the standard of life of the native should be raised and to this end the eradication of disease is one of the most important measures. [emphasis added]

The author critically documents the role of aid agencies, business and the state in the provision of this service. The allocation of scarce resources is analysed, confronted and the attendant inequities exposed.

A service which stems from the current rationale has to be carefully monitored as there is the real danger in Third World countries that:

'The availability of good medical care tends to vary inversely with the need of the population served.'
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The text on the ethos and social responsibility of the medical profession reinforces the belief that the profession is an appendage of the establishment and not conducive to changing the status quo.

There is also a useful and informative chapter on prevalent "tropical diseases". The effect of long term social planning e.g. improvement in nutrition, education, housing etc. in improving health, is convincingly stated.

A valuable book for health workers and those interested in the politics of development. This book goes beyond the usual informative medical book and challenges the foundation of the service provided.

D.P.
BOOK NEWS

*Aftermaths* by Stanley Nyamfukudza. Published by College Press. ISBN 0 86925364.

Aftermaths is a collection of sensitive and powerful short stories embracing a wide variety of characters and themes.


Using a wide range of archival and oral sources Ranger argues that the history of African peasants in Zimbabwe produced a specific consciousness which meant that peasant participation in the guerrilla war was different from the peasant role in Mau Mau or in the war in Mozambique. The book examines in detail the combined peasant guerrilla ideology which grew up in rural Africa and discusses the changing relations of the peasantry and the new Zimbabwean state since the elections of 1980.


Fay Chung and Emmanuel Ngara are two well-known educationalists. Together they examine the theory of scientific socialism and its application to education and development. The authors further examine education in relation to national development and discuss curriculum planning; education with production, and the role of science, the arts and research. The book is a useful contribution to Zimbabwe's transformation to socialism.

LIBRARIANS ON THE MOVE • • • •

Mrs Josephine Gurira attended the “Evaluation and Refresher Workshop” at ESAMI (The Eastern and Southern African Management Institute). The Institute is in Arusha, Tanzania and the workshop was spread over a week - 21 October to 25 October 1985.

The DSE sponsored workshop took 18 participants from Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. All participants had attended a previous DSE workshop in either 1982, 1983 or 1984. Lectures, tutorials and participative exercises were given on topics ranging from Problems and Prospects in the Library Profession, Bibliographical Control, Indexing, User Education, Information Dissemination and Current Awareness.

Discussions on the Code of Conduct/Ethics for the profession took place in small group sessions. A summary of this discussion is available from the editor.

Mr S.M. Made, Librarian, participated in a programme on Library Management and Information Resources organised by Operation Crossroads Africa.

This programme was intended to provide a general overview of library management systems and the administration of research and documentation centres in the United States. A major component was the attendance at the 51st conference of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) in Chicago, Illinois, an international forum on “Libraries and the Universal Availability of Information”. Specific topics addressed during the programme and at the conference included: the need for universal access to information, the impact of new information technology on information resource development in African and Caribbean nations, and the role of libraries in community and national development objectives.

Mrs Helga Patrikios, Medical Librarian and Mrs Joyce Gozo, Assistant Librarian in the Medical Library, attended and presented papers at the 5th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, in Tokyo in October last year. Its theme: Medical librarianship — one world; resources, co-operation, services.

The Congress, a five-yearly event, was attended by 600 medical librarians and information specialists representing most countries of the world.

The implications of changes in national health policies for information services for health professionals, the need for a global approach to co-operation, and for resource sharing at all levels, were among the major topics of the Congress.

The Japanese hosts orchestrated the 45 concurrent sessions and 120 presenta-
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