# NOTES & NEWS

**SCOLMA News**

The 2000 AGM and Conference will be on the general theme of 'Africa and the Internet' and will be held on 6 June 2000. For further details see the SCOLMA website (<http://www.brad.ac.uk/acad/scolma/>) or contact the Secretary, Terry Barringer (<tab@ula.cam.ac.uk>)

Work continues on the compilation of the 6th edition of the *SCOLMA Directory of libraries and special collections on Africa in the U.K. & Europe* under the editorship of Peter Freshwater. It is still hoped to make both paper and electronic versions available and options are being explored.

The next issue of *ARD*, number 83, will be a special issue dedicated to publishing papers originally presented at the 1999 'African readerships' conference at Cambridge together with related material.

**Institutions & Organisations**

RCS Collections, Cambridge University Library.  Responsibility for these has now been combined with that for the Collections of the Centre for South Asian Studies, Cambridge, under the new post of Smuts Librarian.  Rachel Rowe, formerly Librarian at the Royal Geographical Society, London, has been appointed to this position and commenced on 2nd May 2000. (<rmr29@cam.ac.uk>)  Terry Barringer, Librarian of the RCS in London, who moved to Cambridge with the Collections in 1993, will have her present part-time appointment as Librarian in charge of the RCS Collections terminated in September 2000.

SCOLMA wishes Terry well, acknowledges all the work she has done since joining the SCOLMA Committee in 1988, especially as Book Review Editor and active member of the Editorial team of ARD since 1995, and Secretary since 1998, and very much hopes that she will find herself able to continue being associated with SCOLMA in her future career.  Terry will continue to work on the Africa Bibliography and the Missionary Periodicals Projects and hopes to develop her portfolio of bibliographical, research and editorial work.

**Northwestern University** launched an **Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa** within its Program of African Studies at a Workshop on Islamic Thought in Africa, held at Northwestern University 12 – 14 May 2000. [See under Conferences, meetings, seminars.]

The **African Studies Association** (of the USA) has switched to a shorter website address: <http://www.africanstudies.org>

**CFEA (Comite francais des etudes africanistes)** is establishing a new listserv to include news, programmes of forthcoming conferences, and so forth. To join the list and to make contributions, contact:

Pierre Boilley: boilley@cicrp.jussieu.fr
Catherine Barouin: baroin@isis.mae.u-paris10.fr

### African Digital Library On-Line (Africa)

Centre for Lifelong Learning
http://www.africanews.org/science/stories/19991108_feat7.html

A digital library for the benefit of users throughout Africa, went on-line on 3 November 1999. In response to the need for library books in Africa, Technikon SA (TSA) has provided an initial sponsorship of R1m to set up the African Digital Library.

The library was established by TSA and the Association of African Universities in collaboration with netLibrary, a private American company. It will provide Internet access to African users throughout the continent to a library of full-text books at no cost to the user. Over 60 publishers will provide full-text books. Encryption will ensure that only one user will access a book at any one time, and loan periods will be a few hours as users work with the books.

'The cost of establishing physical infrastructure, purchase and maintenance of books makes the provision of an acceptable level of support a daunting task. The cost of joining virtual libraries is out of reach for many African institutions. Accordingly, the COLISA (Confederation of Open Learning Institutions of South Africa) partners are coming in to provide support. TSA's Centre for Lifelong Learning is approaching private and public sector institutions,' says Paul West, the Centre's Director.

Sponsorships will be on a per-book basis, and sponsors will be able to advertise by means of banners per book sponsored. As far as use is concerned, persons in any Africa country with a server having an African domain, will be able to access the library via http://www.AfricaEducation.org/adl/. Servers such as those with a .com suffix which cannot be identified as African should provide the Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning with their IP address range so that the service can become accessible free of charge to their subscribers also. Users will then be able to open an account with the library free of charge.

The library will be made available to people using the Internet in Africa only. As Internet access expands in Africa, the e-book collection will grow and accommodate user needs.

'At this point the library contains 3000 books, and the collection will be built as fast as funds permit,' said West. 'The African Digital Library is yet another venture initiated by TSA's Centre for Lifelong Learning to bring learner support to learners in Africa. It is an exciting step which will open doors for many who would previously have had limited access to resource material. Technikon SA has great hopes for development of this service for the benefit of the peoples of Africa.'

For further information, contact Paul West, Director CLL at Technikon SA; e-mail: LibraryAdmin@AfricaEducation.org

<lifeinafrica@lifeinafrica.com> is a new website developed by a dedicated group of Ugandan and international volunteers in Kampala with very limited human and financial resources. The objective of the site is to provide the 'mainstream' Internet user with an engaging place to learn about Africa, through the use of human interest stories and images that highlight Africa's hope, without ignoring the realities of hardship. More concretely, it is also hoped that the site will serve as a vehicle for raising funds to support micro lending activities in Africa.

Feedback from Africans and non-Africans alike has been very enthusiastic to date. However, while the organisers have collected a lot of content about Africa, they see one of the main weaknesses of the site as the lack of content from Africa. They are appealing for stories and articles authored by Africans which can effectively convey the realities of contemporary life in Africa to a broad audience and hope that Africans reading about the site will send in stories about their countries and peoples and encourage others to do the same. Writers' guidelines are online at <http://lifeinafrica.com>.

### African Studies

**Guidelines for ethical conduct for research in Africa** (Draft produced by African Studies Association Board of Directors under the leadership of Board member Richard Roberts. The Board invites ASA members to offer input via email (asainfo@rci.rutgers.edu))

These guidelines for ethical conduct in research are designed as a framework for orienting members to the issues involved in research across cultures and nations and involving highly unequal access to means for conducting research. Ethical standards, guidelines, or codes issued by federal and local governments, universities, funding agencies, professional organisations, and

other bodies with supervisory responsibility supersede the guidelines issued by the ASA.

The African Studies Association represents a diverse group of people interested in Africa and its people. The Association has a long history of commitment to fostering the study of Africa, in supporting research by Africans, and in promoting collaboration among students of Africa. No guidelines for conduct can presume to be comprehensive, nor should any presume to be prescriptive, since the range of activities conducted by our members is vast and the contexts in which we conduct our research and our work change constantly. Nonetheless, several enduring principles are considered to be foundational for ethical conduct of research across cultures, international boundaries, and among those with uneven access to financial and professional resources. These principles are not separate, but form a reasonable framework for responsible conduct of research.

*1. Do No Harm*

When conducting research or pursuing professional activities in Africa, members of the Association shall seek to be conscious of and to minimise the potential present and future risks their research may inflict upon those who participate in their research or projects. Such conduct necessitates that the researcher is well-informed about the wider political, cultural, economic, religious, and social contexts of her or his research and that pursuing one's research will not put collaborators, research subjects, students, or assistants at risk of retribution of any kind for their participation in one's research or activities.

Members of the Association recognise the necessity of researchers to respect the integrity, morality, and traditions of the people we study. Researchers commit themselves to respect prevailing local practices of hiring, training, and using assistants and subjects. Researchers also commit themselves to pursue non-discriminatory practices whenever possible.

*2. Open and Full Disclosure of Methods, Objectives, Sources of Funding, and Anticipated Outcomes*

Members of the Association are committed to open and full disclosure of methods to be employed, the objectives of research, the sources of funding, and anticipated outcomes from research with all African colleagues and institutions with whom we collaborate or seek affiliation. Members of the Association shall be conscious of the potential uses and abuses of our research data and of the sponsors or funders of our research, especially when the recommendations or outcomes of our research may affect the interests of the peoples and communities we chose to study. Our collaborators, assistants, and subjects are entitled to be fully informed about the methodology used, forms of data collection, and the dissemination and application of results. When we engage in

research in Africa, we shall notify our African colleagues of the sponsors, funders, and potential uses intended for the information to be collected. We shall not engage in any research which we know or believe is funded secretly, is likely to be used for covert purposes, or has potentially negative consequences for our colleagues. We shall make every effort to keep all of our research, instructional, and service activities free of sponsorship, direct funding, or secret uses by military and intelligence agencies of all governments. We shall not knowingly engage or participate in projects which could be reasonably construed as sustaining or strengthening the powers of political leaders or states guilty of violations of human rights. Furthermore, we are committed to keeping in the public domain all work completed under any government sponsorship.

## 3. Informed Consent and Confidentiality

Consent of all the people participating in our research shall be obtained before any research is undertaken and must be on a fully voluntary and informed basis. Researchers must develop instruments of informed consent that are appropriate to the context of research. Such instruments must not only inform the subjects of the nature of the research and its potential risks, but must provide guarantee to subjects that, if they wish, their confidentiality will be fully respected. Researchers must be cognisant of the real difficulties of securing informed consent in contexts of uneven power relations and must develop strategies or techniques for ensuring fully informed consent.

## 4. Reciprocity

Members of the Association have a responsibility to support and encourage the professional activities of African collaborators and colleagues. Any research we engage in should strive to build the capacity for training and professional development for our colleagues and collaborators.

All researchers engaged in collaborative research must explain fully the nature of such collaboration, including issues of authorship, access to data collected, intellectual property rights, rights to inventions and copyrights with African colleagues, professionals, and graduate students.

Researchers commit themselves to a timely return of the results of scholarly activities, whether these may be in the form of preliminary reports, papers, dissertations, data sets, etc. Researchers must provide copies of their findings and publications to their African colleagues and institutions with whom they have established affiliations or collaborative projects and to the communities they studied.

## The Asmara Declaration on African Languages and Literatures
<http://www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/AllOdds/declaration.html>

'We writers and scholars from all regions of Africa gathered in Asmara,

Eritrea, from January 11 to 17, 2000, at the conference titled Against All Odds: African Languages and Literatures into the 21st Century. This is the first conference on African languages and literatures ever to be held on African soil, with participants from east, west, north, Southern Africa and from the diaspora and by writers and scholars from around the world. We examined the state of African languages in literature, scholarship, publishing, education, and administration in Africa and throughout the world. We celebrated the vitality of African languages and literatures and affirmed their potential. We noted with pride that despite all the odds against them, African languages as vehicles of communication and knowledge survive and have a written continuity of thousands of years. Colonialism created some of the most serious obstacles against African languages and literatures. We noted with concern the fact that these colonial obstacles still haunt independent Africa and continue to block the mind of the continent. We identified a profound incongruity in colonial languages speaking for the continent. At the start of a new century and millennium, Africa must firmly reject this incongruity and affirm a new beginning by returning to its languages and heritage.

'At this historic conference, we writers and scholars from all regions of Africa gathered in Asmara, Eritrea, declare that: 1. African languages must take on the duty, the responsibility, and the challenge of speaking for the continent. 2. The vitality and equality of African languages must be recognised as a basis for the future empowerment of African peoples. 3. The diversity of African languages reflects the rich cultural heritage of Africa and must be used as an instrument of African unity. 4. Dialogue among African languages is essential: African languages must use the instrument of translation to advance communication among all people, including the disabled. 5. All African children have the unalienable right to attend school and learn in their mother tongues. Every effort should be made to develop African languages at all levels of education. 6. Promoting research on African languages is vital for their development, while the advancement of African research and documentation will be best served by the use of African languages. 7. The effective and rapid development of science and technology in Africa depends on the use of African languages and modern technology must be used for the development of African languages. 8. Democracy is essential for the equal development of African languages and African languages are vital for the development of democracy based on equality and social justice. 9. African languages, like all languages, contain gender bias. The role of African languages in development must overcome this gender bias and achieve gender equality. 10. African languages are essential for the decolonisation of African minds and for the African Renaissance.

'The initiative which has materialised in the Against All Odds conference must be continued through biennial conferences in different parts of Africa. In order to organise future conferences in different parts of Africa, create a forum of dialogue and co-operation, and advance the principles of this declaration, a permanent Secretariat will be established, which will be initially based in

Asmara, Eritrea. Translated into as many African languages as possible and based on these principles, the Asmara Declaration is affirmed by all participants in *Against All Odds*. We call upon all African states, the OAU, the UN, and all international organisations that serve Africa to join this effort of recognition and support for African languages, with this declaration as a basis for new policies. While we acknowledge with pride the retention of African languages in some parts of Africa and the diaspora and the role of African languages in the formation of new languages, we urge all people in Africa and the diaspora to join in the spirit of this declaration and become part of the efforts to realise its goals.'

## PUBLISHING & THE BOOK TRADE

K.O. Darko-Ampem. 'Indigenous publishing in Africa: An overview of accelerated training and research, and African self-help efforts', *Mots pluriels* <http://www.arts.uwa.edu.au/MotsPluriels/>, April 2000

Joan de Beer. 'Children's publishing in Africa', *Cape librarian*, 43, 1999, 18-21

### *New Journals*

*African journal of technology and innovation* is a new journal set up by Brain Gain Brain Drain (BdBg), an organisation of African technocrats and professionals, as a peer-reviewed, technical publication in order to create channels for technology transfer through the co-operation of Africans in Diaspora and foreign experts. The journal is a multi-disciplinary publication that is focused on current state-of-the-art research and innovation in and outside Africa. Practitioner-oriented and academic papers that demonstrate new significant developments in all areas are sought for the journal in six broad areas : 1) engineering; 2) medicine and health science; 3) agriculture and environment; 4) computing and information technology; 5) science and mathematics; and 6) manufacturing technology, innovation, management and technology diffusion. Authors submitting papers for publication in the journal should pay special attention to the specific needs of providing for immediate practical solutions to problems and providing sources of information for both the industry and educational sectors. In this regard, authors should submit articles with emphasis on methodologies and their applications to solving practical problems. A few articles on significant findings in theoretical research are welcomed. Editor-in-Chief: Prof. G. Olalere Ajayi, Obafemi Awolowo, University, Ile Ife, Nigeria gajayi@cs.oauife.edu.ng

*Afriche e Orienti* is an Italian language journal created in Spring 1999 by the association Afriche e Orienti. The journal is published quarterly and aims at analysing Africa, the Mediterranean Region and the Middle East especially on issues such as immigration, development, co-operation, multiculturalism and

human rights. It is meant not only for specialists and scholars, but also for the public at large, for students, teachers, operators and associations working on development programs, journalists, and public officials. Besides acting as a forum for research projects in Italy, Afriche e orienti enjoys the co-operation of several foreign experts from Africa and the Middle East, as well as from European and American universities and centres of studies.

For more details: <www.comune.bologna.it/iperbole/africheorienti> or Rivista Afriche e Orienti, Via San Mamolo, n. 24, 40136 Bologna, Italy. (Fax ++39 051 333124)

*Afrilex* <http://www.africa.u-bordeaux.fr/afrilex/> is a new electronic review (first issue January 2000) covering laws and legal institutions in Africa. It is a joint product of the Centre d'études et de recherches sur le droit africain et le développement institutionnel (CERDRADI), Université Montesquieu-Bordeaux IV; Centre d'étude d'Afrique Noire (CEAN), IEP de Bordeaux (Universite Montesquieu-Bordeaux IV); Faculté des sciences juridiques et politiques de Dakar, Sénégal and, UFR de sciences juridiques, administratives et politiques d'Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

*Mots ` pluriels* <http://www.arts.uwa.edu.au/MotsPluriels/> is a refereed electronic and international journal open to literary minded scholars wishing to share their point of view on important contemporary world issues. Editor: Dr. Jean-Marie Volet, The University of Western Australia, School of European Languages, Department of French Studies, Nedlands 6907 Australia. Issue 13, April 2000, is 'New African perspectives and challenges of the future', edited by Peter Limb and Jean-Marie Volet.

Themes for forthcoming issues include:

'Knowledge and legitimacy'. A special issue comprising a lead article by Professor Ambroise Kom and commentaries by prominent researchers such as Professors Bill Ashcroft (Sydney), Patrick Bond (Johannesburg), Madeleine Borgomano (Aix-en-Provence), O.R. Dathorne (USA), Lilyan Kesteloot (Dakar-Paris), Shirley Lim (Hong Kong), Guy Ossito Midiohouan (Cotonou), Rajeev S Patke (Singapore) and Judith Van Allen (New York). Publication: June 2000.

'Food and African Cuisine' (Food shortages experienced by African countries ravaged by war are tragic and ironically tend to obscure the fact that sophisticated food preparation, sharing and enjoyment still play a major role in African life. This issue aims to explore the relationship between food and social, cultural, religious or artistic aspects of life especially, but not exclusively, in an African context)-

'Euro-African interchange: a two-way social, political and cultural flow'. (An investigation of people, ideas and cultural influences between Africa, Europe and the rest of the world. A wide range of aspects may be considered: from explorers, Western missionaries, merchants, soldiers and travellers who have criss-crossed Africa in years past to African slaves, soldiers, travellers, political refugees, musicians, intellectuals, etc whose sojourn in Europe and the rest of the world has been of significant influence.) (In collaboration with Dr Philip Dwyer).

## REFERENCE SOURCES, BIBLIOGRAPHIES & INFORMATION WORK

### AFRICA: GENERAL

Justin Chisenga. 'A study of the use of the Internet among library professionals in Sub-Saharan Africa', *Internet reference services quarterly*, 4, 1999, 37-50.

'Information Technology in Africa', *Africa Recovery*, 13 (4) 1999, 13-27 (Covers 'aspects of the main debates and discussions, the state of Africa's communication networks and how countries can plan their expansion')

Al Kagan. 'The growing gap between the information rich and the information poor both within countries and between countries: a composite policy paper', *IFLA journal* 26, 2000, 28-33 (Policy developed by the IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group, formed in December 1997. Includes bibliography of some 50 items)

R. Pfister. 'Africa's right to information: a review of past developments and future prospects', *Social science computer review*, 17, 1999, 88-106

Diana Rosenberg. 'CD-ROM: a sustainable and sustaining medium for African libraries', *Online and CD-ROM review*, 23, 1999, 231-233

T. Santoro. 'Searching for information about Africa', *Business information alert*, 11, 1999, 1-3, 10 (Reviews web sources of business information)

Margaret Snyder, 'Women and African Development', *Choice*, February 2000 (a bibliographic essay on 100 books. A spin-off of the project is a 300 citation partial bibliography on the same subject, that includes lists of reviews of the books, and can be found on the African Gender Institute (AGI, University of Cape Town) website: http://www.uct.ac.za/org/agi/ )

R. Strzolka. 'Bibliotheken in Afrika: eine historische Annaherung', *Bibliothek Forschung und Praxis*, 23, 1999, 157-194

Paul Sturges & Suzanna Willis. 'Performance measurement and project evaluation for rural African information services', *Information development*, 15, 1999, 205-211

Milton T. Wolf. 'Collecting science materials from developing regions:

universal dilemma, collaborative solutions', *IFLA journal*, 26, 2000, 103-106

***PRISME 2000*** is a bilingual descriptive database of 850 education projects in Africa available at <http://prisme.adeanet.org> and fully searchable by region, subject area, funding institution (27 involved to date), and keyword. It is compiled and published ·by the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) in collaboration with Bellanet. ADEA was established at the initiative of the World Bank in 1988. Then called 'Donors to African Education' (DAE), its objective was to foster collaboration and co-ordination between development agencies which support education in Africa. ADEA has maintained comprehensive information on foreign aid agencies' educational programs and projects in sub-Saharan Africa since 1991. It now focuses on developing partnerships between Ministers of Education and funding agencies, in order to promote effective education policies based on African leadership and ownership. The contents of the website will be updated annually.

For further information: Thanh Hoa Desruelles (th.desruelles@iiep.unesco.org), Association for the Development of Education in Africa, 7-9 rue Eugene-Delacroix, 75116 Paris, France

**ELDIS: new services**

New country profiles are now available on

Microcredit  http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/mcprofile.htm
Gender  http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/gcountry.htm

Items of news, job adverts, conference details, etc.

http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/notepad/index.htm

AIDS Epidemic Update. UNAIDS, December 1999. Latest UN statistics and analysis on AIDS/HIV infection-rates
<http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/update.htm>

Intellectual Property Rights and Globalisation: Implications for Developing Countries, Calestous Juma / Center for International Development (CID), Harvard University, 1999. Recommendations on the best national policy and institutional structures for implementation of the TRIPS agreement
<http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/intell.htm>

Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons from Governance Programming Mark Schacter / Institute on Governance (IOG), 1999. Lessons learned from projects to improve governance and policy-forming capacity in Africa.
<http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/mecap.htm >

Communications and Development: a Practical Guide Adam Burke / DFID, 1999. Manual on working with communication media in development projects: choosing, using and evaluating

<http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/comdev.htm>

Contact details: Tracy Zussman-Kay, ELDIS Programme at the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RE, UK (Email: eldis@ids.ac.uk; Fax: +44 1273 621202; <www: http://www.eldis.org>)

**African language dictionaries website**

<http://www.facstaff.bucknell.edu/rbeard/diction3.html> provides links to African language dictionaries, wordlists and similar compilations

It is excellent to see that two new titles have now appeared in the **Electronic journal of Africana Bibliography**, (<http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/proj/ejab>) originally created by the late John Howell of the University of Iowa (see *ARD*, 73, 1997, 30 and 56-57)

The original titles were:

1. Guides, collections and ancillary materials to African archival resources in the United States, comp. J.B. Howell and Yvette Scheven

2. Foreign periodicals on Africa, comp. J.B. Howell

3. Medical/Health periodicals and books on Africa, comp. J.B. Howell

The two new titles are:

4. Female circumcision and infibulation in Africa, comp. David M. Westley (African bibliographer, Boston University) which contains 568 items (including some 20 Internet sites) and has country and ethnic group indexes. Annual revisions are promised.

5. A bibliography of Karamoja, Uganda: books and articles published in English, comp. Michael D. Quam (University of Illinois, Springfield) which contains 99 items.

Further contributions to the series are sought. Bibliographies should have a minimum of 75 numbered entries. Contact Afeworki Paulos, University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa City, Iowa 52242, USA (afeworki-paulos@uiowa.edu)

**CENTRAL AFRICA**

**ZAMBIA**

The Livingstone Museum is reported to have suffered heavily during the regional rains and floods of February and March. An article by Ishbel Matheson in the Daily telegraph (London) for March 29 2000, entitled: "Last record of African

explorers faces ruin" gives details of how the ceiling of the Museum has fallen in. Many publications are said to have been damaged beyond repair while others need expensive conservation work to save them.

"Piles of ancient, sodden volumes have been left to dry in the tropical heat. Early newspapers, with vivid descriptions of life in what was then British-ruled Northern Rhodesia, can scarcely be opened, for fear of tearing fragile, brittle pages. Flexon Mizinga, the keeper of history at the museum, said: 'It means the whole history is wiped out. When you lose this kind of thing, there is no replacement. You can't get copies anywhere else. These are the only copies we have'. Valuable historical documents which escaped the flood, are slowly disintegrating because the museum has no money for conservation. The original letters of David Livingstone, including the notebooks describing his second Zambezi expedition of 1858, the pride of the collection, are said to have so far survived intact but the journals of Sir John Kirk, a botanist, and Richard Thornton, a geologist, which record their first impressions of the African landscape and its commercial potential for the British Empire, are in battered cardboard boxes. The acidity of the brown paper which wraps the notebooks is slowly eating away the handwritten testimony of these Victorian explorers. In the museum's clock tower, amid a jumble of books and newspapers, is the work of Thomas Baines, an artist and a member of the Zambezi expedition. A beautiful first edition of his famous Victoria Falls watercolours lies on a tabletop, vulnerable to the fierce heat and high humidity of the southern Zambia climate."

The European Union is reported to have given US$ 400,000 to the Museum for salvage operations: other bodies are being appealed to.


## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### BOTSWANA

Gertrude Kayaga Mulindwa, 'Preserving the nation's documented heritage – the Botswana Collection at the National Library Service', *Botswana Notes and Records*, 30, 1998, 177-180.

### MOZAMBIQUE

S.S. Karnik, 'Selected annotated bibliography on Mozambique', *African Currents: Newsletter of Centre for African Studies University of Mumbai*, 16(27) 1999, 29-51

### NAMIBIA

The Department of Information & Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Namibia has released the last report in the six part series on 'The state of information services in Namibia and the need for training for information services', entitled *The state of*

100                                                  *African Research & Documentation No. 82 2000*

*museums in Namibia and the need for training for museum services* by Andree-Jeanne Tötemeyer. Windhoek: University of Namibia, July 1999. ISBN 0-947433-18-x. The other five reports in the series, published at regular intervals since 1990, deal with school libraries, public/community libraries, government libraries & archives, private & para-statal libraries & archives and tertiary & pre-tertiary training institution libraries in Namibia.

The Museums Report consisting of 526 pages including the graphs, bibliography and appendices, may be ordered from: Department of Information & Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, University of Namibia, Private Bag 13301, Windhoek, Namibia (Fax: 264-61-206 3806; E-mail: kmchombu@unam.na) Price: N$ 200 (approx. U$ 33) plus postage if bought directly from the Department, Y Block, University of Namibia.


## SOUTH AFRICA

With effect from 1 November 1999 the State Library and the South African Library, Cape Town, have merged to form the **National Library of South Africa** under the terms of the National Library of South Africa Act, No. 92 of 1998. The Act's Proclamation (No. R. 109, 1999) was published in Government Gazette No. 20562 of 29 October 1999.

The new National Library consists of two divisions, one in Pretoria and one in Cape Town, on the premises of the two former national libraries. The Acting National Librarian is Dr Peter Lor, previously Director of the State Library. An advertisement for the post of National Librarian was issued in April 2000. The location of the NLSA Headquarters could be in Cape Town or Pretoria. The decision is to be taken by the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology on the recommendation of the National Library Board.

The National Library of South Africa is committed to building an informed nation. It contributes to the socio-economic, educational, cultural and scientific development of the country by collecting, recording, preserving and making available the national documentary heritage and by facilitating access to the world's information resources. In the new millennium, the National Library will help build the African Renaissance by raising awareness of the nation's documentary heritage and by promoting information literacy in a culture of learning and information use.

The National Library holds, at both divisions, an extensive collection of most of the books and periodicals published in the country. It also provides users with access to the collections of other South African and overseas libraries through the library lending network for which it is responsible.

State Library, Pretoria. *Bibliography of the Zulu Language to the year 1998*. Pretoria, 1999. R250 per copy in South Africa (International price US $100).

Following 18 months of research and compilation, the Bibliography was launched on 8 October 1999. It includes monographs, periodicals, articles, theses, manuscripts and official publications written in Zulu and works in any language about the Zulu language and literature and covers all items identified up to August 1998. An introduction by Prof. C.T. Msimang gives an account of the birth of the Zulu nation and of the development of Zulu language and literature. Copies of the bibliography are available from the National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division, Finance Dept. (attention: S. Mader)

**LIASA (Library and Information Association of S A ) website:**
<http://www.liasa.org.za/> provides updates on the LIASA organisation and activities; programmes of forthcoming conferences and activities of branches, committees and interest groups.

Colin Darch & Peter Underwood. 'Dirt road or yellow brick superhighway? Information & communication technology in academic libraries of South Africa', *Library hi tech*, 17, 1999, 285-297