

INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN INSTITUTE / INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL AFRICAIN

10/11 Fetter Lane, London E.C.4.

University College, Nairobi

December - 1967 - Décembre.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN BIBLIOGRAPHY

CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LA BIBLIOGRAPHIE AFRICAINE

Title: BIBLIOGRAPHIC PROGRAMS ON AFRICA IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AT THE
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND THE AFRICAN BIBLIOGRAPHIC CENTER.

Sujet: REALISATIONS DE BIBLIOGRAPHIE AFRICAINE A WASHINGTON D.C. A
LA BIBLIOTHEQUE DU CONGRES ET AU CENTRE DE BIBLIOGRAPHIE
AFICAINE.

Author/Auteur: Julian W. Witherell.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC PROGRAMS ON AFRICA IN WASHINGTON, D.C.,

AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND THE

AFRICAN BIBLIOGRAPHIC CENTRE

by Julian W. Witherell

Strong American interest in Africa today is reflected in the large number of Government organizations and research institutes in the Washington area which concern themselves with African affairs. As the National Capital, the location of several major universities, more than 30 embassies of African nations, and the headquarters of international development organizations, Washington is naturally a focal point for African studies in the United States. The development of U.S. Government assistance programs, private investment, and scholarly interest in Africa has created a great demand for research material that requires improved bibliographic control of publications relating to African affairs. Many of these agencies and organizations have developed their own bibliographic programs. Two of them - the Library of Congress and the African Bibliographic Centre - have special significance to Africanists everywhere because of their bibliographic contributions.

As a national library of the United States and in all probability the largest library in the world, the Library of Congress stands at the forefront among American institutions in both the size of its African collections and the scope of its bibliographic work on Africa. Created by and for the U.S. Congress in 1800, this library is used today not only by legislators but also by other Government agencies and scholars and librarians throughout the world. Its rich and extensive collections of approximately 55 million items comprise more than 13 million books and pamphlets, about 28 million manuscripts, and large holdings of newspapers, maps, photographs, films, prints, and drawings. It is impossible to estimate the amount of material relating to sub-Saharan Africa among these items, as Africana is not kept in a single block but is dispersed by subject in the general collections. There are, for example, about 20,000 volumes on sub-Saharan Africa in the history and topography collections, 2,000 under economics, and 1,000 under languages and literary history. These examples suggest that the Africana of the Library is very substantial. (*)

Bibliographic work with the Library's Africana has been carried on since early in this century. The first recorded guide was a 1908 type-written list on the Library's collections "relating to the West Coast of Africa." From time to time, the Division of Bibliography, the European Affairs Division, and the General Reference and Bibliography Division prepared lists of references on various regions of Africa, usually in response to a special need for information on a part of the continent currently in the international spotlight. For example, two bibliographies on Ethiopia were prepared in 1935 and 1937, and several lists on French and British colonies and on trust territories in Africa were issued during and immediately after World War II.

As the growing political and economic importance of Africa on the international scene stimulated American interest during the postwar years, Miss Helen F. Conover, a bibliographer who concentrated on African materials, began to devote her attention to more extensively annotated bibliographies.

(*) General guides to the collections of the Library include citations to sub-Saharan Africa. The following Library publications are given as examples: Library of Congress Catalog-Books: Subjects; a Cumulative List of Works Represented by Library of Congress Cards; National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections; Based on Reports from American Repositories of Manuscripts; and A List of Geographical Atlases in the Library of Congress, with Bibliographic Notes (especially volume 6.) Complete bibliographic information on these and other Library publications is given in Library of Congress Publications, free upon request from the Office of the Secretary, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

Her work Introduction to Africa; a Selective Guide to Background Reading appeared in 1952, followed by Research and Information on Africa, Continuing Sources, issued in 1954 and covering a selection of periodicals. Research and information on Africa was updated and enlarged in two publications issued in 1957, Africa South of the Sahara and North and Northeast Africa. Both were selected, annotated lists of writings appearing since 1951.

The creation of the African Section in the General Reference and Bibliography Division in 1960 brought an expansion of the Library's bibliographic work and a greater emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa. The section, established under a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, but now supported by funds appropriated by Congress, was given responsibility for providing reference and bibliographic service on Africa south of the Sahara, including Madagascar and adjacent Indian Ocean islands. Under the direction of Dr. Conrad C. Reining, who served as head from 1960 to 1966, it developed a strong bibliographic program covering general literature, serials, and publications of African governments.

One of the section's first bibliographic works was African Libraries, Book Production, and Archives; a List of References, a limited-circulation item prepared by Miss Conover in 1960. The guide, an annotated list of monographs, series, and periodicals, was reissued in 1962 to meet the demand for copies from American and foreign libraries. In response to numerous requests for information on current publications, the section in 1962 compiled United States and Canadian Publications on Africa in 1960. Volumes for subsequent years have been published in the Bibliographic Series of the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, California. Another compilation in the section's first years was A List of American Doctoral Dissertations on Africa, issued in 1962. It covered as comprehensively as possible those doctoral dissertations on subjects relating to Africa accepted by universities in the United States and Canada through the academic year 1960/61.

In 1963, the section produced its most ambitious work to date, Africa South of the Sahara; a Selected, Annotated List of Writings, containing 2,173 entries. Compiled by Miss Conover, it has been acclaimed by researchers in the United States and abroad as a basic reference tool for African studies. Another study is Agricultural Development Schemes in Sub-Saharan Africa; a Bibliography, compiled in the General Reference and Bibliography Division with the collaboration of scholars outside the Library and with the financial support from the African Bibliographic Project of the National Academy of Sciences. It includes 1,783 annotated entries from periodicals and monographs with an emphasis on materials available in the United States.

Recognizing the importance of serial publications for research on Africa, the section in 1961 compiled Serials for African Studies, a guide to 2,082 scholarly journals, news magazines, economic reports, and other periodicals. During the past 5 years, the section has recorded several thousand additional serial titles on African studies and has attempted to maintain current records on those items cited in the 1961 study. At present, the section's staff is surveying approximately 7,000 serial titles in its card files to prepare an enlarged edition. Scheduled for publication in 1968, it will include information on card services and other bibliographic guides which cite or abstract articles from major periodicals on Africa.

Throughout the section's 7-year history, a major accomplishment of its bibliographic work has been the compilation of guides to African government publications. This work has helped significantly in meeting the demand for improved bibliographic control over publications of both colonial and national governments. Each of these guides covers as comprehensively as possible the official documents of central and regional governments and the publications of research institutions, chambers of commerce, and other government-sponsored organizations. Each compilation includes selections of publications of the present or former colonial government (e.g. Great Britain, France) on the country or region under review. When the guide includes published documents of former trust territories (e.g., Tanganyika, Togo), selections of League of Nations and United Nations documents are also

described. To date, the section has covered the publications of most African governments from Mauritania to Mauritius at least once, and revisions have been prepared for Nigeria and French-speaking West Africa. A complete list of our bibliographies is given in the appendix. The section has tentative plans in the next several years to compile guides to the official publications of Liberia, Ethiopia, Congo (Kinshasa), Rwanda, Burundi, the former High Commission Territories (Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland), and Spanish Africa, thus completing its survey of government documents of sub-Saharan Africa. (*)

The section may then update all of its guides to official publications, probably using a single terminal date, and issue under one cover a general guide to the entire region. If this is accomplished, it might in the future issue periodic supplements.

The collections of the Library of Congress provide the basis for all its bibliographies of official African publications. A comprehensive exchange program, supplemented by the P.L. 480 Acquisitions Program in North Africa and, more recently, by a regional acquisitions office established in Nairobi under the Library's National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloguing, have enabled the Library to acquire the major publications of every African government. Exchange relationships with universities and government-sponsored research institutes are highly valued and have provided the Library with many other important publications. Additional materials, particularly government gazettes and compilations of laws, are often acquired by purchase. Through these methods, the Library has developed over the years an exceptionally strong collection of official publications from sub-Saharan Africa. Among its Africana are more than 4,500 bound volumes of government gazettes, debates, and other legislative records. Examples are its complete files of the Official Gazette of the Cape of Good Hope from 1844 to date, the Bulletin officiel of the Belgian Congo (former Congo Free State) from 1885 to 1959, the Journal officiel of the Malagasy Republic (former Madagascar) from 1896 to date, and the Minutes of Proceedings and the Debates of the legislature of Rhodesia from 1899 to date.

Entries for items in other American libraries and citations from other published bibliographies are also included in the section's guides. The National Union Catalogue, in card form and in printed volumes for 1948 and later imprints, records the major Africana of other American libraries. For serial titles, a basic source is the Union List of Serials in the Libraries of the United States and Canada, 3d edition (1965), and its monthly supplement, New Serial Titles. An effort is also made to survey the holdings of other libraries in the vicinity for additional African government documents. Several Federal libraries in and around the National Capital have strong collections on Africa. Among these are the libraries of the Department of State, the Department of Commerce, the Geological Survey, the National Agricultural Library, and the National Library of Medicine. Another local source is the joint library of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which has excellent holdings of economic studies on Africa and many scarce items not held by other local libraries. Howard University also has extensive collections on Africa, notably in the field of history and ethnology together with unique holdings relating to the Negro in the New World.

In an effort to make its guides as comprehensive as possible, the section has turned to numerous published bibliographies for citations to works not located in American libraries. The extensive collection of bibliographies in the Library of Congress provides the section's staff with hundreds of entries. In its work on official publications, the section has found the national bibliographies of the present or former colonial powers a rich source of information on both current and retrospective literature. For English-speaking countries, the periodic price

(*) A guide to South African official publications is not contemplated as they appear to be well covered in bibliographies prepared by libraries and universities in South Africa.

lists of the national government printers are of use in identifying documents. Additional information is frequently gained from general bibliographies and from acquisition lists prepared by research centres in Africa; examples are Nigerian Publications, issued quarterly with annual cumulations by the Ibadan University Press, and New Acquisitions in the UNECA Library, a monthly publication of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa.

In the past several years other reference offices of the Library of Congress have prepared bibliographies on Africa. In 1964, a member of the staff of the Music Division compiled African Music; a Briefly Annotated Bibliography, including 597 entries covering both periodical literature and monographs. The Serial Division in 1965 prepared the third edition of African Newspapers in Selected American Libraries, a union list of 708 current and retrospective newspapers in Western and non-Western languages held by 33 American research libraries. The impressive number of institutions responding to the Serial Division's questionnaire regarding holdings reflected the rapid development of interest in Africa among American scholars. The first edition issued in 1956 had listed holdings for only 8 libraries, while the second edition in 1962 recorded holdings for 20 libraries.

The guides to Africana prepared by the African Section and by other Library offices have contributed to the bibliographic control of publications on Africa. These compilations provide the researcher with entries for material together with call numbers or other indications of the location of copies. Most of them have detailed author and subject indexes which enable the reader to find particular citations with a minimum of searching. Their value as reference tools is enhanced by the widespread distribution which they receive through the Library's exchange program or by sale. These publications are listed in the appendix. The section also maintains a card file on current Africana which supplements the entries in the published bibliographies and the Library's card catalogue. These files are frequently used by researchers visiting the section in order to locate recent books, pamphlets, and periodicals not yet fully catalogued by the Library.

The African Bibliographic Centre of Washington is another collector and compiler of finding aids on all subjects relating to Africa. It concentrates its attention on current publications, primarily those published in the past two or three years. Chartered in 1963, it has the principal objective of furnishing current research information on African studies and related topics through the compilation of specialized bibliographies. Mr. Daniel G. Matthews, chief bibliographer of the centre, reports that the service is specifically designed to assist scholars and librarians by providing "rapid, impartial and comprehensive coverage of published and forthcoming materials for use in the study of Africa."

The centre is a non-profit organization financed solely from the sale of its publications. Its research is conducted primarily by qualified consultants who review the many books, pamphlets, and journals received by the centre. Every effort is made to expedite the reviewing and cataloguing of recent materials in order to reduce the time lag between the appearance of a book or article and its citation in a bibliographic guide. In general, articles selected for inclusion in the centre's publications are those of a scholarly nature. In its compilations, the centre makes wide use of available catalogues, indexes, book reviews, and bibliographic card files. Extensive use is also made of other local research facilities.

Over the past 4 years, the centre has gradually developed a strong collection of monographs and serials in many subjects. Its library now includes more than 4,000 catalogued items and numerous uncatalogued government documents, pamphlets, and reprints. Most of the books are prepublication copies sent by the publishers to the centre for review, while the journals are received on exchange or by subscription. The library is open to readers only by appointment.

The centre issues a bibliographical periodical, A Current Bibliography on African Affairs, and topical bibliographies in three series: Special Bibliographic Series, Current Reading List Series, and Current Information Series; information on subscription rates of each is given in the appendix.

A Current Bibliography on African Affairs, edited by Miss Helen F. Conover, who has retired from the Library of Congress, is a bimonthly guide (monthly beginning in January 1968) to a selection of publications covering a variety of subjects. It features book reviews, announcements of forthcoming publications, and citations of recent articles listed by subject and region. Beginning with the August 1967 issue, it also includes bibliographic essays and articles on reference tools for African studies. Each issue has more than 500 entries and an index to personal authors and journal titles.

The centre's Special Bibliographic Series includes bibliographies focusing on a specific subject or country. Compiled from books, articles, government documents, and international organizations materials, they offer references to publications required for a study in depth on a subject. An author index adds to the value of each issue as a reference tool. Examples of titles in this series are Trade Unions in Africa, 1960-1962, A Current Bibliography on Ethiopian Affairs, 1950-1965, and African Economic Affairs, 1965-1966.

The Current Reading List Series provides basic reading lists for the researcher on a single subject. Among its titles are The Peace Corps in Africa, Recent African Elections, 1959-1962, Women in Africa, and The Sword and Government; a Preliminary and Selected Bibliographic Guide to African Military Affairs. This past spring the centre began publishing the Current Information Series in a format similar to that of the Current Reading List Series but with an even greater emphasis on recent and forthcoming publications. To date, listings on African History and Nigeria have been issued in this series.

In recent years, the African Bibliographic Centre and the Library of Congress, using the abundant library facilities available to them in Washington, have developed bibliographic programs which provide comprehensive coverage of a broad range of subjects. To keep pace with the growing demand for guides to reference material, they are constantly enlarging their African collections and their bibliographic operations. As a result, they are in a strong position to meet the bibliographic needs of Africanists both in the United States and abroad.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC PUBLICATIONS ON AFRICA

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

IN PRINT

Africa South of the Sahara; a Selected, Annotated List of Writings.**
1963. 354p. \$2.25

African Libraries, Book Production and Archives; a List of References.*
1962. 64p. \$0.60

African Music; a Briefly Annotated Bibliography.** 1964. 55p. \$0.45

African Newspapers in Selected American Libraries.** 3d ed. 1965.
135p. \$0.75

Agricultural Development Schemes in Sub-Saharan Africa; a Bibliography.**
1963. 189p. \$1.25

A List of American Doctoral Dissertations on Africa.** 1962. 69p. \$0.35

Madagascar and Adjacent Islands; a Guide to Official Publications.**
1965. 58p. \$0.40

Nigeria; a Guide to Official Publications.** 1966. 166p. \$1.00

Official Publications of British East Africa.*
Part 2. Tanganyika. 1962 134p. \$1.00
Part 3. Kenya and Zanzibar. 1962. 162p. \$1.25
Part 4. Uganda. 1963. 100p. \$1.00

Official Publications of French Equatorial Africa, French Cameroons,
and Togo, 1946-1958; a Guide.** 1964. 78p. \$0.50

Official Publications of Sierra Leone and Gambia.** 1963. 92p. \$0.55

The Rhodesias and Nyasaland; a Guide to Official Publications.** 1965.
285p. \$1.50

Serials for African Studies.** 1961. 163p. \$1.00

United States and Canadian Publications on Africa in 1960.** 1962. 98p. \$0.50

IN PRESS

French-Speaking West Africa; a Guide to Official Publications.

Portuguese Africa; a Guide to Official Publications.

IN PROGRESS

Ghana; a Guide to Official Publications.

Serials for African Studies. rev. ed.

OUT OF PRINT

North and Northeast Africa, 1951-1957.*** 1957. 182p. \$4.50 (microfilm);
\$11.00 (electrostatic print)

Official Publications of British East Africa. Part 1. The East Africa
High Commission and Other Regional Documents.*** 1960. 67p. \$3.25
(microfilm); \$8.00 (electrostatic print)

Official Publications of French West Africa, 1946-1958; a Guide.***
1960. 88p. \$3.00 (microfilm); \$8.50 (electrostatic print)

Official Publications of Somaliland, 1941-1959.*** 1960. 41 p. \$3.00
(microfilm); \$8.00 (electrostatic print)

AFRICAN BIBLIOGRAPHIC CENTER

Current Bibliography on African Affairs. Apr. 1962 / bimonthly.
Subscription rates: \$12.00 a year (foreign: \$13.00 a year)
\$2.25 an issue.

Current Information Series. Apr. 1967 / irregular.
Prices vary.

Current Reading List Series. Jan. 1963 / irregular.
Prices vary.

Special Bibliographic Series. Jan. 1963 / irregular.
Prices vary.

Note: Information and subscriptions available from African Bibliographic
Center, Inc., P.O. Box 13096, Washington, D.C. 20009.

* Available from the Card Division, Library of Congress, Building No.
159, Navy Yard Annex, Washington, D.C. 20541

** Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government
Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (Add 25% for foreign postage).

*** Positive microfilm or electrostatic print available at indicated prices
from the Photoduplication Service, Library of Congress, Washington,
D.C. 20540.

RESUME

REALISATIONS DE BIBLIOGRAPHIE AFRICAINE A WASHINGTON D.C., A LA BIBLIOTHEQUE DU CONGRES (LIBRARY OF CONGRESS) ET AU CENTRE DE BIBLIOGRAPHIE AFRICAINE (AFRICAN BIBLIOGRAPHIC CENTER), par Julian W. Witherell

Washington D.C. est aux Etats-Unis le centre des études africaines. La capitale fédérale est en effet le siège de plusieurs universités importantes, celui des Ambassades de plus de 30 nations africaines et le quartier général d'organismes internationaux pour le développement; elle offre donc à l'africaniste de remarquables moyens de recherche. Le développement aux Etats-Unis des programmes d'assistance, de l'investissement privé et de l'intérêt des chercheurs pour l'Afrique a créé une grosse demande de matériaux de recherche qui exige une amélioration du contrôle bibliographique des publications ayant trait aux affaires africaines. La plupart des agences et organismes qui s'occupent de l'Afrique ont mis en oeuvre des projets de développement bibliographique. Deux d'entre eux, la Bibliothèque du Congrès et le Centre de Bibliographie Africaine ont pour l'africaniste une autorité particulière en raison de leur contribution propre aux questions bibliographiques.

La Bibliothèque du Congrès, qui fait également office aux Etats-Unis de Bibliothèque nationale, est à la pointe des instituts américains tant en ce qui concerne la richesse de ses collections africaines que l'étendue de son oeuvre bibliographique sur les questions africaines. Ses collections comportent de substantiels documents sur l'Afrique. D'une façon générale les matériaux se rapportant à une même région ne sont pas groupés en un seul département mais sont dispersés par matière dans les collections générales.

Le travail de bibliographie fait à partir de ces collections est mené depuis le début du siècle. Bibliographe à la Bibliothèque du Congrès, Miss Helen F. Conover qui s'est spécialisée dans les documents africains, a dressé plusieurs catalogues après la deuxième guerre mondiale, au moment où l'Afrique gagnait en importance sur la scène internationale. La Section Africaine, créée à la Bibliothèque du Congrès en 1960 grâce à une donation de la Corporation Carnegie de New York, est actuellement maintenue par des fonds réguliers fournis par le Congrès, et a développé les activités bibliographiques de la Bibliothèque en accordant un intérêt croissant à l'Afrique sub-Saharienne. Sous la direction du Dr. Conrad C. Reining, son directeur de 1960 à 1966, cette section a réalisé une substantielle oeuvre bibliographique couvrant la littérature générale, les périodiques et les publications des gouvernements africains. Une liste des récentes publications de la Bibliothèque sur l'Afrique est fournie en annexe à cette communication.

Les collections de la Bibliothèque du Congrès fournissent la base des bibliographies des publications officielles. Par le truchement d'un plan d'échange et par l'achat direct, la Bibliothèque s'est procuré les publications des gouvernements de tous les états africains. Pour les collections d'autres bibliothèques américaines, les bibliographes de la Section étudient le National Union Catalogue sous forme de fiches et sous forme de volumes imprimés pour 1948, et pour les impressions postérieures, la Union List of Serials et New Serial Titles. Ils passent également en revue les collections des autres bibliothèques avoisinantes, comme celle du Department of State et la National Agricultural Library. Dans leur effort pour rendre ces guides aussi complets que possible, ils y incluent des références à des documents dont ne disposent pas les bibliothèques américaines. Pour fournir ces informations, la Section étudie de près les bibliographies nationales des anciennes ou actuelles puissances coloniales, les catalogues commerciaux des imprimeurs des gouvernements africains, et les guides élaborés par les organismes de recherche implantés en Afrique même.

Le Centre de Bibliographie Africaine travaille également à la compilation d'instruments de recherche. Il publie des catalogues à l'intention des chercheurs du monde entier en axant son effort sur les

informations parues au cours des deux ou trois années les plus récentes. Tout est fait pour accélérer le processus de recension et de catalogage des publications récentes afin de réduire le délai séparant la publication d'un ouvrage et sa citation dans un catalogue bibliographique. Depuis sa création en 1963, le Centre a mis sur pied une bibliothèque comportant plusieurs milliers de volumes, documents gouvernementaux, brochures et journaux. La plupart de ses livres sont des exemplaires de service de presse, tandis que ses périodiques sont obtenus par échange ou abonnement. Il s'agit d'un organisme sans but lucratif, dont les finances reposent uniquement sur la vente de ses publications.

Les guides bibliographiques publiés par le Centre comportent un journal de bibliographie et trois séries. Sa publication bimensuelle A Current Bibliography on African Affairs publie des recensions de livres, des annonces de publications prochaines et des références à de récents articles. Les trois séries, Special Bibliographic Series, Current Reading List Series and Current Information Series, comportent une information bibliographique sur des matériaux ayant trait à des sujets spécifiques comme les syndicats, les partis politiques, la condition de la femme africaine et l'histoire de l'Afrique.