

# African Book Industry Data & the State of African National Bibliographies

by

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## Abstract

*No less than three international meetings on publishing in Africa have taken place recently, which have been followed with detailed action plans. Among many other recommendations, calls for action to find solutions to perennial problems, as well as discussions focusing on sectorial innovation and revitalization of the African book industries, participants in all three meetings were strongly urged to start collecting and disseminating book industry data.*

*It is true that reliable figures of book publishing output for the continent of Africa do not exist at the present time, with the exception of a very small number of countries, notably South Africa and Morocco. Meantime the state of African national bibliographies, which can form the groundwork of book industry data, presents a picture of neglect for the most part, with many national bibliographies seriously in arrears, currently dormant, or having ceased publication altogether. Only a small number are accessible in digital formats.*

*Book publishing data and book production statistics are important elements in measuring the growth and vitality of indigenous publishing in any part of the world. In the absence of such data for most of the African continent, there is a need for research, analysis, documentation, and systematic gathering of current, reliable data and statistics on the whole book sector in Africa. However, there are huge challenges and complexities in the goal of collecting data for book industry surveys, which must not be underestimated. Many questions will need to be asked: for example, how is data going to be collected and analysed; what will be the parameters; and what are going to be the sources and the methods? Who should be responsible for undertaking the research and the compilation of such book industry data; and, crucially, who is going to fund the research and the data gathering process on a systematic and ongoing basis?*

*Collecting book industry data is closely interrelated with the publication of national bibliographies and, in addition to examining the issues and challenges relating to the creation of book industry statistics, this paper also provides an analysis of the current state of national bibliographies in Africa, as well as linked matters such as legal deposit legislation, and compliance of legal deposit. Most national libraries and bibliographic agencies in Africa continue to operate under severe constraints, and have been chronically underfunded by their governments for the past four decades or more. An analysis of the current status of African national bibliographies sadly presents a dismal picture.*

*It is unlikely that reliable data for the African book industries can be collected and published without the input and full cooperation of national libraries or bibliographic agencies. There is equally an urgent need for much more active collaboration and interaction between the agencies producing national bibliographies with publishers and book trade associations in each African country.*

*Any attempts to revive the fortunes of African national libraries, and the resumption of publication of high quality and timely national bibliographies, will amount to a formidable task. This paper offers a range of suggestions and recommendations how the situation might be addressed and improved, but also points out that regular compilation of a national bibliography, and effective maintenance of legal deposit, necessitates adequate staff in terms of both numbers and expertise, which is not the case at this time.*

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### **A renewed interest in the African book industries?**

It is astonishing that, over the space of just six months, there have been as many as *three* recent high-level conferences and seminars on African publishing.

First the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) hosted a two-day ‘High Level Regional Conference: The Publishing Industry in Africa and its Role in Education and Economic Growth’, in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in November 2017, organized in conjunction with the Ministry of Arts and Culture of the Republic of Cameroon, and which reportedly attracted 150 delegates from 40 countries.<sup>1</sup> The Director General of the World Intellectual Property Rights Organisation, Francis Gurry, was quoted<sup>2</sup> as saying (in a video statement) that the development of the publishing industry in Africa was vital, considering that the continent had the fastest growing youth population that will soon make Africa the centre of human resources. And that African governments “are resolutely determined to get the publishing industry one of the main pillars of the continent’s economic growth by putting in place actions for the public/private partnerships in order to get in Africa good benchmarks and good practices on which to build.” Following the conference, WIPO has now released a detailed nine page *Action Plan-Publishing Industry and Access to Educational Material*.<sup>3</sup>

The WIPO conference was followed by a high level technical meeting, ‘ADEA-USAID Global Book Alliance Partnership: Time to Eliminate Book Hunger for Children in Africa’, held in Abidjan in January 2018, organized by the Global Book Alliance (GBA) and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa – Working Group on Books and Learning Materials (WGBLM), for which a workshop report has been published.<sup>4</sup> The meeting sought to develop “a common draft action plan around five pillars for advocating

and establishing innovative and effective mechanisms within countries for the production, acquisition, distribution, management and use of textbooks and other reading materials in national languages.” The outcome of the discussions forms part of an action plan described under a five-point agenda, which was formally adopted at the end of the workshop.

Later in the year ‘Publishing for Sustainable Development: The Role of Publishers in Africa’ was the topic of a one-day regional seminar hosted by International Publishers Association (IPA) in association with the Nigerian Publishers Association (NPA), held in Lagos in May 2018. That seminar, which also attracted a large number of delegates, was intended to “explore the African publishing market in detail” and brought together book industry professionals from across Africa and beyond to discuss key issues in the industry. The seminar, for which a report<sup>5</sup> has now been released, came as “a response to the need for a platform to discuss sectorial innovation and revitalization, and to develop new ideas and solutions.”

If the above three meetings signal renewed interest and support for the African book industries, this must of course be seen as a welcome development.

Having said that, the declarations, pronouncements, press releases, and action plans emerging from these meetings are likely to evoke a strong sense of déjà vu for many of those who have been involved in publishing and book development in Africa over the last four decades or more. Several of the kind of recommendations and resolutions voiced at these recent meetings, and subsequently followed by detailed and well-intentioned action plans, have featured prominently in many earlier conference recommendations; as well as in numerous resolutions proposed at past meetings relating to the development of the book sector in Africa, over the past six decades at least, details about which I set out in *Appendix I* to this paper. This chronology gives details of some of the major conferences, meetings or seminars on publishing and book development in Africa held since 1968<sup>6</sup>, in English-speaking Africa or at venues outside Africa. Several more such meetings have taken place for the francophone African book industries. Yet very rarely has this resulted in positive support by African governments for their book industries. The fact is that, 50 years after the UNESCO 1968 Accra conference, tangible government support for the book and libraries in Africa is still largely absent. Whether affirmative action will follow as a result of these three most recent conferences remains to be seen.

### **The need for book industry data**

What is perhaps significant is that in *all* the above recent meetings there were calls for the urgent need to systematically collect and disseminate data about the African book industries.

The WIPO Yaoundé action plan, among many other recommendations, calls for a strategy to improve data by “establish[ing] a framework – or develop systems – for the collection and analysis of economic data relating to the publishing industry and facilitate international trade”; to “share best practices from countries that already have a database or database platforms, as well as “encourage[ing] the creation of national bibliographies”.<sup>7</sup> Likewise, the GBA/ADEA report says that the establishment of an *African Publishing Collaborative(s)* was

agreed upon at the Abidjan meeting, and given a five-point agenda. This includes, among other proposed action, a recommendation to “create and disseminate data collection tools for use by national associations”, and for “national libraries [to be] enabled to make timely collection of data on published titles through national bibliographies.”<sup>8</sup>

At the IPA Lagos Regional Seminar in May 2018, José Borghino, Secretary General of the IPA, also voiced the importance of data and urged African publishers to start collecting data about their industry. “Without accurate data, all our stories to publishers are just anecdotes,”<sup>9</sup> he said, emphasising that such data can support publishers when they lobby governments for change.

However, what none of these recent action plans and conference recommendations have thus far addressed is this:

- How is data going to be collected and analysed, and what will the parameters; and what are going to be the sources and the methods?
- Who should be responsible for undertaking the research and the compilation of such book industry data?
- Who is going to fund the research and the data gathering process on a systematic and ongoing basis?

Book publishing data and book production statistics are important elements in measuring the growth and vitality of indigenous publishing in any part of the world, but reliable figures of book publishing output for the continent of Africa do not exist at the present time, with the exception of South Africa and, to a limited extent, for one or two other countries.

Misleadingly, some of those writing about book production output for sub-Saharan Africa, continue to cite figures from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS), which were published in the *UNESCO Statistical Yearbooks*, but which have been chronically unreliable and inconclusive for a number of reasons, and as this writer has demonstrated in an earlier investigation.<sup>10</sup> UNESCO stopped collecting book statistics in 2001.<sup>11</sup>

South Africa is the only African nation I know of that has produced an extensive range of valuable book industry data<sup>12</sup>, and as far as I am aware only one other African country has published recent publishing data of some significance, and that is Morocco.<sup>13</sup>

Wikipedia’s *Books Published Per Country Per Year*,<sup>14</sup> covering analysis for 124 countries, lists the number of book titles published each year, based on “various sources”, and “as of the latest year available” – which ranges from 1991 to 2017! The top ten African countries are Egypt in 39th place, for the year 2000, with 9,022 titles, South Africa (46th, 1995, 5,416 titles), Algeria (50th, 2008, 3,955 titles), Nigeria (65th, 1991, 1,314 titles), Morocco (70th, 1996, 918 titles), Tunisia (71st, 1996, 720 titles), Kenya (88th, 1994, 300 titles), Uganda (91st, 1996, 288 titles), Ethiopia (94th, 1991, 240 titles), and Zimbabwe (95th, 1992, 232 titles). Figures for 16 other African countries appear in the bottom half of the list, 11 of them showing publishing output of less than 100 titles annually, but like those of the others they are all based on figures going back to the 1990s and so the data is now virtually meaningless.

## Past data gathering projects

Other than the now discontinued UNESCO/UIS book industry statistics, the only attempt I am aware of to collect African book industry data on a continental basis was the *APNET-ADEA Study Project on Intra-African Book Trade*<sup>15</sup> published in 1999, with an online version later becoming available on the APNET website. A French version of this study was also published. The recently re-launched APNET website<sup>16</sup> offers no link to this investigation, but fortunately an archival copy of the study has been made available at the UK CORE repository.<sup>17</sup>

With the financial support of the UK Department for International Development, this pioneering study was commissioned by the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) Working Group on Books and Learning Materials<sup>18</sup>. It tasked APNET “to facilitate the production of national book industry updates in each country”, and also recommended that APNET should encourage the sharing of information between national publishers’ associations as it relates to the different procedures that need to be followed when exporting books from/to a particular African country, and with which all publishers and booksellers need to be familiar when embarking on the export of their books to another African country. Each national book trade association was asked to complete a detailed questionnaire setting out current procedures, and the legal and fiscal regulations in each country. A total of 29 national book trade associations responded and completed questionnaires. Each country response offers useful information not only on aspects of book export/import procedures and financial aspects (e.g. customs tariffs on imports, exemptions, tax systems on inputs, other taxes such as VAT, export regulations, cost of financial transactions such as bank transfers, etc.), but also a variety of information – albeit *not* statistics for annual publishing output – on the ‘book chain’ in each country, for example number and type of publishers, printers, booksellers and book distributors, public libraries, legislation on copyright, book trade associations, national book policy situation, and other information relating to the state of the book in each country.

While flawed in a number of respects<sup>19</sup> the study was nonetheless a valuable and information-rich resource, although now inevitably dated. It was followed in 2000 by *Expanding the Book Trade Across Africa: A Study of Current Barriers and Future Potential. Expanded Edition of the ADEA/APNET Study on the Intra-African Trade in Books* by Ruth Makotsi and Flora Musonda, and published in ADEA’s ‘Perspectives in African Book Development’ series.<sup>20</sup> Almost twenty years on, it ought to be added that, despite some organizations’ best efforts and initiatives, none of these projects and investigations have thus far led to a flourishing intra-African book trade. Selling books across borders and an intra-African trade in books is still negligible, and remains riddled with numerous logistical challenges, among them unreliable postal services, customs and clearing problems, as well debilitating taxes and tariffs on the importation of books now imposed in many African countries.<sup>21</sup>

There is now an urgent need for research, analysis, documentation, and systematic gathering of current, reliable data and statistics on the whole book sector in Africa. Such data is also essential to reinforce advocacy and fundraising for African book-related programmes and new book sector initiatives. Ideally, analysis should include not only data about annual

publishing output (number of published titles/new editions), but also figures for book imports and book exports, readership surveys, as well as research and surveys about book buying and reading habits, in print or digital formats. In Africa such extensive profiling of the population in terms of demographic and psychographic analysis has thus far only been attempted in South Africa, yet national surveys of this nature as a source of data could form a significant component in, for example, understanding readership trends, and personal or household expenditure on books and other reading materials, and to make predictions for the future.

However, and as this writer has already argued in an earlier paper<sup>22</sup>, it has to be recognized, (i) that data collection for its own sake is unlikely to be productive if it arises from a perceived rather than an actual need, and (ii) that there are huge challenges and complexities in the goal of collecting data for book industry surveys. Extracting the survey data can be a highly time-consuming process for those contributing to such data gathering efforts. Moreover, systematic collection of data is not likely to succeed without with the full collaboration of national publishers and book trade associations, national library boards and library associations, as well as individual publishers and others in the 'book chain'.

### **What indicators?**

A great deal of thought will need to be given to the survey process, the scope and the methodology of collecting and integrating data, and the choice and extent of indicators for each component of the annual statistics. There is no standard methodology for such data collection, but it might include any or – at its most ambitious – all these categories:

- *Number of published titles and new editions* (but not reprints). This is the oldest, and possibly the most reliable form of data that has been collected and published by national bibliographies, based either on the number of issued (and *used*) ISBNs, and/or number of books received and catalogued by them under the legal deposit act. This method has usually been seen as a good indicator of the state of the book industry, the interpretation being the more new titles published the healthier the book industry, although it may not necessarily present an accurate picture of the state of publishing in any African country.
- *Number of copies printed and sold*. Nowadays this seems to be viewed as one of the best indicators of book penetration both locally and globally. Book sales here would be combined publisher direct sales as well as sales through retail channels. It is clear however that national libraries in Africa would not be able to provide these figures, which would have to be supplied by publishers individually, or collectively through national publishers and book trade associations. Moreover, in view of the proprietary nature of such publishing data, some publishers, or their trade associations, may well be reluctant to provide data of this kind.
- *Other analysis and indicators* might include:  
Number of books published (by subject), publishers (number of), annual turnover (of publishers/publishing markets), book exports (by publishers), distribution (number

of booksellers/retailers), book imports (via the retail book trade and by publishers), libraries (number of), and possibly other cultural and media indicators.

- In the light of the rapidly changing publishing landscape, data for e-book sales and number of new titles are now also desirable, as they are now steadily gaining quite a significant market share in Africa, although reliable data will be difficult to collect because a very substantial number of e-books are self-published.
- Yet another indicator might be *loans in public libraries*, although I am not aware that any such statistics exist for African nations, with the possible exception of South Africa.

It is clear in any event that any form of data gathering of some magnitude will amount to a formidable task, but with the active support of all players in the local 'book chain' – and with a good measure of collective will – it should be achievable, and at least to a modest degree initially; as indeed has been effectively demonstrated by the wealth of data that has been collected and published for the South African book industries.<sup>23</sup>

### **Is the data reliable?**

It goes without saying that book data statistics offered on any country should be credible and reliable.

The UNESCO/UIS figures published in the past, as I have indicated above, have never been reliable. As part of his opening address at the IPA Regional Seminar in Lagos the President of the Nigerian Publishers Association, Gbadega Adedapo,<sup>24</sup> is quoted as saying that “rough estimates” of the African publishing market say it is worth more than US\$1 billion, and that the market is showing cumulative annual growth of 6%. These figures were subsequently quoted in dozens of news stories and reports. It would be interesting to know on what sources, book industry statistics, or other data, these figures were based on. However, no sources were cited. One could argue that what is needed is not nebulous “rough estimates” that are not backed up with any supporting data, but reliable facts and figures.

In April 2018 the International Publishers Association (IPA) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) announced that they have joined forces to publish a new pilot survey of global publishing activity in 2016,<sup>25</sup> but it looks as though some of the figures quoted in that survey must also be questioned, or at least receive a measure of scrutiny. The survey covered three market segments: retail; educational; and scholarly, academic and scientific (SAS) publishing. In total, 35 national publishers associations and copyright authorities responded to the survey, albeit only one from the African continent, South Africa. Data was collected through a questionnaire and feedback from national publishers associations, and covered the following dimensions:

- the number of titles published
- the number of copies sold
- the number of e-book titles published
- publishers' net revenues

- market value at consumer/retail prices
- the net value of educational publishing

Surprisingly, South Africa is cited as the third biggest producer of those reporting for this survey, with no less than 136,403 *titles* published in 2016, ahead of France, Russia, Turkey, Spain, and Germany. A subsequent posting of the IPA survey on the Facebook Book Publishing in Africa group<sup>26</sup> generated huge astonishment about these figures by, among others, two leading South African scholars in publishing studies and seasoned book professionals, who questioned how the data could possibly be accurate, one of them suggesting that the figures were absurd. The IPA/WIPO report indicates “Total number of titles published covering retail, educational and scholarly and scientific publishing, 2016” that would presumably only cover entirely new books, or books reissued in substantially revised/updated new editions. This writer speculated at the time that the figures might have been picked from the Publishers Association of South Africa (PASA) *Annual Book Publishing Industry Survey 2016*,<sup>27</sup> but that the PASA analysis might have been misinterpreted, and/or the figures for new titles or new editions provided by PASA were grossly inflated by reprints, i.e. new impressions, reprinted again and again as required, of mostly school and educational books. Others have suggested that the figures might have been provided by Nielsen Bookdata. According to audited receipts of monograph items received by the National Library of South Africa (NLSA, Pretoria campus), the number of print monographs (non-serial publications) received on legal deposit at the NLSA for the 2015-2016 financial year were 10,731 items, or 10,555 items for the 2016-2017 financial year. While these figures do not include any serial publications such as newspapers and journals, nor official publications such as annual reports, strategic plans, etc., this is still a massive difference from the apparently highly inflated statistics (136,403 titles), cited in the IPA/WIPO report for items published in South Africa for 2016.

So unless data collected and published is reliable and verifiable, and based on trusted book industry sources, or current national bibliographies, it will be of very limited use.

### **Whose responsibility, and what are book statistics good for?**

Whose responsibility, then, should it be to gather national book-related data? It could be argued that the primary responsibility should be borne by the book industry, and its national publishing and book trade associations, possibly in collaboration with national book development councils, although many of these are dormant at the present time, or have ceased activities altogether. However, it will require a joint effort of publishers, authors (including those self-publishing), the legal deposit agencies, and ideally also enjoying the support of ministries of trade and industry. The recently revived African Publishers Network (APNET) could probably also play a significant role in collecting and disseminating book industry data, although its status and range of future activities seems uncertain at this time. And the proposed African Publishing Collaborative, if the setting up of such an organization materializes, could also perform a vital role.

The other important players in systematically collecting book data are the national libraries in Africa. Through their national bibliographies, several national library boards in Africa have, over a number of years, made valiant efforts to produce statistics relating to national

publishing output in their countries; but many of these activities now seem to have ceased, and most national libraries in Africa unfortunately remain seriously and chronically underfunded by their governments. National bibliographies can be used as the basic source for creating book production statistical analysis, but regrettably national bibliographies for many African countries either don't exist, or where they exist they are currently dormant, or seriously lag behind in publication, sometimes by several years, or even decades. More than 20 countries in Africa still have no national bibliography. Moreover, only a few countries currently offer digital databases recording national publishing output and, like the print versions, they tend to lack timeliness and some of them are seriously in arrears in their publication schedules.

An added problem is that legal deposit in Africa – the act, and legal obligation, by publishers of depositing free copies of their published material in their country's national library – is still inadequately enforced, and its benefits are probably also still poorly understood by some publishers; and sometimes the procedures for obtaining ISBNs or ISSNs from the national agency are unnecessarily laborious or bureaucratic. Furthermore, unless legal deposit copies are properly catalogued and included in the country's national bibliography, there is little incentive for publishers to supply free copies.

Legal deposit forms the basis for the compilation of national bibliographies and databases in all parts of the world, alerting potential users and purchasers nationally and internationally to the existence of books, and generating sales and publicity. However in view of the current state of national bibliographies in many African countries, their irregularity, lack of timeliness, poor visibility, and poor distribution, means that there are still many defaulting publishers who do not adhere to their country's legal deposit act, and fail to supply free legal deposit copies to their national library on a systematic basis, as they perceive no benefit of doing so.

In their conclusion of a very interesting and wide-ranging recent article by Miha Kovač et al, "Book Statistics. What Are They Good For?"<sup>28</sup>, the authors state

*Book statistics are important if we want to follow the vicissitudes of reading in our society and make predictions for the future. ... The value of publishing statistics, along the lines of the indicators described in this paper, will be at least threefold. Firstly, they will help book industries to understand more fully trends in book consumption. Secondly, data on ebook and print book sales will highlight differences among different genres and business models. Thirdly, statistics on sales, print runs, and numbers of titles published will become a marker of the viability of long-form reading both as recreation and for learning. As such, these statistics may become a useful tool for policy-makers in education and culture. (p. 16)*

Those compiling data for the African book industry may, initially at least, have more modest ambitions in terms of the scope and the data gathering process under a range of indicators, but the usefulness of reliable statistics for publishers, booksellers, educators, and policy makers is abundantly clear.

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## **African national bibliographies – an overview**

In the second revised edition, published in 1987, of the *Guide to Current National Bibliographies in the Third World*<sup>29</sup> by G.E. Gorman and J.J. Mills, the authors were able to list, critically analyse, and evaluate the national bibliographies of 25 African countries. The authors noted at the time that although some library services producing these bibliographies were operating under severe constraints, there was evidence of continuing positive attempts to improve the quality of national bibliographies. A number of African national bibliographies were commended for being of “generally high standard” in terms of comprehension and coverage, currency, presentation, and usability, notably those of Algeria, Botswana, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe.

Today, over thirty years later, when one looks at the current state of national bibliographies in Africa, it presents a dismal picture. Many national bibliographies recording their countries’ intellectual and publishing output are in an abandoned state, while almost 30 African nations still have no national bibliography.

The British Library pages on National bibliographies and books in print<sup>30</sup>, described as a selective guide to national bibliographies and books in print held on open access in the Humanities Reading Room in the BL, lists holdings of a mere two African national bibliographies, those for South Africa and Zimbabwe.

While there are fairly significant holdings of African national bibliographies in the major US and European African studies libraries and some other major academic collections (and as identified in WorldCat), the latest issues or volumes catalogued by these libraries mostly go back to the 1990s or early 2000.

The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)’s very useful resource, the *National Bibliographic Register*<sup>31</sup>, is regularly updated, and provides very full information on each national bibliography, comprising website address, start date and period covered, current size, type of publications/media covered, selection criteria, access options, media and format options, metadata formats, subject standards, and more. However it lists just three African countries (Mauritius, South Africa, and Uganda) that submitted data and have information about their publishing activities appear in the IFLA register.

This would also seem to indicate that not only are many previously active national bibliographies now dormant, or have ceased altogether, but also that those that are still active do not apparently wish to make their activities widely known, and/or are doing a poor job in promoting their national bibliographies to an audience beyond their national borders.

Meantime the websites of the issuing agencies, the various national libraries/library boards in Africa, are afflicted from frequent downtime, or are permanently down, suffering from “link rot”, as Wikipedia appropriately describes permanent dead links in its regularly updated *List of National Libraries and State Libraries*,<sup>32</sup> which makes it very difficult to verify and update information.

## **A survey of some of the recent literature**

The literature about the current state of national bibliographies in Africa is both negligible and dated, although there is a considerable body of literature on legal deposit and legal deposit legislation<sup>33</sup>, as well as papers on the responsibility and role of the stakeholders in a system of legal deposit, including some quite substantial studies. Additionally there are a number of articles on bibliographic control, and the activities of national library boards in individual African countries, albeit very little recent literature.

Unfortunately there have been no further editions of the excellent Gorman and Mills guide, and perhaps the most comprehensive, worldwide inventory, Barbara Bell's *An Annotated Guide to Current National Bibliographies*<sup>34</sup> is now twenty years old.

More recently Barbara Bell and Anne Hasund Langballe have co-authored a useful IFLA working group report although, released in 2001, that is now invariably dated too: *An Examination of National Bibliographies and their Adherence to ICNBS. Recommendations. Final Report to the IFLA Standing Committee on Bibliography*.<sup>35</sup> Under 'African nations' it provides a brief overview of African national bibliographies and legal deposit laws and their effectiveness, or otherwise, and which greatly affects timeliness and distribution of any national bibliography. It reviews coverage of national bibliographies, language and formats, presentation, distribution and timeliness. For the latter, the authors rightly point out, that this should be evaluated as (1) timeliness of entry records, (2) timeliness of the publication date of the national bibliography, and (3) timeliness in distributing the national bibliography from the publication date to its destination. Of the 27 titles analysed the authors identified eleven countries that need to improve in at least two categories, and one listed in all three categories. They note that a few countries are so far behind in publishing their national bibliographies that they decided to begin a second publication to cover the gap, Angola and Madagascar for example. The authors also critically examine aspects of the introductory text and user guides contained in the bibliographies, as well as adherence to international standards used in the compilation and publication of national bibliographies.

Two relatively recent papers I have been able track down (albeit both published over 10 years ago) are those by Malian librarian Amadou Békaye Sidibé "African National Bibliographies", a paper<sup>36</sup> presented to the 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council in 2007, and Unni Knutsen's "Survey of the State of National Bibliographies in Africa".<sup>37</sup> That survey is a result of an initiative by the IFLA Bibliography Section to gather and update information on the status of the national bibliographies in the regions where the World Library and Information Congresses (WLICs) are being held.

Sidibé provides a historical overview of the development of African national bibliographies, analysing their constraints (lack of funding, insufficient operating budgets, and more), and the characteristics and challenges they face, noting their chronic irregularity in publication, flaws in content and methods of their compilation, and lack of adherence to IFLA recommendations. He also stresses the need for a higher degree of professionalism, and adequate training for library staff, and that librarians must exploit the many advantages now offered by new information and communication technologies.

Unni Knutsen's paper "Survey on the State of National Bibliographies in Africa" is probably the most recent survey (undertaken in 2007) of the status of national bibliographies in Africa, although only 10 national bibliographic agencies responded to her questionnaire mailing. Knutsen attributes the poor return rate to several reasons, but also notes that "a surprisingly large percentage of email addresses were returned to sender making follow-ups difficult." (p. 4) Her survey results also analyse legal deposit legislation, and questionnaire recipients were asked whether they considered the legal deposit system to be effective. Seven agencies indicated yes, and three no. Other analysis relates to the current status of each national bibliography, its format, nature of materials under bibliographic control (books, serials, maps, dissertations, and various non-print materials such as music, sound recordings, e-books and e-journals, etc.), adoption of international standards, as well as production and distribution of each bibliography. A final section examines whether the national bibliographies comply with the recommendations of the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (ICNBS).

In her conclusion Knutsen reports, among other issues, that (1) legal deposit legislation still emphasizes print material, but urges the agencies to revise legislation to include more types of materials, especially electronic documents; (2) most agencies consider their legal deposit system to be effective; (3) none of the agencies record e-books or e-journals in their national bibliography; (4) most respondents did not consider the distribution of the national bibliography to be effective; (5) timeliness and coverage remains a problem; (6) none of countries surveyed have Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) programmes; (7) only one agency publishes its national bibliography online on the web at the moment [as at 2007], but that several agencies plan to follow suit; and (8) only one agency has MARC-based records.

A good recent overview of efforts to improve bibliographic control in Africa, the role of national libraries, and the publication of national bibliographies – and the many compelling reasons why they are essential to record and disseminate a country's publishing output – is contained in a chapter in Lily Nyariki's collection of essays *Perspectives on Book Development in Africa*.<sup>38</sup> She describes efforts in enhancing bibliographic control, and the publication of national bibliographies, in four African countries (Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, and Mauritius), setting out the current challenges and looking at the prospects of future development. Nyariki's investigation found that there is a lot of room for improvement:

*... not much has been achieved in bibliographic control. Africa has to wake up and begin to determine the priority actions in pursuit of its socio-economic and cultural development endeavours ... without relevant information for decision-making African governments will not achieve much ... it will be an never ending cycle of half successes at all our policies, because, as it is, most African countries do not even have national information and communication policies." (p. 19)*

She concludes her study with a number of recommendations.

In 2013 the National Library of South Africa published a useful *Directory of National Libraries in Africa*<sup>39</sup> (linked to an accompanying database, NatLibAfrica) that includes information obtained about all African institutions which perform the main functions of a national library in the 54 countries of Africa, although it does not unfortunately include details about the current status of national bibliographies.

The National Archives of Quebec has published a valuable directory<sup>40</sup> (currently in its 3rd 2008 edition) of the activities and state of play of national libraries of the member countries of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. Based on a questionnaire survey, it brings together data from national libraries in 51 member states (as well as some others), describing the activities and functions of the national library in each country, including aspects of legal deposit in place, and an indication whether a current national bibliography is published (albeit without offering any information regarding its current status).

### **Chronically under-resourced African public and national libraries**

The neglect and diminishment of public and national libraries in many parts of Africa presents quite a shocking picture. Considering that the government should be the principal supporter of the public library sector in Africa, one needs to ask, just *why* do they fail to support? Even accepting that many African countries currently face a serious economic downturn<sup>41</sup>, and that profoundly underfunded libraries in Africa have to compete for funding with many other pressing needs of government, notably in the health and education sectors, just what are the reasons for the neglect of public and even national libraries in some parts of Africa?

Why are public libraries so often ignored, and why are those that do exist so badly funded that they can barely keep their doors open? Many of them are almost wholly dependent on donor or book donation organization's support for collection development and other external assistance. Virtually all new initiatives and improvements to services, for example training and capacity building, the introduction of ICT and the establishment of digital libraries and depositories, or the building of new premises, are usually the result of outside assistance. In the majority of cases, the government guarantees only the payment of salaries and does not finance any activity within the library sector.

While most stakeholder groups seem to agree that libraries need and deserve more funding and that public library services, when adequately supported, can significantly contribute to community development goals, many recent studies<sup>42</sup> still find that African public libraries remain chronically under-resourced, with national and local government officials reportedly declaring that because continuing poverty is the main challenge facing their countries, libraries are still low on the list of public services supported.

Or could it be that government officials may think that conventional libraries are no longer needed in the digital age? Yet many public libraries are in fact battling to remain relevant despite facing multiple challenges. In many parts of Africa libraries are seeking to transform themselves to serve as platforms for community development, and now not only use traditional methods of library services, but increasingly embrace the opportunities modern ICTs are offering, and are integrating digital technologies into library and information work.

Meanwhile the general consensus among African publishers seems to be that digital and print will go hand in hand in the foreseeable future. For most people reading digitally or from a printed book is simply a matter of choice. Moreover, some school children may learn better from a digital device, and improve their reading skills, while others will not. Whereas it is clear that the new digital technologies, the e-revolution, and the advent of the e-book

have radically changed the whole publishing landscape, many observers – librarians included – also believe that, for the moment at least, the conventional book continues to have numerous practical advantages over the e-book, and that, as a format, the book remains flexible, accessible, and is still relatively cheap. Traditional books, in Africa as elsewhere, will continue to have enduring qualities that digital formats can simply never replace.

### **The current state of African national bibliographies – a picture of neglect**

Back in 2010 this writer compiled a provisional but fairly detailed listing of African national bibliographies, intended for inclusion as part of the 5th edition of *The African Studies Companion*<sup>43</sup> under its new publisher Brill in Leiden. I have now attempted to update this listing and it is included as *Appendix II* to this paper. Information has been verified, as far as is possible, from the websites of African national libraries, although many of them suffer from frequent down time, or are permanently inaccessible, and so verification has been decidedly patchy.

The following 26 African countries are without a current national bibliography at this time: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo Democratic Republic, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Réunion, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, and Togo. While three more, Angola, the Côte d'Ivoire, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, did produce initial volumes of national bibliographies, but which have ceased publication twenty or more years ago, and are therefore not included in the listing that forms Appendix II.

Based on the analysis of the current status of African national bibliographies as set out in Appendix II, the following four countries can be said to publish high quality national bibliographies in terms of coverage, presentation, as well as timeliness, and which are also easily accessible online, namely Mauritius, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia. Other countries also doing reasonably well, but whose national bibliographies would benefit from a measure of improvements, are those of Kenya and Nigeria.

However the fact that South Africa, for example, has a timely and well-functioning national bibliography, and the Publishers Association of South Africa (PASA), as well as the South African Book Development Council, has generated and published a wide range of publishing and book trade statistics, this does not mean the data gathering process is not without its challenges. Beth le Roux, Associate Professor of Publishing Studies at the University of South Pretoria, cautions:

*... the fact that South Africa is producing publishing statistics and a national bibliography does not mean that we have sufficient data (we also know that the government is not very interested in the data we do have). I work on the team conducting the annual PASA surveys, and we have ongoing problems of publishers being unwilling to participate – leading to difficulties in comparing the results, year on year, because of differing participant lists – as well as some queries about the reliability of the data we get from the publishers (they make mistakes about their own figures, and refuse to provide others). We also have not found a way to match the figures the National Library collects from legal deposit with the figures we obtain from the publishers.<sup>44</sup>*

At this time only ten African national libraries offer access to digital versions of their national bibliography, although some of these also lack timeliness. They are: Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia. One country, Tanzania, published a “draft” online version (pdf) of a national bibliography for the 1995-1996 period, but no further volumes are accessible. The National Library of Uganda has published online (pdf) versions of a “national bibliography” for 2014, 2015, and 2016 but only as three highly unsatisfactory “author/title index” publications, lacking essential basic bibliographic data and subject identifiers.

The websites of some of the above (Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Senegal) suffer from frequent or almost persistent down time, thus making access very frustrating. The websites of another 10 national bibliographic agencies were also found to be inaccessible as at June 2018.

Regrettably, the status of African national bibliographies has not improved significantly in recent years, and presents a picture of neglect. Most national libraries would seem to operate under quite severe constraints. In some countries national libraries would appear to have only a nominal existence. The continuing problems are still more or less the same as those reported by Gorman and Mills in the introductory pages of their guide to national bibliographies in developing countries<sup>45</sup>, published over thirty years ago. In fact it can be said to have deteriorated further because of the persistent neglect of public and national libraries by the government in most African countries, leaving many of them almost exclusively dependent on overseas book donation programmes to fill their shelves with books.

In countries where no national bibliographies have been compiled and published to date, one probably also needs to ask why this is the case. Is it just funding problems, or government/bureaucratic delays, or are there other reasons? For example, there is an acute shortage of trained and experienced librarians and archivists in many African countries, which can have a serious negative effect on service delivery. Apart from chronic underfunding, some national library boards also tend to lose personnel because of meagre remuneration and generally poor working conditions, leading to a persistent shortage of qualified staff, who, not surprisingly, find it unattractive to work under such frustrating conditions.<sup>46</sup>

Currency and timeliness of compilation and publication remains a major problem, and coverage of national imprints can still be very patchy. In many instances this is probably as a result of ineffective legal deposit legislation, although in some cases also due to poorly managed bibliographic control, coupled with inadequately trained staff; or staff not familiar with state-of-the-art ICT or software packages to participate in modern data processing networks.

To compound the above problems, there is also little evidence of interaction and active collaboration between publishers and their national bibliographic agencies, and national

publishers associations have, for the most part, failed to adequately support and publicize the wide benefits of legal deposit of their countries' publishing output.

It could be speculated that perhaps part of the reason why there is nowadays little contact between libraries and publishers in many African countries is because the libraries don't have money any longer to buy their books; or indeed have no acquisitions budgets at all due to lack of government funding. The link in the 'book chain' is broken. The lack of a significant, if any, local library market makes it difficult for local publishers to sustain publishing programmes of textbooks, fiction, general interest, or children's titles which, in better times in the past, could have been expected to be purchased by public and university libraries in some quantities.

The absence of national bibliographies and bibliographical control in many countries in Africa also means that libraries in the countries of the North lack adequate acquisitions tools for purchasing African-published material, and may be almost entirely dependent on catalogues and other selection tools available from a small number of booksellers and library suppliers—although it should be added that the publishing output of a very substantial number of African publishers can now be easily obtained through the Oxford-based African Books Collective Ltd.

### **Legal deposit: the experience in one African country**

Finally, as an example of legal deposit practice and its challenges in one African country, Ghana, it is instructive to quote from a recently published (2017) PhD thesis<sup>47</sup> by Anatu Mahama entitled *Analyzing Law and Policy, and the Contributions of Government Sponsored Institutions to Publishing Development*. This outstanding and meticulously documented thesis examines law and policy in the book publishing industry in Ghana, together with an evaluation of the success of government-sponsored institutions that have been established in support of publishing and book development in the country. It seeks to provide an understanding of the socio-cultural and economic conditions under which policies were formulated, and as such it is probably the first qualitative content analysis of book publishing law and policy, which, although vitally important to publishing development, is an area that has been neglected in the research on the African book industries.

In a section on legal deposit Mahama says

*There is no mention of legal deposit in the textbook policy. It is clear that the [Ghana] Book and Newspaper Registration Act was not used as a resource in formulating the policy. There were divisive opinions about the awareness and knowledge of the legal deposit system. The Ghana Library Authority (GLA) noted that some stakeholders are ignorant of the legal deposit system while those who are aware pretend to be 'forgetful' of the system. On the contrary, interviewees, particularly authors and publishers, demonstrated a broad sense of legal deposit, and an even greater sense of non-compliance.*  
(p. 117)

Mahama reports that there was general recognition of legal deposit and the importance of the ISBN system, with publishers asked – or tried to be “persuaded” – to submit gratis copies of their publications to the George Padmore Research Library (which acts as the quasi National Library in Ghana and administers the national ISBN agency) in compliance with

legal deposit legislation. However, the findings suggest that many publishers, after having been allocated ISBNs, thereafter failed to supply legal deposit copies.

*So far the use of persuasion does not seem to yield any results. Another approach adopted by the GLA to enforce the law is educating stakeholders on the importance of legal deposit and building a national bibliographic database of the publishing industry. There is evidence that this is not consistent and has not yielded any positive results either. What seems to be working now is follow up by the GLA to the offices of both book and newspaper publishers to collect copies. However, this is constrained by logistics. There was also evidence that those copies that have been collected already have not all been entered into the national bibliographic database. Even in this computer era, entries into the national bibliography in Ghana are still handwritten or typed but not stored on a computer; there is no electronic data in the national bibliography. Although the Book and Newspaper Registration Act stipulates the payment of a fee for non-compliance to legal deposit, there was no evidence of the use of penalties to get publishers to render their obligations. The law has not also been reviewed since it was enacted in 1961. To enforce legal deposit and build a bibliographic database will require cooperation between libraries, publishers and support from government. (p. 118)*

In a later chapter Mahama also states that

*Across legislation that was analysed, it was also found that enforcement is problematic which are due to the ignorance of both the copyright and legal deposit laws. There are deliberate violation of the copyright law; non-compliance of legal deposit and a lack of logistics and funds for institutions that enforce these laws to operate. (p. 147)*

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## **Some recommendations for good practice**

### **(1) AFRICAN NATIONAL LIBRARIES & AFRICAN NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES**

A national bibliography worthy of its name should aim to provide a definitive guide to a country's intellectual and publishing output.

African national bibliographies can be judged by a number of criteria, notably comprehensive coverage, reliable bibliographic data and recognized classification, currency and regular publication, inclusion of a directory of publishers, a good introduction (e.g. stating scope, languages included, standards used, etc.), a user guide, and clear guidelines about legal deposit legislation and its benefits. Inclusion of a series of indexes can also add value. A small number of current African national bibliographies have also been offering statistics on the number of deposits (titles, or new editions) annually, which can be of great value in terms of generating book industry data.

#### ***Funding and operating budgets/Personnel***

This is the key issue, and by far the biggest challenge. Effective maintenance of legal deposit and preparation of national bibliographies require adequate, separate funding specifically earmarked for these tasks, without which effective legal deposit administration and bibliographic control is unlikely to be achievable.

Regular compilation of a national bibliography necessitates skilled personnel in terms of both numbers and expertise, which is not the case in most African countries at this time. Nor are there funds for capacity building and training facilities for such work to be undertaken. Even when staffing levels might be adequate, training may be a problem because there are no national library schools, or funds available for overseas training.

However, in African countries where there is relatively little publishing there is perhaps a particular question about the *mission* of the national library and bibliographic agency, i.e. in order to lever government funding what else, what other roles, what other activities might they take on apart from legal deposit administration and acting as the national ISBN/ISSN agency?

### ***Legal deposit laws and legislation/Legal deposit compliance***

Legal deposit is now widely recognised globally as the most effective means of collecting, accessing, cataloguing and preserving a country's published heritage in national or other designated libraries. It ensures that a nation's publishing output is collected systematically, to preserve the material for the use of future generations, and to make it available for readers within the designated legal deposit libraries. It can form the basis of a range of book industry data and statistics for any African country.

While most African countries now have legal deposit legislation in place, compliance is still a major concern. Non-compliance problems would appear to be compounded by the fact that non-compliance penalties are hardly ever enforced.

It is vital for African national libraries to provide guidelines and wide publicity about the importance of legal deposit legislation<sup>48</sup>, and the benefits of legal deposit in terms of (i) the preservation of the documentary heritage of any country, (ii) the benefits for authors and publishers; (iii) alerting potential users or book buyers both nationally and internationally to the existence of books or other documents, thus promoting visibility and sales; and (iv) forming the basis for the compilation of national bibliographies and other databases such as book production statistics.

Effective legal deposit laws and adequate *enforcement* of such laws crucially affect currency of national bibliographies, and legal deposit laws in most African countries need to become more effective. Where required, existing legislation may well need revision in relation to present and future requirements, and to ensure it encompasses all formats, including digital materials.

### ***Policies and guidelines***

It is important to ensure that policies, regulations, and guidelines are in place to help implement legislation and to facilitate fully functional processes. In particular there should be a detailed collection development and digitisation policy to form a guiding document for every national library.

African national libraries may wish to embark on studies to determine the state of compliance with legal deposit requirements in the country, in order to obtain figures that accurately reflect the levels of compliance.

They may also wish to undertake comparisons of the Legal Deposit Acts of other countries, in Africa and elsewhere, to determine whether certain aspects of legislation could be adapted from other country's legislation, and in order to identify policy issues, gaps, and likely challenges.

### ***South-South national library exchanges***

How does the African record on national bibliographies compare with other regions? South America, the Middle East, or South Asia? Are there lessons to be learned from South-South national library exchanges? Within Africa, is there any way South African expertise could be shared with other SADC countries?

### ***Adherence to international standards***

African national libraries should seek to adhere to international standards used in the compilation and publication of national bibliographies, compliant with the final recommendations of the 1998 International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (ICNBS).<sup>49</sup>

### ***A higher degree of professionalism***

A higher degree of professionalism is required, including better communication, and an improved email culture and code of conduct (in terms of responding to email messages and enquiries) when dealing with publishers and the outside world.

### ***Professional training and capacity building/Skills development***

Training in bibliographic control, to a high professional standard, is essential, as is the *teaching* of bibliographic control, and clear identification of the competencies and the range of skills any bibliographer should possess – including computer literacy and familiarity with current trends and modern technology – to enable library staff to carry out their duties diligently and satisfactorily, and help to generate bibliographic tools and databases of high quality. However, such training is not possible without adequate funding from governments or other sources.

### ***Timeliness of national bibliographies***

Timeliness is crucially important: timeliness of entry records, timely publication of the national bibliography each year, and timeliness in distributing the national bibliography within each country and internationally.

### ***Electronic documents***

African national libraries should seek to revise legal deposit legislation to include more types of materials, particularly electronic documents such as e-books and e-journals. With the dramatic changes of the publishing landscape in recent years, and ICT developments generally, it is important that production of African national bibliographies migrate to a digital environment and web-based services, although it has to be added that many national

libraries in Africa currently seem to struggle with the recording of print publications, much less embracing digital formats as well. Migration to an electronic environment for bibliographic control can only be undertaken with adequate financial resources, and appropriate, skilled library personnel.

African national libraries should aim to share, or adopt best practices, and seeking links and sharing of skills with national library boards from countries that already have digital versions or a database platform for their national bibliographies.

IFLA's *Guidelines for National Bibliographies in the Electronic Age*<sup>50</sup> offers an excellent resource for national bibliographic agencies who are about to start, or wish to improve their bibliographic services. It provides a wealth of guidance how national bibliographies should respond to the rapidly growing significance of electronic media and, in particular, web-based publications.

### ***Web presence***

A number of African national libraries have a web presence, but many of the websites are poorly designed and maintained or suffer from frequent down time. Local Internet connectivity problems may well cause occasional down time, but websites that are almost permanently down and inaccessible for long periods is likely to reflect negatively on the reputation of a national library.

A well-maintained, regularly updated, easily navigated, and user-friendly website is absolutely essential for any national library.

### ***Legal deposit, and interaction with publishers and other book industry professionals***

There is little evidence that national libraries interact with local publishers and conduct campaigns to convince them that legal deposit, and a national bibliography, is an effective way to bring their publishing output to the attention of both a national and international audience.

Legal deposit in any country cannot be successfully implemented without the positive and committed participation of publishers. Some publishers would not appear to be fully informed about their obligations under the legal deposit act. It is imperative for national bibliographic agencies to work directly with publishers and publishers' associations to communicate the benefits of legal deposit, and it is essential to improve interaction, and seek the active collaboration with local book industry professionals and others involved in the 'book chain'.

### ***Visibility, and national bibliographies as selection resources***

African national bibliographies should seek to enhance their profile and visibility both at home and internationally, in order to create awareness of the importance of national bibliographic control and national bibliographies, and its role as a source of data for research across many different academic disciplines. National bibliographies should be seen as important sources and selection tools for libraries worldwide that are engaged in collecting and acquiring African-published material.

There is also a need for national bibliographic agencies to publicize their activities, and legal deposit legislation, more vigorously, which in turn will support and promote their country's publishing output.

## (2) PUBLISHERS & BOOK INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

### *Publishers' obligations under legal deposit legislation*

As indicated above, many publishers in Africa do not seem to be fully informed about their obligations under legal deposit legislation, nor do they have a full understanding of the benefits of legal deposit and inclusion of their books in national bibliographies. Although the situation varies from country to country, some publishers (and this includes self-publishers) blatantly disregard the requirements of national bibliographic control. In some countries even government agencies consistently fail to file their publications with the appointed depository.

Others fail to provide free copies to their national library and do not wish to part with what they say are expensive to produce publications (as well as incurring delivery charges), because they see no benefit in doing so.

### *Promoting legal deposit and compliance*

The African Publishers Network (APNET) lists details of 41 "full membership"<sup>51</sup> African publishers organizations, plus three more prospective members. Nine of these associations are also members of the International Publishers Association (IPA)<sup>52</sup>, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia. Of the 41 publishers associations listed on the APNET website only six of them have an active web presence at this time, while four more do have a website address, but the pages would appear to be permanently down/inaccessible.

An examination of the websites of the few publishers associations' websites that are currently accessible indicates that, with the exception of South Africa<sup>53</sup>, none of them provide a dedicated page about the requirements of legal deposit of publications.

### *Interaction between publishers and national libraries*

There is an absence of interaction between African publishers associations with their national libraries, and would seem to suggest that a good number of publishers are not greatly concerned about legal deposit laws and their obligations under the act.

It also demonstrates publishers associations' failure to bring the benefits of legal deposit to the attention of their members and encourage compliance. This is something that must be urgently addressed.

Compilation of timely and reliable book industry statistics is unlikely to generate accurate results without the full co-operation and interaction with each country's national library agency.

### (3) THE ROLE OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS

The continuing neglect and diminishment of public and national libraries in many parts of Africa presents quite a shocking picture, as has been further demonstrated in this study by the current dismal state of national bibliographies. In Nigeria, for example, the deplorable state of public libraries, including its National Library, has been well documented by a whole series of recent reports in respected Nigerian news sources.<sup>54</sup>

Over the past decade or two there have been repeated pledges by African governments to provide adequate funding for their country's library services, but most of these promises have remained unfulfilled.

Government funding and support shouldn't be mere rhetoric. Public libraries provide access to information and knowledge, contributing in turn to an informed and reading society. African governments ought to recognize public libraries as indispensable partners in educational development, and at the same time ensure their integration into developmental policies and strategies at various levels.

#### **Conclusion**

Participants at three recent, high level meetings on African publishing have called for the need of data and statistics for the African book industries. The value of reliable book sector data, on production as well as consumption – and to aid publishers, booksellers, educators, or policy makers – cannot be disputed. The ongoing lack of data for African book publishing output leads to the work done by publishers across Africa being marginalised worldwide, as well as contributing to the persistent myth of an African 'book famine'.

However, the challenges and complexities of systematically collecting data for book industry surveys can be formidable, especially in an African context.

In most countries in the world compilation of book industry data is closely interconnected with the publication of national bibliographies, as well as the effectiveness of legal deposit legislation in place in any country. A national bibliography functions as a mirror that reflects the culture of a country, and provides an overview and statistical account of a country's book industry. It can be an essential tool for selection, acquisition, and collection development in libraries and other institutions. At the same time it provides promotion and visibility of a country's publishing sector.

Sadly, the current state of national bibliographies in Africa presents a picture of neglect. Less than 10 African nations can be said to have fully functioning and timely national bibliographies, and also offer digital versions of some kind. Another dozen or so did produce national bibliographies in the past, but which have been in a permanent state of hiatus over the last two decades or more, or they have ceased publication altogether. 29 African countries still have either no national bibliography, or no *current* national bibliography.

Additionally, the dramatic recent transformation of the publishing landscape, which has generated a multitude of electronic information resources, has changed the scope of national bibliographies, and has created many new challenges that affect its compilation and production.

Based on the needs it fulfils, and the uses it supports – including data gathering for the book industries – there is a strong case to be made for the revitalization of national bibliographies in Africa, and national bibliographic agencies, and which must be accompanied by adequate funding, training, skills development, and capacity building.

Only then will it become possible to systematically collect and disseminate reliable book sector data; not only for the benefit of the African book professions, but also serving as a valuable tool for policy makers in education, culture, and other spheres.

The bottom line is that one cannot hope to generate meaningful book industry data without the aid of timely national bibliographies recording a country's publishing output.

## Notes and references

1 See also [http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/copyright/en/wipo\\_hl\\_cr\\_yao\\_17/wipo\\_hl\\_cr\\_yao\\_17\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/copyright/en/wipo_hl_cr_yao_17/wipo_hl_cr_yao_17_flyer.pdf) and the provisional programme at [http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=45806](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=45806)

2 <http://allafrica.com/stories/201711230219.html> based on a news story by Emmanuel Kendemeh “Economic Growth: Africans Want Publishing Industry Key Pillar” in the *Cameroon Tribune* 23 November 2017.

3 The Publishing Industry in Africa and its Role in Education and Economic Growth. Yaoundé (Republic of Cameroon), November 22 and 23, 2017. Action Plan Publishing Industry and Access to Educational Material [http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/copyright/en/wipo\\_hl\\_cr\\_yao\\_17/wipo\\_hl\\_cr\\_yao\\_17\\_action\\_plan.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/copyright/en/wipo_hl_cr_yao_17/wipo_hl_cr_yao_17_action_plan.pdf) (English)  
[http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/copyright/fr/wipo\\_hl\\_cr\\_yao\\_17/wipo\\_hl\\_cr\\_yao\\_17\\_action\\_plan.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/copyright/fr/wipo_hl_cr_yao_17/wipo_hl_cr_yao_17_action_plan.pdf) (French)

See also WIPO's Publishing Charter

[http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/copyright/en/wipo\\_hl\\_cr\\_yao\\_17/wipo\\_hl\\_cr\\_yao\\_17\\_charter.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/copyright/en/wipo_hl_cr_yao_17/wipo_hl_cr_yao_17_charter.pdf)

4 [http://www.adeanet.org/sites/default/files/adea\\_gba\\_workshop\\_report.pdf](http://www.adeanet.org/sites/default/files/adea_gba_workshop_report.pdf)

5 [https://www.internationalpublishers.org/images/events/IPA\\_Seminars/Lagos\\_May\\_2018/FINAL-IPA-REPORT.pdf](https://www.internationalpublishers.org/images/events/IPA_Seminars/Lagos_May_2018/FINAL-IPA-REPORT.pdf)

For a perceptive account of this IPA Seminar see also Olatoun Williams's report at <http://www.bordersliteratureonline.net/eventdetails/Olatoun%20Williams%20-%20Reviewer%20of%20African%20Literature>

6 Remarkably, the report of the earliest of those meetings, the UNESCO Regional Meeting for Book Development in Africa, held in Accra in February 1968 and published as *Book Development in Africa. Problems and Perspectives*, is still accessible online at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0005/000595/059548eo.pdf>

7 The Publishing Industry in Africa and its Role in Education and Economic Growth. Yaoundé (Republic of Cameroon), November 22 and 23, 2017. Action Plan Publishing Industry and Access to Educational Material [http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/copyright/en/wipo\\_hl\\_cr\\_yao\\_17/wipo\\_hl\\_cr\\_yao\\_17\\_action\\_plan.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/copyright/en/wipo_hl_cr_yao_17/wipo_hl_cr_yao_17_action_plan.pdf) pp. 4 and pp. 6.

8 Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), and the Global Book Alliance (GBA), Report. Regional Workshop for African Book Industry Stakeholders, January 22-25, 2018. Annex 6.1. The African Publishers [Publishing] Collaborative, pp. 19-21. [http://www.adeanet.org/sites/default/files/adea\\_gba\\_workshop\\_report.pdf](http://www.adeanet.org/sites/default/files/adea_gba_workshop_report.pdf)

9 International Publishers Association Seminar, Lagos, 9th May 2018. Report on the International Publishers Association Seminar: 'Publishing for Sustainable Development-The Role of Publishers in Africa'. [June 2018, not paged]

10 Zell, Hans M. "How Many Books are Published in Africa? The Need for More Reliable Statistics." Pre-print online version (freely accessible) [http://www.academia.edu/4549278/How\\_many\\_books\\_are\\_published\\_in\\_Africa\\_The\\_need\\_for\\_more\\_reliable\\_statistics](http://www.academia.edu/4549278/How_many_books_are_published_in_Africa_The_need_for_more_reliable_statistics) Also published in *The African Book Publishing Record* 39, no. 4 (2013): 397-406. <https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/abpr-2013-39-issue-4/abpr-2013-0009/abpr-2013-0009.xml?format=INT>

11 UNESCO stopped collecting book statistics in 2001 for several reasons, including the relevance and quality of data received from countries. Before that, the analysis presented in the 'Culture and Communication' domains in the annual *UNESCO Statistical Yearbook* was the only global source for book industry statistics. Yearbooks were published by UNESCO for the period from 1963 to 1999. However, the figures published have always been patchy, may not have presented the full picture, or may have been misleading, possibly because of the method of data gathering. UNESCO collected data through questionnaires (in paper and electronic formats) sent to UNESCO National Commissions, who then passed them on the relevant authorities, e.g. Ministries of Education, Trade, Finance, etc. or the National Library. Based on the completed questionnaires, and also taking into consideration other national official data sources, the data was then cross-checked and entered into the UNESCO statistical database. The analysis of publishing output was sometimes inflated by government and official publications (i.e. rather than recording titles from commercial imprints); and for some countries the figures available were only those relating to school textbooks and government publications, or were based exclusively on the number of new titles received through legal deposit by African national libraries. Moreover, sometimes figures would appear to have been overstated because printing activities related to the publishing industry were included within the 'Books and Press domain' and were regarded "as a production function of publishing"; or were further inflated by the inclusion of various serial publications, including newsletters, etc.

12 See <http://www.publishsa.co.za/documents/industry-statisticsfn>

13 See <https://www.internationalpublishers.org/market-insights/data-and-statistics/634-morocco-publishing-data-for-2016-17-released>. The King Abdul-Aziz Foundation has thus far published three annual reports on book publishing in Morocco, which aim to shed light on the number of publications, languages and development of publishing houses in the country. The range of publications covered includes trade, education and scientific.

14 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books\\_published\\_per\\_country\\_per\\_year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_published_per_country_per_year) (last edited June 2018)

15 APNET-ADEA Study Project on Intra-African Book Trade. Accra: African Publishers Network, London: DFID/ADEA, [no date, print version last updated 2006; online version 2007]. 42 pp. Online: [http://www.apnet.org/documents/adea\\_apneta\\_study.pdf](http://www.apnet.org/documents/adea_apneta_study.pdf) [no longer accessible]

16 <http://www.african-publishers.net/>

17 The APNET/ADEA study can be found at <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/14520201.pdf> [no date, print version last updated 2006; online version published 2007]

18 <http://www.adeanet.org/en/working-groups/books-and-learning-materials>

19 Rüdiger Wischenbart and Holger Ehling, in their 2009 study *A Methodology to Collect International Book Statistics. Framework – Indicators – Methodology & Strategies – Groundwork for a Test Run*, published by UNESCO's Culture Sector, Division of Cultural Expressions and Creative Industries, Section of Creative Industries for Development <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001824/182475e.pdf> labelled Africa and the 46 sub-Saharan

countries “as the prototype for a data poor region”, and described the APNET report as “being seriously flawed, and an objective assessment of the continent’s publishing industry is still a desideratum.” (p. 22)

20 Makotsi, Ruth and Flora Musonda *Expanding the Book Trade Across Africa: A Study of Current Barriers and Future Potential. Expanded Edition of the ADEA/APNET Study on the Intra-African Trade in Books*. London : Working Group on Books and Learning Materials, Association for the Development of Education in Africa and the African Publishers' Network/APNET (Perspectives in African Book Development, 7), 2000. xvi, 117 pp.  
<http://www.adeanet.org/clearinghouse/en/expanding-book-trade-across-africa-study-current-barriers-and-future-potential> [No online version]

21 See for example this recent paper by Samuel Majwega Musoke “One Market, Different Regulation. An Experience of Cross-border Book Trade in Africa.” <http://www.ucwia.or.ug/Cross%20border.pdf> presented at the 4th IBBY Africa Region conference, Rethinking Contemporary Literature for Children and Young People in Africa, held in Kampala in August 2017. Musoke reports about the experience of MK Publishers Ltd, a leading East African educational publisher with headquarters in Uganda, to develop and sell textbook materials across borders to educational institutions and government ministries in Rwanda, and the many challenges involved as they relate to different currencies, varying curricula, dissimilar bidding regulations and procedures, as well as different copyright policies.

22 Zell, Hans M. “Indigenous Publishing in Africa – The Need for Research, Documentation, and Collaboration.” In: *Coming of Age. Strides in African Publishing. Essays in Honour of Dr. Henry Chakava at 70*, edited by Kiarie Kamau and Kirimi Mitambo. Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers Ltd, 2016, 141-158.  
Pre-print online version (freely accessible)  
[https://www.academia.edu/24429073/Indigenous\\_publishing\\_in\\_Africa\\_the\\_need\\_for\\_research\\_documentation\\_and\\_collaboration](https://www.academia.edu/24429073/Indigenous_publishing_in_Africa_the_need_for_research_documentation_and_collaboration)

23 The South African Book Development Council (SABDC) has been actively engaged in collecting a very wide range of valuable publishing and book industry data, which can be downloaded at this link  
<http://sabookcouncil.co.za/about/research-development/>

24 International Publishers Association Seminar, Lagos 9th May 2018. Report on the International Publishers Association Seminar: ‘Publishing for Sustainable Development-The Role of Publishers in Africa’. [June 2018, not paged]

25 A Pilot Survey by the IPA and WIPO The Global Publishing Industry in 2016.  
[http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo\\_ipa\\_pilotsurvey\\_2016.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_ipa_pilotsurvey_2016.pdf) (Figure 3, p. 10).

26 Postings in the Facebook Book Publishing in Africa group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/233568780016434/> in April 2018, by Beth le Roux, Associate Professor, Publishing Studies, University of Pretoria; and Eve Gray, Research Associate at the University of Cape Town, and former Director of Wits University Press, both of whom have written and published extensively on publishing and the book sector in South Africa.

Figures provided for print monograph items received by the National Library of South Africa (Pretoria campus) for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 financial year periods courtesy of Nikki Potgieter, Acting Director, Bibliographic Services and Collections Management, National Library of South Africa, Cape Town.

27 <http://www.publishsa.co.za/file/1519203677awr-2016publishingindustrysurvey.pdf>  
The PASA survey focuses on turnover/income generated and production patterns of (primarily) “50 local imprints”, and also reports on discounts and royalties offered by publishers, sales channels, among other analysis. There is no analysis by title in the PASA survey, but on p. 7-8 there is an analysis of total “Number of new editions”, for example 80,102 “new editions” in print format in English, 22,161 in Afrikaans, 1,910 in isiZulu, or 9,676 in Xitsonga, etc. However, it seems unlikely that these are actually genuine new editions, but simply reprints/new impressions of school book and other educational titles.

28 Kovač, Miha; Angus Phillips, Adriaan van der Weel, and Rüdiger Wischenbart “Book Statistics. What Are They Good For?” *Logos. Journal of the World Book Community* 28, no. 4 (March 2017): 7-17.

<http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/journals/10.1163/1878-4712-11112137>  
[https://www.internationalpublishers.org/images/global-publishing-statistics/2018/LOGOS\\_28-4\\_pp\\_7-17.pdf](https://www.internationalpublishers.org/images/global-publishing-statistics/2018/LOGOS_28-4_pp_7-17.pdf)  
(free access)

Also at [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323672398\\_Book\\_Statistics\\_What\\_are\\_they\\_good\\_for](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323672398_Book_Statistics_What_are_they_good_for)

29 Gorman, G.E and J.J Mills *Guide to Current National Bibliographies in the Third World*. London: Hans Zell Publishers, an imprint of K.G.Saur, 2nd revised edition, 1987. var. pp.

30 <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/refworks/natbib/bibprint.html#african>

31 International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) *National Bibliographic Register*, <https://www.ifla.org/node/2216> (Last updated November 2016)

32 Wikipedia. List of National Libraries and State Libraries.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_national\\_and\\_state\\_libraries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_and_state_libraries) (page last updated 01 June 2018)

33 See for example some of the studies on bibliographic control and legal deposit listed below, although the majority of them have been published ten or more years ago and invariably will now be dated.

#### *Botswana*

Radiporo, Violet China "NABOB, the National Bibliography of Botswana: History, Present State and Perspective for Development" (IFLA WLIC 2013 paper)  
<http://library.ifla.org/123/1/143-radiporo-en.pdf>

#### *Mauritius:*

Ramjaun, Ibrahim "National Bibliographic Control in Mauritius: Issues and Challenges." *Information Development* 25 no. 4 (2009): 296-303.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0266666909349682>

#### *Nigeria:*

Ejedafiru, Efe Francis, and Blessing Amina Akporhonor The Problems and Prospects of Bibliographic Control in Nigeria [no date]  
<http://www.globalacademicgroup.com/journals/knowledge%20review/THE%20PROBLEMS%20AND%20PROSPECTS%20OF%20BIBLIOGRAPHIC%20CONTROL%20IN%20NIGERIA.pdf>

Igbashal, Anthony, and Jacob F. Tsegba "Bibliographic Control of Publications: The Impact on African Countries." *Library Philosophy and Practice* (2012) <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/686/>

Ita, Nduntuei O. "Problems of Bibliographic Control in Nigeria." *Libri* 36, no. 1 (1986): 320-335  
Published online 2009.  
<https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/libr.1986.36.issue-1/libr.1986.36.1.320/libr.1986.36.1.320.xml>

Raji-Oyelade, Aderemi Legal Deposit and Bibliographic Control in Nigeria: Some Reflections.  
<http://www.remiraji-nigeria.com/?q=content/legal-deposit-and-bibliographic-control-nigeria-some-reflections> (2016)

Shuaibu-Adamu, B.F. "Legal Deposit Obligations: Issues, Benefits and Challenges." In *National Book Policy, HIV/AIDS and Sustainable Development. Papers Presented at the Fifth Nigeria International Book Fair, 8-13 May, 2006*. Lagos: Nigerian Book Fair Trust, c/o Literamed Publications Ltd, 2007, 164-177.

Sonaike, S.E.A. "Legal Deposit Provision of the National Library Act: Implementation, Preservation and Benefits." *Lagos Journal of Library and Information Science* 1, no. 1 (2003): 59-66.

#### *South Africa:*

Fourie, Ina, and Burger, Marlene "Bibliographic Control in South Africa."  
[https://archive.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/075-Fourie\\_Burger-en.pdf](https://archive.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/075-Fourie_Burger-en.pdf)  
(Paper presented at the 73rd IFLA Council and General Conference, 19-23 August 2007.)

Letshela, P.Z, and P.J. Lor "Implementing Legal Deposit of Electronic Publications in Africa: Progress Report from Africa." <https://archive.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/072-124e.pdf>  
(Paper presented at the 68th IFLA Council and General Conference, 18-24 August, 2002.)

Ngoepe, Mpho, and Moss Makhura "Assessing the Level of Compliance with Regard to the Legal Deposit Act : Implications on Access to South Africa's Published Heritage." *Mousaion* 26, no. 2 (January 2008): 98-114.  
<https://journals.co.za/content/mousaion/26/2/EJC78951>

Nicholson, Denise Rosemary Legal Deposit in South Africa: Transformation in a Digital World.  
<http://library.ifla.org/1127/1/089-nicholson-en.pdf>  
(Paper presented at the 81st IFLA General Conference and Assembly, 15-21 August 2015.)

Nsibirwa, Zawedde "Building the Nation Through Legal Deposit: Examining the Legislation." *Innovation: Journal of Appropriate Librarianship and Information Work in South Africa* no. 49 (December 2014): 53-72.  
<https://journals.co.za/content/innovation/2014/49/EJC164655>

Penzhorn, Cecilia; Retha Snyman, and Maritha Snyman "Implementing and Managing Legal Deposit in South Africa: Challenges and Recommendations." *International Information & Library Review* 40, no. 2 (2008): 112-120.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10572317.2008.10762769>

Snyman, Retha "Bibliographic Control - Is the Current Training Still Relevant?"  
<https://archive.ifla.org/IV/ifla66/papers/108-183e.htm>  
(Paper presented at the 66th IFLA Council and General Conference, 13-18 August 2000)

#### *Tanzania:*

Samzug, Athumani S. "An Appraisal of Legal Deposit Laws in Tanzania." *University of Dar es Salaam Library Journal* 5, no. 1 (2003): 34-45.

Mcharazo, Alli "Serving the Bibliographic Needs of Scholars in Tanzania: A Case study of the Tanzania Library Services Board." *Africa Bibliography* vol. 2007, published 2008. vi-xvii.  
<https://internationalafricaninstitute.org/downloads/AfricaBibliography2007Introduction.pdf>

#### *Uganda:*

Kawalya, Jane "Building the National Memory in Uganda: The Role of Legal Deposit Legislation." *Information Development* 27, no. 2 (May 2011): 117-124.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0266666911401180>

Kigongo-Bukenya, I.M.N "The State of Ugandan Bibliographic Control and Strategies into the Twenty-first Century", *Library Review* 49, no. 2 (2000): 64-76.  
<https://doi.org/10.1108/00242530010314960>

Matovu, James, and Wilberforce Musoke "Impact of the New Legal Deposit System on National Bibliographic Control in Uganda: Developments, Practices, and Challenges." *Library Philosophy & Practice*. April 2012, 80-89.  
<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/727/>

#### *Zimbabwe:*

Chisita, Colence; Blessing Chiparausha, and Danmore Maboreke "Enforcing Legal Deposit in the Digital Era: A Case of Zimbabwe."  
<http://library.ifla.org/2098/1/244-colence-en.pdf> (June 2018)  
(Paper presented at the 84th IFLA General Conference and Assembly, 20-30 August 2018)

34 Bell, Barbara *An Annotated Guide to Current National Bibliographies*. Munich: K.G. Saur, 1998.

35 Bell, Barbara, and Anne M. Hasund Langballe. An Examination of National Bibliographies and their Adherence to ICNBS Recommendations. Final Report to the IFLA Standing Committee on Bibliography. (2001) <https://archive.ifla.org/VII/s12/pubs/sbrep.pdf> See 'African nations' pp. 4-8.

36 Sidibé, Amadou Békaye, African National Bibliographies (2007) <https://archive.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/136-Sidibe-trans-en.pdf>  
Original French version: Bibliographies nationales africaines. <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/136-Sidibe-fr.pdf>

37 Knutsen, Unni Survey on the State of National Bibliographies in Africa (2007) <http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s12/pubs/Survey-Africa-report.pdf>

38 Nyariki, Lily *Perspectives on Book Development in Africa*. Riga, Latvia: Éditions Universitaires Européennes, SIA OmniScriptum Publishing, 2018. 144 pp.  
<https://www.morebooks.shop/store/fr/book/perspectives-on-book-development-in-africa/isbn/978-620-2-28030-3>

39 *Directory of National Libraries in Africa - 2013. A Survey of National Libraries or Equivalent Institutions in African Countries*. Compiled by Isabel Ringel  
[http://www.nlsa.ac.za/Downloads\\_01/natlib/National%20Libraries%20of%20Africa%20Directory.pdf](http://www.nlsa.ac.za/Downloads_01/natlib/National%20Libraries%20of%20Africa%20Directory.pdf)  
This directory provides full contact and address details, telephone, fax, and email addresses (including name and email addresses of the national librarians and/or principal contact), website address (where available) opening hours, collection size, and services undertaken, such as ISBN agency, legal depository function and national bibliography. However, it does *not* include details of national bibliographies published, or their current status. Also includes details of national library associations in each country (where they exist).

*Note:* The NatLib Africa Database, which is part of this project <http://nlsahopta.nlsa.ac.za/nla/index.html> was not accessible as at June 2018.

40 *Les bibliothèques nationales de la francophonie*, edited by Marcel Lajeunesse. Québec: Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, 3rd ed., 2008.  
[http://www.banq.qc.ca/documents/a\\_propos\\_banq/nos\\_publications/nos\\_publications\\_a\\_z/Bibliothèques\\_nationales\\_Francophonie.pdf](http://www.banq.qc.ca/documents/a_propos_banq/nos_publications/nos_publications_a_z/Bibliothèques_nationales_Francophonie.pdf)

Of related interest, see also Lajeunesse, Marcel. "The National Libraries of the Countries of the Francophonie: A Comparative Study." *Alexandria*, 20, no. 3 (2008): 133-146.  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/095574900802000303>

41 For an interesting recent perspective on the topic of African public libraries during periods of economic recession see Eteng, Uwem "Public Libraries During Economic Recession: The Nigerian Experience." *International Journal of Library and Information Science Studies* 4, no.1 (January 2018): 24-31.  
<http://www.eajournals.org/wp-content/uploads/Public-Libraries-during-Economic-Recession-The-Nigerian-Experience.pdf>

42 See, for example, Zell, Hans M. "Book Donation Programmes for Africa: Time for a Reappraisal? Two Perspectives." *African Research & Documentation. Journal of SCOLMA - the UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa* no. 127 (2015) [Published 2017]: 3-130 (part I), 131-220 (part II).  
Part I: Book Donation Programmes in English-speaking Africa, by Hans M. Zell, see pp. 51-58.  
Pre-print online version  
[https://www.academia.edu/13165497/Book\\_Donation\\_Programmes\\_for\\_Africa\\_Time\\_for\\_a\\_Reappraisal\\_Part\\_I](https://www.academia.edu/13165497/Book_Donation_Programmes_for_Africa_Time_for_a_Reappraisal_Part_I), pp. 43-49.

43 *The African Studies Companion Online*, edited by Marie-José Wijntjes. Leiden: Brill, 5th revised edition, 2009. (Online only) <http://referenceworks.brillonline.com/browse/african-studies-companion-online>

44 Beth Le Roux, personal communication, 17 August, 2018.

45 Gorman, G.E and J.J Mills *Guide to Current National Bibliographies in the Third World*. London: Hans Zell Publishers an imprint of K.G.Saur, 2nd revised edition, 1987.

46 See, for example, this article about the Ghana Library Authority  
<http://www.ghanadot.com/Review.krampah.libraries.011612.html>

47 Mahama, Anatu Kande *Analysing Law and Policy, and the Contributions of Government Sponsored Institutions to Publishing Development*. Loughborough: Loughborough University, 2017. PhD thesis. 223 pp.  
<https://dspace.lboro.ac.uk/dspace-jspui/bitstream/2134/32412/3/Thesis-2017-Mahama.pdf>

48 A good example of this is “Legal Deposit in South Africa: Intro/Definitions” from Wits University Library  
<https://libguides.wits.ac.za/LegalDeposit>, which provides information about legislation, application and enforcement of the Legal Deposit Act and useful resources for publishers, librarians and others involved in compliance with this legislation.

Also of part of these pages is “Legal Deposit in South Africa: International Experiences in LD”  
<http://libguides.wits.ac.za/c.php?g=145508&p=952771>, a helpful collection of links providing information and resources about legal deposit legislation in several different countries of the world.

49 <https://www.ifla.org/publications/international-congress-on-national-bibliographies-icnbs-recommendations>  
Pre-conference booklet <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/bibliography/publications/preconf.pdf>

50 IFLA Working Group on Guidelines for National Bibliographies. *National Bibliographies in the Digital Age: Guidance and New Directions*, edited by Maja Žumer. Munich: K.G. Saur ( IFLA Series on Bibliographic Control, 39), 2009. <https://www.ifla.org/node/5226>.

The latest version of this valuable resource from IFLA, reissued in 2015, now regularly updated, and published as *Best Practice for National Bibliographic Agencies in the Digital Age*, can be found at  
<https://www.ifla.org/node/7858>.

51 <http://www.african-publishers.net/index.php?p=membership>

52 [https://www.internationalpublishers.org/images/members/Membership/IPA\\_members\\_2017\\_.pdf](https://www.internationalpublishers.org/images/members/Membership/IPA_members_2017_.pdf)

53 See <http://www.publishsa.co.za/publishing/legal-deposit-of-publications> . Helpfully, the website of the Publishers Association of South Africa (PASA) also provides access to a whole array of documents relating to copyright legislation.

54 See, for example, these recent articles and reports:

Archaic, Dusty and Empty — The State of Many Public Libraries in Lagos

<http://saharareporters.com/2018/05/21/archaic-dusty-and-empty-%E2%80%94-state-many-public-libraries-lagos>

Dilapidated Facilities, Outdated Books, other Anomalies Characterise Nigeria’s National Library

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/272792-dilapidated-facilities-outdated-books-other-anomalies-characterise-nigerias-national-library.html>

A Time to Build Modern Libraries

<https://guardian.ng/opinion/a-time-to-build-modern-libraries/>

How Lack of Power Supply, Poor Funding has Rendered Nigeria’s E-library Useless

<https://www.icirnigeria.org/how-lack-of-power-supply-poor-funding-has-rendered-nigerias-e-library-useless/>

Nigeria’s Public Libraries Saddled with Multiple Challenges

<https://www.pmnewsnigeria.com/2018/03/04/nigerias-public-libraries-saddled-multiple-challenges/>

Libraries in Poor State, Turned to Social Events Centres

<http://thenationonlineng.net/libraries-in-poor-state-turned-to-social-events-centres/>

## **Acknowledgements**

For commenting on an early draft of this paper I am indebted to the following colleagues:

Terry Barringer, Editor, *African Research & Documentation*, SCOLMA. The UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa

Vera Castanheira, Copyright Counsellor, International Publishers Association (IPA), Geneva

Justin Cox, CEO, African Books Collective Ltd, Oxford

Richard Crabbe, Independent publishing consultant, Burke VA, USA  
(formerly Head of Client Relations and Intake, Office of the Publisher, The World Bank)

Stephanie Kitchen, Chair, Publications Committee, International African Institute, London

Miha Kovač, Department for Library and Information Science and Book Studies, School of Arts, University of Ljubljana

Unni Knutsen, Section Leader, Oslo University Library

Beth Le Roux, Associate Professor, Publishing Studies, Department of Information Science, University of Pretoria

John McIlwaine, Emeritus Professor of the Bibliography of Asia and Africa, Department of Information Studies, University College London

Miriam Nauri, Chair, IFLA Section on Bibliography (Royal Library, Stockholm)

Ernest Oppong, Acting Executive Director, African Publishers Network (APNET), Accra

Nikki Potgieter, Acting Director, Bibliographic Services and Collections Management, National Library of South Africa, Cape Town

Marion Wallace, Lead Curator, African Collections, The British Library, London

### **Note:**

Feedback/views of a draft version of this paper was also sought from the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AFLIA) as well as the IFLA Africa Section, but no response was received.

## Appendix I

### Conferences, Meetings, and Seminars on Publishing and Book Development in Africa, 1968 to 2018

Below are details of some of the major conferences, meetings or seminars held in English-speaking Africa, or at venues outside Africa, since 1968. Several more such conferences have taken place for the francophone African book industries, but which are not listed here except for the bi-lingual 1981 UNESCO Dakar meeting.

- 1968 UNESCO Regional Meeting for Book Development, Accra, Ghana, February 1968.
- 1973 International Conference on Publishing and Book Development in Africa, University of Ife [now Obafemi Awolowo University], Ile-Ife, Nigeria, December 1973.
- 1981 UNESCO Meeting of Experts on National Book Strategies in Africa/Réunion régionale d'experts sur les stratégies nationales du livre en Afrique, Dakar, Senegal, February 1981.
- 1984 Seminar on the Development of Autonomous African Publishing Capacity, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Arusha, Tanzania, April 1984 (two more seminars, Arusha II in 1996, and Arusha III, an 'African Writers-Publishers Seminar', followed in 1998.)
- 1991 Conference on Publishing in the Third World, The Rockefeller Foundation, Rockefeller Conference Centre, Bellagio, Italy, February 1991.
- 1992 Promoting Technical Publishing in Africa-Seminar. Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation of ACP-EU (CTA), Arnhem, Netherlands, November 1992.
- 1997 Access to Information 'Indaba', Zimbabwe International Book Fair Trust, August 1997. (On 'National Book Policy', 'Information Technology and Rights', 'Scholarship and Research', and 'Community Access to Information'.)
- 1997 Seminar on Understanding the Educational Book Industry, Human Development Network, The World Bank, Washington DC, September 1997. (On strengthening publishing capacity in Africa and in other parts of the developing world.)
- 1997 Conference on Academic Book Production and Distribution in Africa. Support from Nordic Countries, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen, Norway, April 1997.

- 2001- Africa Publishing Initiative (API). World Bank, Office of the Publisher, Publishing  
2007 for Development in Africa Workshop, Washington DC, May 2001. Among other activities, and a wide-ranging work programme, the API, founded in 1997, also hosted further 'Publishing for Development' workshops at book fairs and other book promotional events in Africa between 1999 and 2007. Activities ceased in 2007.<sup>1</sup>
- 2002 Books for Development-A Workshop to Bring Key Stakeholders in the Book Chain Together, Book Aid International, September 2002, Kampala, Uganda.
- 2007 Capacity Building in the African Publishing Industry, Nigerian Book Fair Trust, Lagos, Nigeria, May 2007.
- 2011 International Conference on Book Development in Africa, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), Working Group on Books and Learning Materials, Nairobi, Kenya, October 2011.
- 2016 Academic Book of the Future Project. The Academic Book in the South Conference. British Library, London, March 2016.
- 2017 High Level Regional Conference-The Publishing Industry in Africa and its Role in Education and Economic Growth, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Yaoundé, Cameroon, November 2017.
- 2018 Regional Workshop for African Book Industry Stakeholders, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)/Global Book Alliance (GBA)/USAID, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, January 2018.
- 2018 IPA Seminar Publishing for Sustainable Development-The Role of Publishers in Africa. International Publishers Association (IPA)/Nigerian Publishers Association(NPA), Lagos, Nigeria, May 2018.

**Note:**

- 1 See also at this permanent World Bank link about the API at <http://go.worldbank.org/MPLH6G3200>.

## Appendix II

# African National Bibliographies: Their Status as at 2018

The following is a list of national bibliographies (or suitable substitute publications) that have been verified to be still in existence, although many of them are currently dormant, while most others are substantially in arrears in their publication schedule. A large number of national bibliographies are issued very irregularly, despite their stated intention to publish annually.

Website details are indicated where available, but a number of them are currently inaccessible, as indicated. Email addresses of contacts have also been provided, but have *not* been verified, and some of them may be dated. In many cases it has not been possible to verify information as the websites of many national libraries have been down for prolonged periods, or are permanently down, while several email enquiries did not elicit any response.

The following African countries do *not*, as far as I have been able to ascertain, have a current national bibliography, and/or it is in a permanent state of hiatus, and no further details about current availability can be tracked down. However, even though these countries do not currently publish a national bibliography, a good number of them do have a legal deposit system in place:

Angola, Burkina Faso\*, Burundi, Cameroon\*, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo Democratic Republic\*, Congo (Brazzaville), Côte d'Ivoire\*, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Réunion, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Togo.

(Note: \* indicates permanently suspended?)

### *Acknowledgements*

I am indebted to Professor John McIlwaine for drawing attention to some gaps and inaccuracies, as well as adding library holdings for the latest published volumes of a number of the African national bibliographies that can be found in some libraries in Europe and the USA.

I would be grateful if any further errors or omissions in this list could be brought to my attention. Please email these to [hanszell@hanszell.co.uk](mailto:hanszell@hanszell.co.uk).

## *Algeria*

### **Bibliographie de l'Algérie** (Text in Arabic and French)

Alger: Bibliothèque Nationale [BP 127 El Hamma, Alger], 1963-

Twice yearly, latest is 2005?

Bibliothèque nationale de France claims to hold nos. 84 and 85 for 2005.

Online: 1991- (via Centre de Recherche sur l'Information Scientifique et Technique/CERSIT)

<http://www.dctd.cerist.dz/index.php?page=introcel.html> (not accessible June 2018)

(click on to BIBNAT "Catalogues en ligne")

This database covers books and periodicals deposited with the Bibliothèque nationale d'Algérie from October 1963 to the first half of 1997.

Email: [contact@biblionat.dz](mailto:contact@biblionat.dz) or [hayet\\_gounni@yahoo.fr](mailto:hayet_gounni@yahoo.fr)

Web: <http://www.biblionat.dz/French/Bibliographie.htm> or

<http://www.biblionat.dz/> (sites not accessible June 2018)

<https://web.archive.org/web/20071208022258/http://www.biblionat.dz:80/French/Accueil.htm> (Web archive record)

## *Benin*

### **Bibliographie du Benin**

Porto Novo: Bibliothèque Nationale [BP 401, Porto Novo] 1976/77-

Irregular, latest is no. 8 (2006), (print and CD-ROM), online at CORE

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/14520306.pdf>

Email: [bn.benin@bj.refer.org](mailto:bn.benin@bj.refer.org) or [derosfr@yahoo.fr](mailto:derosfr@yahoo.fr)

Web:

[https://web.archive.org/web/20080210134326/http://www.bj.refer.org/benin\\_ct/tur/bnb/Pagetre.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20080210134326/http://www.bj.refer.org/benin_ct/tur/bnb/Pagetre.htm) ("Site en construction. Dernière mise à jour: juin 2001")

<http://bibliothequenationale.blogspot.com/> (Blogspot page)

*Note:* not currently published.

## *Botswana*

### **National Bibliography of Botswana**

Gaborone: Botswana National Library Service [Private Bag 0036, Gaborone], 1969-

Twice yearly, latest is vol. 30, nos. 1 & 2, 2010? Ceased?

The Bodleian Library, Oxford, records holdings of vol. 30, nos. 1 & 2, 2010.

Email: [bebadisang@gov.bw](mailto:bebadisang@gov.bw) or [natlib@global.bw](mailto:natlib@global.bw)

Web: <http://mysc.gov.bw/nls> or

[http://www.mysc.gov.bw/?q=dept\\_bnls](http://www.mysc.gov.bw/?q=dept_bnls) (site not accessible June 2018)

<http://www.sesigo.org.bw/> (Page on Sesigo)

See also Violet China Radiporo "NABOB, the National Bibliography of Botswana: History, Present State and Perspective for Development" (IFLA WLIC 2013 paper)

<http://library.ifla.org/123/1/143-radiporo-en.pdf>

*Note:* not currently published

## *Burkina Faso*

### **Bibliographie du Burkina Faso**

Ouagadougou: Bibliothèque Nationale, Ministère de la Culture, des Arts et du Tourisme [BP 6436, Ouagadougou 01], 2007- Ceased?

Northwestern University Library records issue 2, published 2014 of *Bibliographie nationale*. Annual, "in preparation"; cumulative volume for 1967–1990 also currently in preparation.

Email: [bnburkina@gmail.com](mailto:bnburkina@gmail.com) [kagamcy@yahoo.fr](mailto:kagamcy@yahoo.fr)

Web: [www.culture.gov.bf/](http://www.culture.gov.bf/) [http://www.culture.gov.bf/textes/ministere\\_sr\\_bn.htm](http://www.culture.gov.bf/textes/ministere_sr_bn.htm) (site not accessible June 2018)

[https://web.archive.org/web/20080517182815/http://www.culture.gov.bf/Site\\_Ministere/textes/ministere/ministere\\_sr\\_bn.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20080517182815/http://www.culture.gov.bf/Site_Ministere/textes/ministere/ministere_sr_bn.htm) (Web archive record)

*Note:* not currently published.

## *Côte d'Ivoire*

### **Bibliographie de la Côte d'Ivoire**

Abidjan: Bibliothèque Nationale [BPV 180, Abidjan], 1970- Annual Ceased?

Stanford University Libraries records issues for 2008/2011 and 2012/2013.

Email: [info@bn.ci](mailto:info@bn.ci), [bn.ci@avisoci.ci](mailto:bn.ci@avisoci.ci), or [princessadjim@yahoo.fr](mailto:princessadjim@yahoo.fr)

Web: <http://www.bn.ci/>

*Note:* not currently published, but an online catalogue of collections is available at [http://collections.bn.ci/opac\\_css/](http://collections.bn.ci/opac_css/)

## *Egypt*

**Legal Deposit Bulletin/Nashrat al Īdā** (supersedes *The Egyptian Publications Bulletin*, 1955-1973)

Cairo: National Library and Archives of Egypt/ Dar El Kotob [Corniche El-Nil, Ramlet Boulac PO Box 8, Sabttiya, Cairo 11638], 1974-

Monthly, with some annual cumulations, latest is 2008?

Email: [info@darelkotob.org](mailto:info@darelkotob.org) or [libmang@darelkotob.org](mailto:libmang@darelkotob.org)

Web: [www.darelkotob.gov.eg](http://www.darelkotob.gov.eg)

<http://www.darelkotob.org/ENGLISH/HTML/ABOUT.HTM> and

[http://www.darelkotob.org/ENGLISH/HTML/NATIONAL%20\\_ARCHIVE.HTM](http://www.darelkotob.org/ENGLISH/HTML/NATIONAL%20_ARCHIVE.HTM) (National Archives Sector, English)

Electronic version at <http://www.darelkotob.gov.eg/edaa.aspx>

*Note:* none of the above web pages accessible as at June 2018, unable to verify current status.

See also <http://www.cybrarians.info>

## *Ethiopia*

**National Bibliography of Ethiopia** (in Amharic and English, consists of several parts, see Web site)

Addis Ababa: National Archives and Library Agency [PO Box 717, Addis Ababa], 1982?-Annually, latest print version *National Bibliography of Ethiopia 1998 E.C.* [i.e. 2005/2006], published June 2006.

Email: dawdhasset@gmail.com or yaredo1963@yahoo.com

Web: <http://www.nala.gov.et/>

[http://www.nale.gov.et/national\\_bibliography\\_of\\_ethiopia.htm](http://www.nale.gov.et/national_bibliography_of_ethiopia.htm)

Online: English versions

Volume 24, No. 1, 2005-2006

[http://www.nale.gov.et/National%20Bibliography/BIBLIO.%20OF%20BOOKS%20ON%20ETHIOPIA%20\(ENGLISH\).pdf](http://www.nale.gov.et/National%20Bibliography/BIBLIO.%20OF%20BOOKS%20ON%20ETHIOPIA%20(ENGLISH).pdf)

Volume 24, No. 2, 2005-2006

<http://www.nale.gov.et/National%20Bibliography/BIBLIO.%20OF%20ETHIOPIAN%20WRITERS%20.pdf>

Volume 24, No. 3, 2005-2006

[http://www.nale.gov.et/National%20Bibliography/BIBLIOGRAPHY%20OF%20BOOKS%20\(ENGLISH\)1998.pdf](http://www.nale.gov.et/National%20Bibliography/BIBLIOGRAPHY%20OF%20BOOKS%20(ENGLISH)1998.pdf)

*Note:* none of the above web pages for the 2005-2006 online versions were accessible as at June 2018, unable to verify current status.

## *Gabon*

### **Bibliographie nationale du Gabon**

Libreville: Direction générale des Archives Nationales, de la Bibliothèque Nationale et de la Documentation Gabonaise [BP 1188, Libreville]

Irregular, published as single volume cumulations:

*Bibliographie nationale du Gabon*, 1994-2000 single volume cumulation, published 2004.

Earlier cumulation *Bibliographie du Gabon 1978 – 1993*, published 1999.

Email: adggabon@caramail.com or jean.paul\_mifouna@yahoo.fr

Web: <http://www.dgabd.ga/>

*Note:* not currently published.

## *The Gambia*

### **The Gambia National Bibliography**

Banjul: The Gambia National Library [Reg Pye Lane, POB 552, Banjul], 1979-

Annual, latest is cumulative volume 1996-2000, published in 2001. Ceased?

School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London records holdings of 2001/2002.

Email: national.library@qanet.gm or abdoumbye@yahoo.com

Web: [www.gnlsa.gov.gm](http://www.gnlsa.gov.gm) (site not accessible June 2018)

<http://www.accessgambia.com/extra/gambia-national-library-services.html> (page at Access Gambia)

*Note:* not currently published.

## *Ghana*

### **Ghana National Bibliography**

Accra: Ghana Library Authority, [formerly Ghana Library Board, PO Box 2970 Accra], 1965-Annual, latest is 1998? Ceased.

The Bodleian Library, Oxford, records holdings for 1993, 1994, 1995.

Northwestern University Library records a cumulation for 1992/1998.

Email: n/a

Web: <http://www.ghla.gov.gh/> (site permanently inaccessible/down?)

*Note:* not currently published. In the absence of a national library, the quasi national library and ISBN/ISSN agency, as well as legal depository, is the George Padmore Research Library on African Affairs, Email: [padmorelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:padmorelibrary@gmail.com).

See also Nancy Krampah, "Is the Ghana Library Authority Serving Its Purpose?"

<http://www.ghanadot.com/Review.krampah.libraries.011612.html> and

Ghana News Agency "Ghana Library Authority Charged to Bring About Change"

<https://www.newsghana.com.gh/ghana-library-authority-charged-to-bring-about-change/>

## *Guinea*

### **Bibliographie nationale de Guinée**

Conakry: Bibliothèque nationale [BP 139, Près du Musée National - Sandervalia

Kaloum, Conakry], 1985-

Annual, latest is 1988? Ceased?

Email: [sbabacheick@yahoo.fr](mailto:sbabacheick@yahoo.fr)

Web: n/a (Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Bibliotheque-Nationale-De-Guinee-225632251250130/>)

*Note:* not currently published

## *Kenya*

### **Kenya National Bibliography**

Nairobi: Kenya National Library Service [PO Box 30573-00100, Nairobi], 1980-

Annual, latest is 2014.

Digital versions available online for all annual volumes from 1980 through 2014.

Email: [knls@nbnet.co.ke](mailto:knls@nbnet.co.ke)

Web: <http://www.knls.ac.ke/>

<http://www.knls.ac.ke/index.php/download/kenya-national-bibliography>

*Note:* also publishes a *Kenya Periodicals Directory*,

<http://www.knls.ac.ke/index.php/download/kenya-periodicals-directory>, but page not accessible at as June 2018.

## *Lesotho*

### **Lesotho National Bibliography** (formerly *Lesothana: an Annotated Bibliography of New and Newly Located Lesotho Materials*)

Roma: National University of Lesotho, Institute of Southern African Studies [PO Box 180, Roma], 1982-

Irregular, latest is vol. 23, 1990? Ceased?

The Bodleian Library, Oxford, notes holdings of vols. 20 to 23 (no dates given); School of Oriental & African Studies Library, University of London, claims to have up to vol. 35 (no date given).

Email: mlethibelane@yahoo.com or nramokotjo@yahoo.co.uk

Web: www.lnls.gov.ls (site not accessible June 2018)

*Note:* this is not a national bibliography, but serves as a substitute. Current status not verified.

### *Libyan Arab Republic*

**Dār al-kutub al-waṭanīyah /The Libyan Arab National Bibliography** (in Arabic only; supersedes *The Arab Bibliography of Libya*, and thereafter *Libyan Arab Bibliography*)

Benghazi: Libyan National Library [PO Box 9127, Benghazi], 2003?-

Annual, latest is 2005?

Email: nat\_lib\_libya@hotmail.com (?)

Web: <http://www.nllnet.net/> (site not working properly as at June 2018)

*Note:* unable to verify any information.

### *Madagascar*

**Bibliographie nationale de Madagascar** (formerly *Bibliographie annuelle de Madagascar*)

Antananarivo: Bibliothèque universitaire d'Antananarivo /Bibliothèque nationale [BP 257, Rue Me Pierre Stibbe, Anosy, 101 Antananarivo], 1967-

Annual, latest is 2000? Ceased? Earlier cumulations, *Bibliographie nationale de Madagascar*, for 1956-1963, 1970-71, 1972-1975, 1976-1979, 1985-1986.

Email: dsi.mcpasp@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.macp.gov.mg/bibliotheque-nationale/>

(Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/mcpaspMG/>)

See also Archives Nationales <http://www.archivesnationales.gov.mg/bi/>

*Note:* not currently published.

### *Malawi*

**Malawi National Bibliography**

Lilongwe: Malawi National Library Services [PO Box 30314, Lilongwe 3], 1968-

Annual, latest is 2008? Ceased?

Universitätsbibliothek J. C. Senckenberg, Zentralbibliothek, Frankfurt am Main, claims to have issue for 2002/08 (2008).

Email: info@nls.mw

Web: <http://www.nls.mw/>

*Note:* not currently published.

### *Mali*

**Bibliographie nationale du Mali**

Bamako: Bibliothèque Nationale du Mali [BP E 4473, Bamako], 2000-

Annual, latest is cumulative volume for 1995-1999, published in 2000? Ceased?

Email: [dndb@afribone.net.ml](mailto:dndb@afribone.net.ml) or [lisidibekaye@yahoo.fr](mailto:lisidibekaye@yahoo.fr)

Web: <http://www.bn.gouv.ml/>

Note: not currently published.

## *Mauritania*

### **Bibliographie nationale de Mauritanie**

Nouakchott: Bibliothèque Nationale de Mauritanie [BP 193, Nouakchott], 200.?-

Irregular, latest is ? (unknown, "en cours d'établissement")

Email: [bounamohamed\\_soul@yahoo.fr](mailto:bounamohamed_soul@yahoo.fr) or [mamadouhadyakane@yahoo.fr](mailto:mamadouhadyakane@yahoo.fr)

Web: <http://bnrim.mr/bnfr/> (site not accessible June 2018)

Note: not currently published.

## *Mauritius*

### **National Bibliography of Mauritius/ Bibliographie nationale de L'Ile Maurice**

(supersedes *Bibliography of Mauritius: Supplement 1955?-* )

Port Louis: National Library of Mauritius [2nd Floor, Fon Sing Building, 12 Edith Cavell Street, Port Louis],

Cumulative volumes published every three years, latest is 2001-2003, published in 2005.

Email: [natlib@intnet.mu](mailto:natlib@intnet.mu)

Web: <http://www.gov.mu/portal/sites/ncb/mac/nlibrary/bib.html>

Print: 1996-2002

Online: 2001/2003- latest is 2015; online systems are updated daily.

Online: (1996-2000 volume, in two parts):

<http://www.gov.mu/portal/sites/ncb/mac/nlibrary/nbm/nbm1.pdf>

<http://www.gov.mu/portal/sites/ncb/mac/nlibrary/nbm/nbm2.pdf>

<http://national-library.govmu.org/English/Publications/Pages/National-Bibliography.aspx>  
(annual volumes 2005-2015)

More details: (IFLA Register) <https://www.ifla.org/node/2460>

## *Namibia*

**Namibia National Bibliography** (supersedes *Namibische National-Bibliographie/Namibian National Bibliography*. Basle, Switzerland: Basler Afrika Bibliographien, 1971-1975, 1976-1977, and 1978-1979 (3 cumulative volumes published)

Windhoek: Namibia Libraries & Archives Services [Private Bag 13349, Windhoek], 1996-Annually, in print format latest is 1996-1998 cumulation, published in 2002.

Online: 2007-

1990 to 1998 records available online, 2005 and 2006 records to be included shortly. Current status not known.

Searchable database at

<http://209.88.21.36/wwwisis/NNB/form.htm> (not accessible June 2018)

NAMLIT records are used as a basis for the *Namibia National Bibliography* (NNB) which is a separate database.

Annual, vol. 1 (1990-1992-, current status not known)

Email: [info@nlas.gov.na](mailto:info@nlas.gov.na)

Web: <http://www.nln.gov.na/> <http://nlas.info/sub-divisions/national-library/>

For more information see also Paul Zulu "Namibia National Bibliography: Strides and Challenges" <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/136-Zulu-en.pdf> (Paper presented to the 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council in 2007), and *Namibia Library and Archives Service Information Bulletin* Issue 1, 2012

<http://www.nln.gov.na:8081/custom/web/content/2012%20newsletter.pdf>

Note: not currently published.

## *Nigeria*

**National Bibliography of Nigeria** (supersedes *Nigerian Publications: Current National Bibliography*, 1958-1972)

Lagos: National Library of Nigeria [PMB 12626, Lagos], 1973-

Monthly, with bi-annual and annual cumulations; later annually, latest is 2004. Digital versions since 2002, and now available in both print and online formats. Latest digital version 2009.

Email: [info@nln.gov.ng](mailto:info@nln.gov.ng)

Web: <http://www.nln.gov.ng/>

National Bibliography of Nigeria: <http://www.nln.gov.ng/nbn> online (pdf) available for 2002, and 2006-2009.

Nigeriana Repository page/search facility: <http://www.nln.gov.ng/search-repository?preference=Nigeriana%20Material> (not functioning properly as at June 2018)

## *Rwanda*

**National Bibliography of Rwanda** [provisional details, planned]

Kigali: Rwanda Archives and Library Services Authority (formerly Bibliothèque nationale du Rwanda/National Archive of Rwanda) [CP 1044, Kigali]

National bibliography and legal deposit legislation in planning stage, among other planned activities, no further details available at this time.

Email: [info@ralsa.rw](mailto:info@ralsa.rw)

Web: <http://staging.designbysweet.com/ralsa/>

<http://www.ralsa.rw/> (site not accessible as at June 2018, taken down?)

See also Musa Wakhungu Olaka "Le renouveau des bibliothèques et des archives au Rwanda." <http://library.ifla.org/1217/7/078-olaka-fr.pdf>

## *Senegal*

**Bibliographie du Sénégal** (supersedes *Éléments de bibliographie du Sénégal*, and thereafter *Bulletin bibliographique des Archives du Sénégal*, published to 1964)

Dakar: Bibliothèque des Archives du Sénégal [Immeuble administratif, Avenue Léopold Sédar Senghor, Dakar], 1962-

Annually, with periodic cumulations in print format; latest cumulation covered the period 1990-1993, published in 1994; cumulative volume for the period 1994-1997 published in 2008.

Online: period 1984-1986-

The cumulative volume for the period 1994-1997 is/was accessible at  
<http://www.archivesdusenegal.gouv.sn/bibliographie.html> (not accessible as at June 2018)  
In preparation *Refonte Bibliographie du Sénégal, 2005-2007*  
Email: [bdas@primature.sn](mailto:bdas@primature.sn)  
Web: <http://www.archivesdusenegal.gouv.sn> (site not accessible as at June 2018)

## *Sierra Leone*

### **Sierra Leone Publications**

Freetown: Sierra Leone Library Board [PO Box 326, Freetown], 1964-  
Annual, latest is 1987, ceased? No current information available.  
Email: [sielib2002@yahoo.com](mailto:sielib2002@yahoo.com)  
Web: n/a  
*Note:* not currently published.

## *South Africa*

### **SANB: South African National Bibliography/Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Bibliografie**

Print: 1926-1958 (published as retrospective bibliographies), 1959-1999 (published annually)  
Online: 1989- SANB online (via Sabinet, updated daily)  
Pretoria: The State Library; later Pretoria: The National Library of South Africa [PO Box X990, Pretoria 0001], 1933-  
1926-1958 published as mimeographed monthly lists; 1959-1999 as printed national bibliography; from 1960 three quarterly issues, with the final quarter included in the annual cumulated edition, replaced the monthly lists (and also available as a weekly card service up to 1995). A cumulation for the period 1968-1971 was also published, but not for subsequent years. Database computerized from 1972-1982-  
Online: via the SANB scope of the National Library's catalogue (1926-1958, 1981- ) <http://natlib1.sabinet.co.za/search~S7>, Sabinet Online's SACat (1989- ) <https://www.sabinet.co.za/>, NISC's South African studies database (see below, 1989- ) and OCLC's WorldCat (1999- ) <https://www.oclc.org/en/home.html?redirect=true>  
Retrospective conversion of the records for 1959 to 1980 is currently underway at the National Library.  
Email: [infodesk@nlsa.ac.za](mailto:infodesk@nlsa.ac.za) or [andrew.malotle@nlsa.ac.za](mailto:andrew.malotle@nlsa.ac.za)  
Web: <http://www.nlsa.ac.za/index.php/sa-national-bibliography>  
The SANB is also available, by subscription, on the *Africa-Wide: NiPAD* database published by NISC and coverage includes 1988 to current. (Baltimore & Grahamstown, South Africa: National Information Services Corporation/NISC, 1994- )  
<http://www.nisc.co.za/products/22/databases/africa-wide-information>  
More details: (IFLA Register) <https://www.ifla.org/node/5176>  
See also Susan Battison "The South African National Bibliography: 1933-to Date. From Isolation to Co-operation" <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/136-Battison-en.pdf>; (Paper presented to the 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council in 2007);  
Denise Rosemary Nicholson "Legal Deposit in South Africa: Transformation in a Digital World." <http://library.ifla.org/1127/1/089-nicholson-en.pdf> (Paper presented at the 81st IFLA General Conference and Assembly, 15-21 August 2015); and

Cecilia Penzhorn, Retha Snyman, and Maritha Snyman "Implementing and Managing Legal Deposit in South Africa: Challenges and Recommendations." *International Information & Library Review* 40, no. 2 (2008): 112-120. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10572317.2008.10762769>

*Note:* The SANB project is also responsible for compiling the South African book production statistics. Book production statistics prior to 2000 are found in the printed SANB, while book production statistics from 2000 onwards are available online (see links below). These book production statistics are based on the materials received on legal deposit and processed by the SANB project each year.

PASA Publishing Industry Surveys: <http://www.publishsa.co.za/documents/industry-statistics> (latest is for 2016, published 21 February 2018)

PASA book industry surveys and reports: <https://repository.up.ac.za/handle/2263/21923>

Other documents:

South Africa Legal Deposit Act:

<http://www.nlsa.ac.za/downloads/LEGAL%20DEPOSIT%20ACT.pdf>

Publishers Association of South Africa, guidelines about legal deposit:

<http://www.publishsa.co.za/publishing/legal-deposit-of-publications>

## *Sudan*

### **Sudan** [national bibliography]

No national bibliography exists at this time. There are a number of substitute publications, notably the "Sudan Bibliography" sections published in *Sudan Notes and Records* 1918-1965; new series, issue 1, 1997- , published by the Philosophical Society of the Sudan, POB 555, Khartoum (US enquiries to Ismail H Abdalla, Department of History, The College of William and Mary, Email: [ixabda@factaff.wm.edu](mailto:ixabda@factaff.wm.edu))

Other agencies documenting and recording national publishing output:

National Library of Sudan, PO Box 6279, Khartoum

Email: [natlib10@hotmail.com](mailto:natlib10@hotmail.com)

Web: <http://www.natlib.gov.sd/> (site not accessible June 2018)

*Note:* not currently published.

## *Swaziland*

### **Swaziland National Bibliography**

Kwaluseni: University of Swaziland Libraries [Private Bag 4, Kwaluseni M201], 1973-1976- Irregular, cumulative volumes covering 3-4 years, latest is 1988-1993 volume published in 1995. Now under the auspices of the Swaziland National Library Services [PO Box 1461, Mbabane]. Latest is 2002? No further information available about current status. Ceased? School of African & Oriental Studies Library, University of London notes holdings of 2003, 2005-2007.

Email: [director\\_snls@gov.sz](mailto:director_snls@gov.sz)

Web: [http://www.gov.sz/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=320&Itemid=394](http://www.gov.sz/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=320&Itemid=394)

See also Paiki Muswazi "Transforming the Swaziland National Bibliography (SNB): Visions of Currency, Access, Coverage and Quality." (Paper presented at the 67th IFLA Council and General Conference, August 16-25, 2001) <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED459737.pdf>

*Note:* not currently published.

## *Tanzania*

### **Tanzania National Bibliography**

Dar es Salaam: Tanzania Library Service Board [PO Box 9283, Dar es Salaam], 1974-  
Initially published as *Printed in Tanzania*, 1969-

Monthly, with annual, later biennial cumulations, latest is 1993/1995. Ceased?

The Bodleian Library, Oxford, notes holdings of 1996/1998; 1999/2001; 2002/2004.

Online: A draft version of an online volume in pdf for *Tanzania National Bibliography 2005-2006* is accessible at [http://www.tlsb.or.tz/images/uploads/TNB\\_2005-2006\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.tlsb.or.tz/images/uploads/TNB_2005-2006_DRAFT.pdf), but no further volumes are downloadable on the website.

Email: [tlsb@africaonline.co.tz](mailto:tlsb@africaonline.co.tz)

Web: [http://www.tlsb.or.tz/index.php/tlsb/tlsb/category/about\\_tlsb/](http://www.tlsb.or.tz/index.php/tlsb/tlsb/category/about_tlsb/)

See also Alli Mcharazo "Serving the Bibliographic Needs of Scholars in Tanzania: A Case Study of the Tanzania Library Services Board" *Africa Bibliography* volume 2007 (2008)

<http://journals.cambridge.org/images/fileUpload/documents/AFBAlli.pdf> (free access)

Also at

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/254925734\\_Serving\\_the\\_bibliographic\\_needs\\_of\\_scholars\\_in\\_Tanzania\\_A\\_case\\_study\\_of\\_the\\_Tanzania\\_Library\\_Services\\_Board](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/254925734_Serving_the_bibliographic_needs_of_scholars_in_Tanzania_A_case_study_of_the_Tanzania_Library_Services_Board)

*Note:* not currently published.

## *Tunisia*

### **Bibliographie Nationale de Tunisie**

Tunis: Bibliothèque Nationale [BP 42, Tunis], 1970-

Quarterly, 4th issue is annual cumulation, (computerized records, national bibliography published in both print format and microfiche); periodic cumulations for 2-3 year periods; latest cumulation is for 1997-1998 records, published in 2005. Annual volumes published online as from 1984- Latest annual, online (pdf) is for 2017, published 2018.

Email: [bibliotheque.nationale@email.tn](mailto:bibliotheque.nationale@email.tn) or [skamarti@yahoo.fr](mailto:skamarti@yahoo.fr)

Web: <http://www.bibliotheque.nat.tn/> (French)

<http://www.bibliotheque.nat.tn/fr/bibliographie-nationale/>

## *Uganda*

**National Bibliography of Uganda** (formerly *Uganda National Bibliography*, 1987-1990, 4 volumes only published)

Print: 2004-2013

Online: 2014- latest is 2016, but see note below.

Kampala: National Library of Uganda [PO Box 4262, Kampala], 2004-

Annually, the first volume of the *National Bibliography of Uganda* was published in 2004 and listed publications received by the National Library of Uganda in 2003 and 2004, as well those received and catalogued by Makerere University Library since 1987.

Online versions of the "national bibliography" have been published for 2014, 2015, and 2016 but only as "author/title index", lacking essential bibliographic data.

Email: [admin@nlu.go.ug](mailto:admin@nlu.go.ug) or [info@nlu.go.ug](mailto:info@nlu.go.ug)

Web: <http://www.nlu.go.ug/bibiliography.htm>

More details: (IFLA register) <https://www.ifla.org/node/5114>

## *Zambia*

### **National Bibliography of Zambia**

Lusaka: National Archives of Zambia [PO Box 50010, Lusaka], 1972-Annual, latest is cumulation for 2010-13? Current status not known.

Email: naz@zamnet.zm or r.bwato@yahoo.com

Web: <http://www.nationalarchiveszambia.org/> (site not accessible as at June 2018)

<http://www.zambiarchives.org/library.htm> (site not accessible as at June 2018)

## *Zimbabwe*

**Zimbabwe National Bibliography** (supersedes *List of Publications Deposited in the Library of the National Archives, 1961-1978*, and thereafter *Rhodesia National Bibliography*)

Harare: National Archives [Private Bag 7729, Harare], 1979-Annual, latest is 1998? Ceased?

Email: archives@archives.gov.zw

Web: <http://www.archives.gov.zw/> and

<http://www.archives.gov.zw/index.php/sections/library>

*Note:* Under 'Publications' <http://www.archives.gov.zw/index.php/librarycollections> the above website indicates *Zimbabwe National Bibliography* (Annual Publication), but provides no links or further details. Current status not known.

*Note:* not currently published.