



**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OFFICE  
NAIROBI, KENYA**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

Covering:  
Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon,  
Comoros, DR of Congo, Djibouti,  
Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya,  
Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius,  
Mayotte, Mozambique, Namibia, Reunion,  
Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, Swaziland,  
Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

**FISCAL YEAR 2009**  
(October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009)

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and

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

The new fiscal year started with much enthusiasm for the nomination of Kenya-descendant Barack Obama which soon turned to wild jubilation with his election to the U.S. presidency. Kenyans are very proud of their special connection to the new president and hopeful that it will translate into renewed interest in all things African. So far, with recent visits to Kenya by Secretary of State Clinton, Assistant Secretary for African Affairs and former ambassador to Kenya, Johnnie Carson, the creation of AfriCom, Kofi Annan's mediation, along with many other international dignitaries and hundreds of TDYers per day it would seem that Kenya and Africa are making gains in the political front.

### **Acquisitions:**

Although our travel budget was reduced again, the total acquisitions figures did not decline as much as anticipated. The FY2009 total for The Library of Congress acquisitions was 42,134, an overall decline of 3% when compared to last year. The FY2009 total for Cooperative Acquisitions Program(CAP) participant acquisitions was 74,259, an overall slight increase of 0.8% when compared to last year. The combined total for The Library of Congress and CAP participants was 116,393, a decline of .6% overall when compared to last year. To make up for lost travel funds we worked harder with local Kenya acquisitions, phone calls, email messages and pressed the bib reps to be more productive.

The staff cuts and a freeze on hiring in the first quarter of this FY had a negative impact on our acquisitions of Ethiopian/Eritrean materials since we had to tell the bib reps to stop shipments because we had no specialist on hand to process the materials in the office. By January, we were able to hire the former Ethiopian/Eritrean specialist contractee as an FSN and resume shipments from those countries.

Law Library: For the first time the Nairobi Office entered an online subscription on behalf of the Law Library to UgandaLawOnline, which did not require an elaborate license agreement. We have also started forwarding .pdf files of the *Government Gazette* of Namibia to Law Library as part of their print-copy subscription.

Special acquisitions: "Obamabilia" sets were acquired for The Library of Congress and eight AfriCAP participants. Items collected included tee shirts, bumper stickers, pins, caps, kanga cloths, earrings and even commemorative beer and whiskey bottles. Feedback from both the participants and African and Middle Eastern Division(AMED) was very positive. The materials sent to AMED were displayed for several months and thanks to the efforts of chief of AMED Mary-Jane Deeb, received considerable international attention in the press and media with articles appearing on CNN, the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Washington Post, and a few blogs among others. The chief of AMED and the Nairobi FD co-authored an article "Obamabilia from Africa" for the *LS Journal* (v.2, n.1, Spring 2009, p. 22-24) describing the exhibit and collecting methods used to acquire the materials.

Map acquisitions: In 2007 the FD asked the Geography and Maps Division if they would like us to acquire maps on their behalf. They did and ever since we've been acquiring. Expanding on this work, we initiated a pilot program this year to acquire maps for three AfriCAP participants: Michigan State University, Yale and Stanford. It has been successful, but, not surprisingly, is rather time consuming and an expensive program creating cash-flow problems when on acquisitions trips. The slashed travel funds also impeded our ability to purchase maps which resulted in large carryover funds for the AfriCAP participants map balances.

Posters: As we collect free posters for the Library, we often get duplicates. Once a year we sort through the posters and distribute to AMED (272), P&P (11), The Library of Congress/UN officer (11), NYPL (20), NLM (5) and NAL (19). Feedback from these The Library of Congress sections and institutions has been very positive.

### **Services to The Library of Congress and the world of Cataloging:**

The cataloging backlog is still non-existent as it was completely eliminated in FY07 as catalogers' productivity increased overall and receipts declined somewhat. For FY 2009, a grand total of 3,849 records for monographs, non-book materials, and serials were created. This is an increase of 454 titles (13%) as compared to 3,395 records in FY08. A total of 1,489 new authority records were created representing a decrease of 114 over the previous year. Modified authorities increased from 256 in FY08 to 265 in FY09. Non-book material cataloging decreased by less than 1% from 536 in FY08 to 535 in FY09.

### **Fuel prices:**

Over the last year, fuel prices have wreaked havoc with our shipping charges. The unanticipated fuel surcharge applied by DHL ranged from a low of 7.5% to high of 13% depending on the month. Overall the average was 10.5%

### **Fluctuations in currency values:**

Most of the countries covered by this office experienced considerable currency fluctuations, the worst being Zimbabwe suffering hyperinflation. This has necessitated the bookshops there to start quoting their prices in US\$. This has worked well for accountability since there are no losses in currency fluctuation when the bib rep submits her claim. Most bib reps invoice the office in US dollars so that they would not lose the value of their funds to inflation in the 1-2 weeks it takes us to effect payment. In Kenya, the US dollar value has fluctuated from a low of 74 Kenyan shillings to the dollar to a high of 80.

### **Visitors to the office and The Library of Congress:**

At the behest of the U.S. Dept. of State representative to the African Union, the office hosted the director of the AU Library, Mr. Garoma Daba, for a two-day orientation session about The Library of Congress databases, OCLC and other useful library databases.

**Service to Congress' House Democracy Assistance Committee and CRS:**

At the request of John Lis, HDAC, the FD traveled to Monrovia, Liberia to assess the needs of the Liberian Legislative Library. Travel was paid for by HDAC, and the FD took advantage of the "free airfare" to visit Ghana for acquisitions work. The final report is attached to the end of this annual report. Daily the FD passes along media reports from Kenya and Ethiopia to interested staffers in CRS and AMED.

**World Digital Library:**

At the invitation of WDL staff, the FD traveled to Uganda to participate in the assessment of the National Library of Uganda's capacity to host a regional center for digitizing unique items for the WDL. She was later interviewed by a Radio France Internationale reporter about the experience. The interview was broadcast to Africa on the RFI in May.

**Digitized Table of Contents Project:**

The Library of Congress Nairobi continued to contribute to the digitized table of contents (DTC) project. This year some 491 titles were selected for the DTC Project, an increase of 96 titles when compared to the previous year.

***Quarterly Index to African Periodical Literature:***

A total of 2,040 new articles were added to the QIAPL bringing the total number of articles indexed to 47,339 from over 700 African journals. We have started to import TOC data from some publishers to save re-keying data. Once again, we depended on a volunteer, Marie-Josée Aldridge, to keep up with French language materials.

**Services to AfriCAP (Cooperative Acquisitions Program):**

The total number of participants in FY 2009 stood at 36. We had one new participant join this year, the ITSC Library. Three are in the process of withdrawing due to budget cuts. With a few exceptions, participants are primarily from US universities with African studies programs. Four participants are from Europe and one each from Africa and Canada. Turning last year's "pilot program" into our SOP, we continue to invoice electronically only which is much appreciated by all participants.

**Special Embassy Bombing Project:**

At the Deputy Chief of Mission's request, we worked with Public Affairs to organize the embassy materials related to the tragic 1998 bombing of the US Embassy in Nairobi. This entailed organizing newspaper clippings, email messages, official memos, videos, and books. Much of this was later scanned by a State Department-funded summer hire intern using The Library of Congress equipment and FD guidance. The FD and intern also compiled an online resource guide to the bombing that will be posted on the Dept. of State and August 7 Memorial Park websites.

**Services to The Library of Congress/CRL/CAMP for Newspapers Preservation:**

We finished using the balance of Madison Council funds of \$64,000 for the oldest, most fragile newspapers many of which had been sitting in the office since the late 1980s. More such funds would be greatly appreciated. CRL/CAMP agreed to film Tanzanian and Mauritius newspapers for total of \$21,000.

**Public Service Outreach:**

In November, the FD attended the annual African Studies Association / Africana Librarians Council meeting in Chicago and gave two presentations about the office's activities for the previous fiscal year. As part of duties related to being Member-at-Large, she also helped assemble the slate for the next ballot.

On January 13, 2009, the Field Director along with IRO, Sheila Weir met with the DCM at the Aug. 7th Memorial Park with the purpose of establishing an Archive/Library of materials relating to the 1998 bombing. Later in the year, the The Library of Congress director supervised a summer intern provided by the State Dept to create a digitized archive of materials relating to the bombing.

On January 14, 2009, the Field Director accompanied the Ambassador also to the Kenya National Archives to see their Microfilm/Digitization operation and rare or special collections. The purpose of the visit was to explore joint projects and future cooperation.

On January 27, 2009, the Field Director paid a courtesy call to the MacMillan Library with the Ambassador. The purpose of the visit was to explore the possibility of a donation of books by the MacMillan Publishing Company to the library.