

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OFFICE
NAIROBI, KENYA**

**NAIROBI OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS
FISCAL YEAR 2011
(OCTOBER 1, 2010 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2011)**

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**

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AND**

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OFFICE, NAIROBI STAFF

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NAIROBI OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS

FY2011

Acquisitions:

As anticipated, the many months of successive continuing resolutions, the economic situation of many universities and NGOs, and the restricted travel funds again this year contributed to the decline in the total acquisitions figures for the year. The FY2011 total for the Library of Congress acquisitions was 36,952, an overall decline of 5% when compared to last year. The total for the Cooperative Acquisitions Program (AfriCAP) participant acquisitions was 61,652, an overall decrease of 10% when compared to last year. The combined total for The Library of Congress and CAP participants was 98,604 a decrease of 8% overall when compared to last year.

Services to LC and the world of Cataloging:

In FY2011, the Cataloging Section created a total of 3,867 records for monographs, non-book materials and serials. This was an increase of 567 titles (17%) as compared to FY2010. The Cataloging Section had only two monograph catalogers from June through August so to ensure the FY2011 monograph statistics did not suffer too much, one of the monograph catalogers began training the Amharic specialist how to catalog all the materials from Ethiopia. In addition, the serial cataloger also assisted in cataloging monographs. As in the previous year, we are keeping up with the intake of new materials and there was no arrearage. Once we go full bore with whole book cataloging, we anticipate that there could be an arrearage for next year.

In FY2011, a total of 1,565 NARs were created (1,464 from monographs; 101 from serials). This was an increase of 362 records (30%) as compared to FY2010. There were also 273 modified NARs, an increase of 34 records (14%) as compared FY2010.

A new goal was met as the first shipment of twelve fully cataloged, classified and labeled monographs was sent “shelf-ready” to WashDC in August of this year. The Nairobi Office is now creating full bibliographic records with subject analysis, classification and shelving. Some 187 monographic titles were fully cataloged and reviewed by ALAWE cataloging staff. At the end of the fiscal year, the catalogers attained “independent” status for social science classes D, G, H, J, and L.

Fuel prices:

Throughout the year, fuel prices rose dramatically for both automobile transportation and incoming shipments via DHL. The average fuel surcharge for DHL was 15% and petrol prices in Kenya increased about 15% as well.

Fluctuations in currency values and inflationary expenses:

Most of the countries covered by this office experienced considerable currency fluctuations and high inflation rates. Kenya suffered a 15% inflation rate this year alone. Zimbabwe's inflation was so out of control that by 2009 they stopped tracking inflation rates and now use foreign hard currencies instead of printing Zim dollars. Tanzania's inflation rate was nearly 17%, Uganda 11%, Malawi 8%, Madagascar 8.4% and so on...

Visitors to the office and LOC:

The new ambassador to Kenya, Gen. Scott Gration visited the office briefly. Lalit Singh from the New Delhi Office visited for three weeks to assist us during the absence of a budget analyst, for which we are most grateful.

Service to CRS, AMED, LAW:

We continue to send electronic news reports from Ethiopia and Kenya to CRS and AMED almost daily. Over 400 news reports created by State Department's Public Affairs Officers were sent. We uploaded an entire CD-ROM about Tanzania to a library server at the urgent request of a CRS congressional user and later hand carried the print version to the Library. For AMED we sent electronic documents and several links dealing with renewable energy in Kenya upon their request. We continue to send approximately 150 pdf files to the Law Library each year of the Namibia national gazette.

New Internet Service Provider and speedier services:

At the end of the fiscal year we changed internet service providers to the largest in East Africa, SafariCom. They promise more bandwidth for the same price we were previously paying. It remains to be seen if we will actually get any better service. There are some glitches to overcome.

Digitized Table of Contents Project:

LOC Nairobi continues to contribute to the Digitized Table of Contents (DTC) project. This year some 595 titles were selected for the DTC Project, an increase of 36% when compared to the previous year.

Quarterly Index to African Periodical Literature:

At the end of FY 2011, the *Quarterly Index to African Periodical Literature* included just over 51,000 citations. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the index and its final year. Due to advances in technology and budget constraints it is gently being laid to rest. It will continue to reside on our website, but will not be updated.

Services to the Scholarly Community:

AfriCAP (Cooperative Acquisitions Program): The program is gradually shrinking from a peak of 37 participants in 2006 with the number of participants standing at 31 now as two more withdrew from the program this year. Nonetheless, over 61,000 documents were sent and all claims inquiries were addressed. Several institutions requested special purchases outside of their profiles and we accommodated all requests. Nearly 500 duplicate/rejected items from 16 lists (circulars) were requested by and sent to the participants.

The Nairobi Office and FD received a nod of appreciation from Northwestern University for our role in acquiring Obamabilia for their collection and “Africa embracing Obama” exhibit. And the Obamabilia exhibit at AMED still draws viewers and appreciation.

Services to LC/CRL/CAMP for Newspaper Preservation: The office’s role in the preservation of African newspapers cannot be underestimated. A grand total of 22, 902 newspaper issues was received and checked in. Of these, 2, 900 issues were sent directly to LC Washington for treatment. During the past five years, the New Delhi Office has produced over 2,600 master negative reels from Nairobi Office newspapers. During the FY2011, about 450, 000 pages of newspapers were collated and shipped to the New Delhi Office for microfilming. The office also received an additional \$19,000 from the Madison Council to film older newspapers from Tanzania. In total, over 110, 000 pages of newspapers were processed for filming with the Madison Council funds during the year under review.

The FD made two proposals to the CAMP/CRL group for filming older newspapers, but both proposals were shelved due to lack of funds.

Public Service Outreach:

While on an acquisitions trip to Madagascar, the FD gave an evening presentation about LOC to the diplomatic corps in Antanannarivo at the invitation of the Public Affairs Section. Some thirty senior and mid-level diplomats attended.

Senior acquisitions librarian, Terry Ngatia, and collator, Tito Wawire, conducted presentations about acquisitions work and KOHA respectively at a large Kenya Library Association event.

The FD was invited to several meetings at the Kenya National Library Service to discuss plans and modifications for their new and improved public website.

Cataloger Catherine Nyambura was invited to the Office of the Prime Minister Library and offered assistance and advice about how to catalog their new, growing collection of books and serials.

AMED and the LOC/Nairobi FD were interviewed by a journalist from the major Mauritian newspaper “Le Week-end” for an article entitled “U.S. Library of Congress offers tips on saving historic library collections in Mauritius” which appeared in their June 12, 2011 issue.