



**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OFFICE
NAIROBI, KENYA**

**ANNUAL REPORT
HIGHLIGHTS**

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 2010
(October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010)**

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and

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HIGHLIGHTS

Acquisitions:

As anticipated, the economic situation of many universities and the reduction in our travel budget again this year contributed to the decline in the total acquisitions figures for the year. The FY2010 total for the Library of Congress acquisitions was 38,973, an overall decline of 7.5% when compared to last year. The FY2010 total for Cooperative Acquisitions Program (AfriCAP) participant acquisitions was 68,647, an overall decrease of 7.6% when compared to last year. The combined total for The Library of Congress and CAP participants was 107,620, a decline of 7.5% overall when compared to last year.

The office initiated and enabled the special purchase of 25 vintage images (both print and digitized copies) by renowned East African photographer Amin Salim. The images cover many aspects of the independence of Kenya in 1963 and portray the significant actors in the struggle for independence.

After one full year of follow-up work and dogged persistence to obtain a photocopy of the 1909 Mauritius government gazette from the National Library of Mauritius it was finally delivered via our representative in Mauritius. The Law Library considered it outstanding news and a great job on our part, knowing that it would be a long shot to find a 100+ year old copy of this national gazette.

We organized and sent 236 posters to AMED (183), NLM (16), NAL (9) and NYPL (28). Posters are processed as gifts or donations only and deal with a myriad of issues. This year the poster collection included HIV and TB prevention and treatment, women and children's rights, political elections, civil society among other topics.

Services to LC and the world of Cataloging:

The Nairobi Office is now creating full bibliographic records with subject analysis, classification and shelisting. Over 200 monographic titles were fully cataloged and reviewed by ALAWE cataloging staff.

The number of monographs and non-book materials cataloged during FY2010 decreased from 3,534 to 2,809. Of 2,531 monograph records created, 202 of these were whole item cataloging. As in the previous year, we are keeping up with the intake of new materials and there was no arrearage

Fuel prices:

Throughout the year, the fuel surcharge applied by DHL ranged between 11.5% and 13.5% with an average of 12.5%. This had an effect of the shipping cost since this is applied to the cost of the shipment.

Fluctuations in currency values and inflationary expenses:

Most of the countries covered by this office experienced considerable currency fluctuations. To deal with foreign currency issues, we have requested the bib reps to denominate their claims in US\$ whereby they use the prevailing rate at the date of purchase. They are then reimbursed in US\$ to avoid losses with currency fluctuation. In Kenya this year, the US dollar value has fluctuated from 74 Kenyan shillings to the dollar to 81. The LES staff received a salary increase of 10% this year as per a State Department mandate and medical benefits were also increased causing higher medical insurance expenses. The FD residence rent increased by 50% from about \$20,000 p/year to nearly \$30,000 p/year. Shipping rates also went up dramatically as we were denied use of APO/DPO shipping services by State.

Visitors to the office and LOC:

Shalanda Young from the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriation Committee visited the office on Nov. 13, 2009. During her brief visit she learned about the Overseas Offices' functions and budget issues. Edward Miner, an AfriCAP participant representing the University of Iowa spent a week in Nairobi visiting the office several times and gave a presentation to the staff about trends in academic libraries and eGranery. Salim Amin, owner of A24 Media Group and considered a leading young entrepreneur in Kenya, visited the office and the FD later assisted with his travel arrangements to visit the Library of Congress's African and Middle Eastern Division.

Service to Congress' House Democracy Partnership and CRS:

We continue to send electronic news reports from Ethiopia and Kenya to CRS and AMED. We responded to several dozen queries from both offices over the year. The FD followed up with the HDP on progress with the Liberian Legislative Library and was pleased to learn that many of her recommendations for the new facilities were coming to fruition.

New Internet Service Provider and speedier services:

Fiber optics finally arrived in Kenya with a new undersea cable! As soon as funds became available, we subscribed to a new service at the 1MB bandwidth. This has greatly facilitated our use of Momentum, the Internet and other Library of Congress databases. It was the only expense this year that went down: from about \$95,000 for VSat service to about \$15,000 for local ISP services.

Digitized Table of Contents Project:

LOC Nairobi continued to contribute to the digitized table of contents (DTC) project. This year some 437 titles were selected for the DTC Project, a decrease of 54 titles compared to the previous year.

Quarterly Index to African Periodical Literature:

At the end of FY 2010, the *Quarterly Index to African Periodical Literature* included over 50,911 articles from over 700 journals. A total of 2,036 new entries were added during this fiscal year.

Services to the Scholarly Community:

AfriCAP (Cooperative Acquisitions Program): The number of participants stands at 35 as two participants withdrew from the program but Duke University and Princeton came on board.

Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science: The third edition was published this year along with the articles for Brazil and Kenya that the FD reported on in last year's report.

Services to LC/CRL/CAMP for Newspaper Preservation:

The office continues to play a significant role in the preservation of African newspapers. A total of 24,379 newspaper issues were received and checked in. Over 600,000 pages were collated and shipped to LC/New Delhi Office and about 88,000 pages were shipped to CRL for microfilming with CAMP funding. In addition, 4,810 newspaper issues were sent directly to LC Washington for microfilming.

During the fall CAMP meeting, a total of \$19,626 was approved to film older Cameroonian newspapers. At the spring meeting, another \$14,969 was approved to film older Zimbabwean papers. The total CAMP funding this year amounted to \$34,595 which is much appreciated and helped to reduce our newspaper backlog considerably.

Public Service Outreach:

Although not a mission priority for this office, outreach to Muslim youth is a high priority of the US Embassy in Kenya. To support this activity, the FD conducted a story hour for some 200 Muslim children and youths using free Somali/English books espied at the 2009 National Book Festival and obtained from the Minnesota Humanities Organization. The session was a huge success with good local newspaper and television coverage. A similar session was conducted at the Kenya National Library of Kisumu for 175 school children using the *14 Cows for America* book.

PC Donation to SIDAREC: Once again, we donated several used but still useful PCs and monitors to the Slums Information Development Resource Centre for use in their new library and cyber-cafe. This was done via the Public Affairs Section since they alone have authorization to effect such donations to local educational facilities.

Second Life exhibit tribute to the African Section coordinated by IT specialists of CLIR. At AMED's request for this exhibit, we sent scanned images of our office visitor's register from attendees at the 1984 IFLA meeting held in Nairobi, photos from the Beverly Gray visit and images of nearly all office field directors since the office was set up in 1966. Obamabilia sent from the office during FY09 and FY10 figured prominently in the 50th anniversary celebration of AMED.