



# Library Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 2

MARCH 1997

## Libraries to Support the Visually Impaired

Visually impaired people will benefit from library services in Kenya, following a series of successful workshops mounted by the Kenya Society for the Blind with support from the British Council.

And apart from supporting the training of librarians countrywide on how to work with visually impaired clients, the British Council is also planning to equip all Kenya National Library Services (KNLS) libraries with Perkins brailers and other materials for use by the unsighted.

The first two workshops for top management of KNLS and other libraries were held last February at the Resurrection Garden, Karen. Apart from KNLS, participants also came from the University of Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library, Moi University, and Tambach, Kaimosi, Machakos and Egoji Teacher Training Colleges. Others came from Kericho, Kagumo and Highridge Teacher Training Colleges, Baraton University, the Kenya School of Law and the Catholic University.

ians covered such areas as eye care and causes of blindness, government policy on visually impaired persons, the creation of barrier-free environment for the unsighted, rehabilitation and reading and writing basic braille. It also covered the resources and services available for the visually impaired, how to adapt and modify the reading environment, implications of visual impairment and the skills of orientation and mobility for blind people. In addition, the participants had lectures on production of braille books, on how to deal with low vision persons and how to assess visually impaired people and take appropriate intervention and referral measures.

The Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library was represented

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The training of the librar-

*Mrs Gladys Nyagah, a special education consultant, shows a librarian how to sight-guide the blind.*



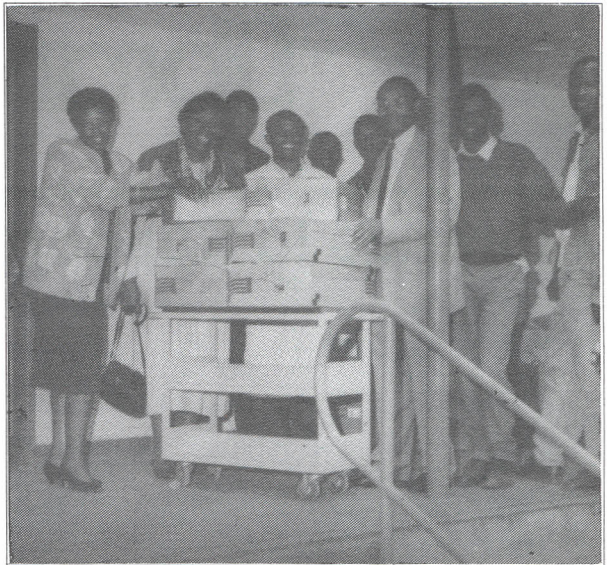
## The Challenge of Offering Library Service

The theme of the second issue of the *University of Nairobi Library Newsletter* is, appropriately, service to users. The measure of success achieved by the library is determined by the type of service given to users. In this regard, an evaluation of our library operations and services would be seeking to establish the extent to which the information needs of the university community are met.

It follows that activities that generally centre on the development of the collection and its management provide the base upon which the service will be set. It is important to always remember that the activities mentioned above should not mistakenly be viewed as an end unto themselves but rather as the means for facilitating the proper utilization of the available resources.

Over the years the University of Nairobi Library has developed its housekeeping activities to an enviable level. The acquisitions, cataloguing and classifying processes have advanced to a relatively high standard. However, we must be careful not to become complacent and lose that which it has taken us all these years to accomplish!. In this connection, the necessary grounding for an effective service in properly in place. The traditional user services consisting of lending, reserving of materials in high demand, inter library loans, etc. are similarly well established. This notwithstanding, the full range of resources in the University of Nairobi Library remains unexploited. For example, the high demand for materials on reserve, including a number of popular titles and photocopies of articles or chapters from certain books, poses a major problem to library staff. On the other hand, however, official publications among them sessional papers, statistical abstracts, development plans and economic reviews, all of which carry important information and data on all sectors of the country's development, are hardly used.

Librarians have, through their training and experi-



*The University Librarian, Mrs. M. Kimani (second left) receiving donations for the library.*

ence, acquired vast knowledge and expertise in all areas pertaining to information and its use. The implied challenge is to apply these in designing methods and ways that ensure that the potential use of library resources is fully realized. Some of the more basic questions that we need to think about refer to the role of I.T. and the computerization of our services. There is also the need to work towards more integration and involvement in the academic programmes.

It is our interest to work out innovative ways of serving our library users since we shall get professional satisfaction from knowing that most of our users information needs are actually met.

### Services Available to Users

- Lending of resources
- Reservations
- Photocopying
- Binding of theses and term papers
- Search of information
- Preparing bibliographies for teaching staff.
- Offering user education
- Answering general research queries
- Providing international universities prospectuses



FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

## Welcome to the *Library Newsletter*

Welcome to the second edition of the *University of Nairobi Library Newsletter*. The main objective of this issue is rendering quality library services.

We are pleased to inform our users that in time we shall automate our library. We are indebted to Mrs. E. Kimani, the librarian who wanted to see the second issue of this newsletter before she started her leave of absence.

We acknowledge the contribution of the Acting University Librarian and the library staff. The advisory role played by the staff of School of Journalism is also acknowledged.

We are also grateful to the editorial committee for their commitment to the newsletter.

The members of the committee include Mrs

E. Kimani, University Librarian; the Chairman, D.U.L. Tech. Mr,

J.M Mulwa; Mrs J. Were; Mr H.O. Otundo, Mr. J.M. Ongany and the editor, Rev S.W.N. Mungai.



*The Editor, Rev Mungai*

Rev S.W.N. Mungai  
**Editor**

## STAFF NEWS

### On Leave

Mrs. M. E.. Kimani, the University Librarian, has been on leave of absence in the U.S. since August 1996. Miss. S. Mathangani is now the Acting University Librarian. She has been the Deputy University Librarian (Administration.)

Mr. M. J. Ongany is the Acting Deputy University Librarian. He was formerly the College Librarian, College of Engineering and Architecture. Mrs. A. Noreh is the Acting College librarian, College of Engineering and Architecture.

The following members of library staff are on study leave: Mrs. G. Irura is in the College of Education and External Studies, studying for a masters degree in Education Administration. Mr. F. Khayundi is in College of Humanities and Social Sciences, studying for a masters degree in Anthropology.

Mr H. A. Liyai is in School of Journalism, studying for a Postgraduate Diploma in Mass Communication. Mrs N. Chacha is in the Economics Department at the University of Nairobi, studying for a masters degree in Economics.

### Current Promotions

Mrs. W. Gikenye has been promoted from Librarian to senior Librarian. Mr. R. N. Chacha has been promoted from Librarian to Senior Librarian.

Mr. P. Matanji has been promoted from Librarian to Senior Librarian.

### Appointments

Mr. J. Chepkwony was appointed as a Librarian from Kenya National Library Services. Mr. G. M. King'ori was appointed as a Librarian from K.T.T.C. where he was the Head of Library Department. Mr Ruben Mwangi Kamonde was appointed as a Librarian. He had previously worked with us until 1991 when he became Acting University College Librarian at Jomo Kenyatta University College of Agriculture and Technology (1981-1991). He then worked as a Serials Librarian for the U.S Library of Congress, Nairobi, until he joined us in October 1996.

20 Library Assistants were promoted from Grade III/IV to ABC.



# Libraries to Support the Visually Impaired

## From page 1

Mr. Matthews Jack Ong'ny, the Acting Deputy University Librarian (Administration).

The resource people were drawn from the Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB), Kenyatta University, the Kenya Institute of Education (KIE), Research in Civic Awareness Programme (RECAP), the Kenya National Library Services (KNLS), the Machakos Blind Trade Training Centre, Sight Savers International, the Christoffel-Blindenmission and the Ministry of Culture and Social Services.

Among the major issues raised at the workshop were the lack of Government policy on the visually handicapped, the need for professionals to be appointed to head programmes for the handicapped and the need for a complete change of attitude towards the visually impaired.

Training of librarians on how to relate with visually handicapped library users and the creation of a visually-impaired-friendly library atmosphere also emerged as priority issues.

Among the recommendations made at the workshops was the immediate formation of a Librarians Committee on Library Services for the Visually Impaired. The committee would be incorporated into sub-committee of the National Council for Education of the Visually Impaired (NCEVI).

Following the recommendation, the Librarians Committee was formed comprising of Kenya National Library Services, Theological and Teacher Training Colleges, Public and Private Universities, Kenya Society for the Blind, the

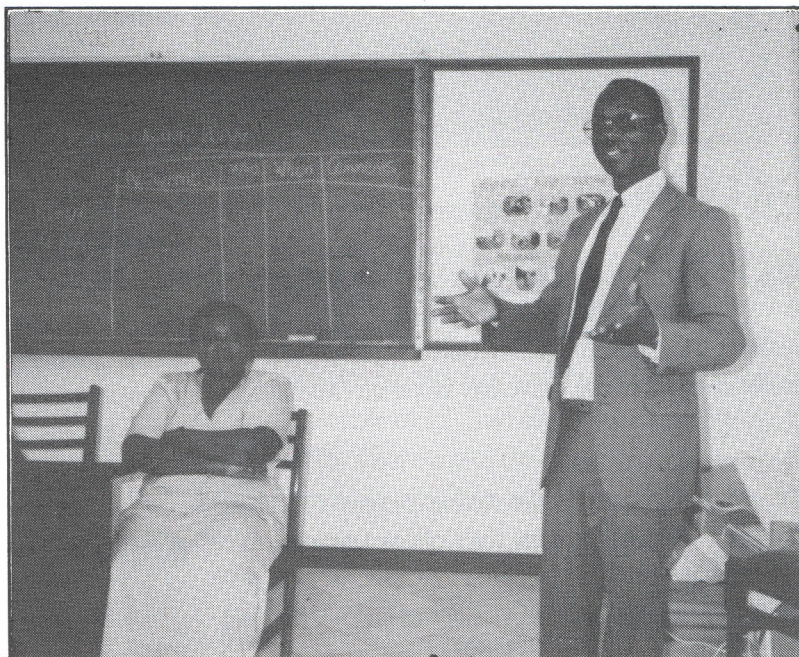
School of Law and the British Council.

The committee's interim officials are Kenya National Library Services (Chairperson), Kenya Society for the Blind (Secretary), The British Council (member), University of Nairobi (member) and Highridge Teacher Training College (member).

The committee was mandated to co-opt any other members.

The workshops were opened by the Kenya Society for the Blind Director, Mr Wilson Noreh, who explained the mandate of the NGO and its achievements. They were closed by Mr Charles Otieno, an Assistant Commissioner of Social Services, on behalf of the Commissioner.

The workshops were organised and co-ordinated by Mrs Mary Kimathi of Kenya Society for the Blind.



*Mr Matthews Jack Ong'ny, the Deputy University Librarian (Administration) passing a vote of thanks at the closure of the workshop.*

## Are Librarians Over-exposed to Radiation?

Television addicts may like to reflect on the fact that their radiation exposure may be less than that of dedicated readers of glossy magazines. The chemicals used to make paper feel smoother and look whiter contain small amounts of thorium and radium. Exposure to such paper at a distance of 14 inches may entail exposure of around three billionths of a rem per hour. This, though very low, is still twenty times the dose received by a TV viewer who sits twelve feet away from the screen, according to scientists at West Germany's Karlsruhe Nuclear Research Institute.

Definition: **Rem**: a measurement of the biological effect of radiation.



## THE ACQUISITION SECTION

# Varsity Library Receives Book Donations



*The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Francis Gichaga, addressing guests after receiving book donations.*

The University of Nairobi Library is in constant search for sources of new titles to include in our library stock. The library's Acquisitions Section has received quite a number of books from various sources:

### **Book Aid**

From this source we have so far received a total of 220 volumes. In addition, we have also received 88 new issues of journals.

### **World Vision Kenya**

This organisation has taken an interest in the University of Nairobi Library and has donated 11,125 volumes so far. The first donation was in early 1995 and the second was in November last year.

### **Teachers for Africa Kenya**

This is a voluntary organisation under the directorship of Dr Bean. They have been teaching various subjects in the University and have donated about 1038 volumes to secondary, and primary schools.

### **Soka Gakkai International**

The library selected titles (in co-operation with the teaching staff) and choose its own supplier who was paid by the Soka Gakkai International after delivery. 501 new books were added to the stock through this kind donation.

The library and teaching staff selected titles and chose a supplier who was paid by the Soka Gakkai International

after delivery.

### **Code International**

This is a social science collection within Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library. The books were donated on the understanding that they would be put together as a collection to be used not only by the University community but also other interested members of the public. From this source 135 volumes have been received, processed and are in use in Humanities and Social Science section of the library on the second floor.

### **Universities Investment Project (World Bank)**

This has been by far the most important of all the sources mentioned. It is a project administered by the Ministry of Education for public universities and the individual universities are actively involved in selection, compilation of tender documents and evaluation. It was initially a five-year project (1991-1995) <sup>comprising 3 phases</sup> composing three phases but due to delays it has been extended to mid 1997. Books for phases 1 and 2 have been received and are in use in the library. Phase 3 is in the final stages. From phases 1 and 2 the library has added to stock 5,837 titles 15,004 volumes.

In addition to the above sources, the library continues to receive donations from several other sources and also the usual orders using the university's limited funds.



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## THE PERIODICALS SECTION

# How the JKML has Been Forging Ahead

The section continues to be active both as a service point and for co-ordinating the selection, purchase and processing of both subscriptions and other journals so acquired.

Recently, most of the popular magazines normally issued at the Reserve Section were transferred to Periodicals Office for security reasons. This has greatly increased the volume of users within the section. Provision of popular magazines, daily papers and other journals therefore continues to be successfully achieved.

Acquisition of learned journals on subscription has been, and continues to be, a problem for the past few years. Journals have been acquired through purchase, donations, gifts and exchange. Gifts and donations from various friends of the university at the moment consist of 75% of our total acquisitions annually.

These come in various forms:

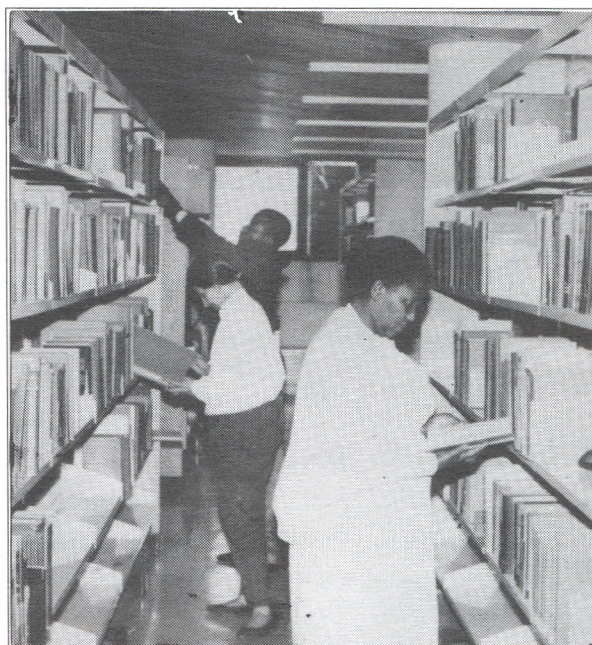
- Past issues that help us fill in missing gaps in our collection, probably done while a good friend is clearing shelves and donate their personal collection of journals, or on an organised basis where one gives us free subscription to journals for a given length of time.
- There are also organized groups that give us many journals, both current and past issues. It is on this last group that we have greatly relied for our journals.

The American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AASS) has so far been the biggest donor of scientific journals to the university system. In total, this group donates about titles that are distributed mainly to Chiromo, Medical and Kabete libraries.

Through this, the AASS has managed to maintain subscription for us on many titles while at the same time providing some past issues of their journals.

The African Journals Distribution Programme (AJDP)

is another programme that is relatively new. Twenty university libraries in English-speaking Africa were invited to select upto a maximum of 12 scholarly journals published in African countries. The libraries receive these subscriptions free of charge annually. This programme is sponsored by the ODA and is co-ordinated by none other than Diana Rosenberg, the former Dean of the Faculty of Information Sciences at Moi University, based at the International African Institute, London. Our list of journals in AJDP



*JKML users checking for books: Some Reserve material transferred to Periodicals for security reasons.*

includes:

- *African Administrative Studies*  
Morocco
- *African Crop Science Journal*  
Uganda
- *Central African Journal of Medicine*  
Zimbabwean
- *Education with Production*  
Botswana
- *Ghana Journals of Agricultural Science*  
Ghana



- *IFM Journal of Financial Management*  
Tanzania
- *Journal of African Religion and Philosophy*  
Uganda
- *Journal of Human Rights Law and Practice*  
Nigeria
- *Journal of Pure and Applied Science*  
Siera Leone
- *Journal of Social Development in Africa*  
Zimbabwe
- *Legon Journal of Humanities*  
Ghana
- *Zimbabwe Veterinary Journal*  
Zimbabwe

The condition of selection for these titles was that any title selected must not have already been received

by the library concerned, either through subscription or exchange. Most of these journals have been received since late 1994 but due to irregular publishing in some countries, some have not arrived despite full payment by the AJDP organisers.

We have also received, and continue to receive, Canadian publications through the Canadian government. Other donations and gifts have come from various groups and individuals. To all these we are grateful as they have kept us going through a very difficult period.

The library continued, as is the policy, to acquire most of the locally published journals, magazines and newspapers. If one knows of useful local publications that we do not acquire, please sound us up.

## Recent Journal Articles

The library has received reprints of some recent articles from the American Centre Library in Nairobi. We believe these will be of interest especially to members of staff in your Department and the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies. For easy access, the articles are kept in the Humanities and Social Sciences office on the second floor of Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library.

### Recent Articles From USIS Library Available in Humanities and Social Science Section, JKML

1. Barnet, J. Richard. "Still Putting Arms First", *Harper Magazine*, February 1993.
2. Besen, N. Stanley & Baskind J. Leo. "An Introduction to the Law and Economics of Intellectual Property". *Journal of Economic Perspectives - Vol. 5, No. 1 - Winter 1991* p. 3-27.
3. Callaghy, N. Thomas. "Africa: Falling off the Map?" *Current History* - January 1994.
4. Diamond, Larry. "The Global Imperative: Building a Demographic World Order." *Current History, vol. 93, No. 579, January 1994.*
5. Drucker, P. Peter. "Really Reineventing Government". *Atlantic Monthly*, February 1995
6. Paraham, Alan. "Managing Your Career/Special Report: Are You Smart?" *Fortune* - January 15, 1996.
7. Kraft, E. Michael. "Ecology and Political Theory: Broadening the Scope of Environmental Politics". *E/CLB Article Alert Issue No. 818.*
8. Nzongola-Ntalaja, George. "Zaire I: Moving Beyond Mobutu" *Current History*, May 1994.
9. Rabin, Steve. "How to Sell Across Culture". *American Demographics* - March 1994.
10. Rotberg, I. Robert. "The Clinton Administration and Africa." *Current History*, Vol. 92, No. 574, May 1993
11. Schraeder, J. Peter. Speaking With Many Voices: Continuity and Change in U.S. Africa Policies." *The journal of Modern African Studies*, 29,3 (1991), pp. 373-412
12. "Staddon, John on Responsibility and Punishment." *Atlantic Monthly*. February 1995.
13. Taber, Charles. "Poli: An expert System Model of U.S. Foreign Policy Belief." *American Political Science Review* Vol. 86, No. 4 December 1992.

*Thematic  
reference*



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# The Recoscix - WIO Project

The Regional Co-operation in Scientific Information Exchange in the Western Indian Ocean (RECOSCIX-WIO) Project is funded by the Belgian Government, executed by the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute and the Limburg University Centre, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO, Paris, France). Chiromo Library was selected as one of the co-operating information centres with RECOSCIX-WIO in 1993.

The Objectives of RECOSCIX-WIO Project are to provide marine scientists in the WIO region up to date scientific literature, and to make better use of the scientific information available in the region and to publicize the region's scientists and institutions scientific activities and accomplishments.

Additional objectives are to create closer links between marine scientists through disseminating information on each others scientific activities and accomplishments, through improved awareness of the region's information capabilities, to generate contacts between this region and others and, through closer contacts between this region and other regions, to stimulate collaborative international projects and thus attract outside funding, assisting institutions and scientists of the

WIO region in their scientific activities.

The project is managed by the Regional Despatch Centre, which is hosted by the Kenya Marine Fisheries Institute, Mombasa.

The activities of the project include providing marine scientists with up to date literature. The project provides services in query handling, to identify publications on specific topics that are of interest to marine scientists and in document delivery, to provide copies of publications.

Through a network of over 20 co-operating libraries in Canada, India, Belgium, France, Italy, Philippines, United States, Fiji, United Kingdom, The Netherlands and Kenya, copies of scientific publication can be obtained.

The project has also allocated some funding for books. This year Chiromo Library received five books from the project.

The project also subscribes to eight periodicals. These are Bulletin of Marine Science, Indian Journal of Fisheries, Indian Journal of Marine sciences, Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, Limnology and Oceanography, Mahasagar, Marine ecology, and Nature and Science.



## Welfare Team Moves on...

*The Library Welfare Committee, popularly known as Maktaba Associates, is very active. It takes care of the library staff and their immediate relatives. It emphasizes teamwork and unity. Left, Mrs L. Kimani addressing a staff get-together meeting.*



To provide marine scientists with up-to-date news of articles published in these current journals, the project distributes WIO Current which consists of the content tables of the journals. These are sent to the libraries/information centres of the co-operating institutions free of charge.

The products of the project include WIODIR a directory of marine scientists of Western Indian Ocean. It holds logistical information on over 200 scientists of the region. They also include WIOLIB (Western Indian Ocean Library Database) which contains materials stored in the co-operating institutions libraries. These are mainly journal articles, monographs, and "grey literature". WIOLIB database is a computer-searchable database of library holdings of the WIO region. WIOLIB has two databases: the serial holdings database and the collective catalogue. The serial holdings database is used primarily to enable the region to utilise its own serial holds effectively and to save time and money in obtaining journal articles or copies from outside. The latter is to enable the

scientists from WIO and other regions to make use of the "grey" literature.

But as from August 1995, the WIO LIB was changed to ASFA-Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts. ASFA is the product of Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System. Hence our task is to identify and collect document, input them and send the diskette to KMFRI/RECOSCIX - WIO Regional Input Centre, who will then send the disk to Rome (FAO) who edit and send the same to the publishers (Cambridge Scientific Abstracts) in U.S.A for the production of ASFA CD-ROM. (ASFA) CD-ROM in use at RECOSCIX-WIO, RDC, Mombasa, is a product of a Silver Platter Information Retrieval Systems. It is available for use by all Marine Scientists in the WIO region.

- WINDOW (which stands for Western Indian Ocean Waters) is not a scientific journal. It is a journal used for publicizing the region's institutions and scientists. It is meant to inform developed countries of the scientific activities of the WIO scientists.

## FACTS

### **Youngest undergraduate and graduate**

- The most extreme recorded case of undergraduate juvenility was that of William Thomson (1824-1907), later Lord Kelvin, O.M, G.C.V.O, who entered Glasgow University aged 10 years 4 months in October 1834 and matriculated on 14 November 1834.
- Dr Merrill Kenneth Wolf (b.28 Aug. 1931) of Cleveland Ohio took his BA in music from Yale University in September 1945 in the month of his 14th birthday.
- Miss Mabel Fitzgerald received an honorary M.A. degree from Oxford University on 14

December 1972 aged 100 years 113 days in recognition of work on the 19th century before the School of Physiology was open to women.

### **Oldest Old Schooltie**

The practice of wearing distinctive neckties bearing the colours or registered designs of schools, universities, sports clubs, regiments, etc, appear to date from around 1880. The practice originated in Oxford University in which boarer bands were converted into use as "ribbon ties". The earliest definitive evidence stems from an order for Exeter College dated 25th June, 1880.



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# A Look at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences Library

## Background

The CAVS library, known as the Upper Kabete Library, is one of the six college libraries of the University of Nairobi Library System. The history of the library is interwoven with the establishment of the Kabete Campus which goes back to 1962, when the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was moved from Uganda's Makerere University College, to the then Royal Technical College Nairobi (now the University of Nairobi). Although Kabete Library was properly set up in 1970, the library's current building was occupied in 1983.

## Mission

The mission of Kabete library is to support the teaching, learning and research activities of CAVS through the provision of relevant information resources and services.

## Stock

The library stock consists of some 40,000 volumes of books, inclusive of bound journals. Some of

these bound journals have back runs going back to the 1960's. The library further receives as donations/bibliographies, reference works and abstracting and indexing journals.

## Services

The library serves undergraduate and post graduate students, as well as the teaching staff of the CAVS. The core activities of the library are lending and receiving library materials, undertaking literature searches, providing reference services, and the teaching of library information skills to undergraduate and post-graduate students. The library is currently manned by two professional librarians and over ten para-professionals.

## Capacity

Kabete library has a sitting capacity of 300 readers. In addition, it has 10 study carrels on the ground floor that are normally assigned to post graduate students. The library opens daily from 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m during term time, and 8:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m during vacation time.

## Efforts to Improve User Service...

Our work in the library is directly related to user's needs.

We provide search service at request, prepare bibliographies as well to support research, answer directional queries, answer locational queries, teach use of public catalogue and reference sources. What else would you like us to provide?

We are working hard to standardize our work and get things done right the first time. We wish to automate our services. We wish to have CD-ROM databases in the on-line public access catalogue. Yes, we would like to be connected to INTERNET and other databases. But where are the funds to provide such wonderful services?

Donors, where are you to donate a few computers to our library to provide students service? Assist us to provide quality customers' service to meet the needs of our users.

Our library exists to serve our students, lecturers, professors and researchers in support of their work. We encourage them to list areas where our library could be more helpful and also make recommendations for improving our services.

Although the economy seems not to be in our favour, let us appreciate the services the library and staff are able to offer.



# The Environmental Socio-Economics “Mini” Library

The Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) recently donated over 100 titles in the field of Environmental Socio-economics. The donation was under IDRC Project, Basic Collection in Social Policy for Africa which seeks to help build institutional research capacity in selected African institutions. The ultimate aim is to find solutions to social, economic and environmental problems.

For easy access, the books have been organised in a special collection. The Mini Library is located in the Humanities and Social Sciences section on the second floor of the Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library.

The collection comprises recent scientific publications that are relevant in the African context. The sectors covered include:

- Social policy
- State-civil society relations
- Social and economic policy
- Social policy research
- Post-conflict social reconstruction
- Environmental studies
- Sustainable development

## For specialised Information, Contact

For specialised information contact:

- Branch librarians in Medical Library.
- Kikuyu Education Library
- Upper Kabete Agriculture Library
- Parklands Law Library
- Architecture and Engineering Library
- Lower Kabete Commerce Library
- Chiromo Science Library
- Institute of Development Studies
- Population Studies and Research Institute
- Institute of African Studies and
- Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies





The Medical Library is now connected to

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INTERNET.**

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HEALTHNET**

Office and ask for a demonstration  
on how to send and receive

**E-mail, Conduct  
MEDLINE searches, surf the  
World Wide Web (WWW) and  
much more**

We are open every day from Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm