

	<p style="text-align: right;">Date : 25/05/2007</p> <p>Presentation for Panel on African Newspapers: Access and Technology</p> <p><b>Initiatives in Kenya for Digitizing, Indexing and Preserving Newspapers</b></p> <p><b>Pamela Howard-Reguindin</b> Field Director Library of Congress Office Nairobi, Kenya <a href="mailto:PamelaHR@loc.gov">PamelaHR@loc.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Meeting:</b></p>	<p><b>103 Newspapers</b></p>
<p><b>Simultaneous Interpretation:</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS: 73RD IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL</b> 19-23 August 2007, Durban, South Africa <a href="http://www.ifla.org/iv/ifla73/index.htm">http://www.ifla.org/iv/ifla73/index.htm</a></p>	

**Abstract:**

*In my presentation/paper I propose to cover the effects of technology on Kenyan newspapers and the status of digitization of these newspapers, the “Indexkenya.org Project” and what the Library of Congress Nairobi Office is doing about older runs of sub-Saharan African newspapers. The two major Kenyan dailies are taking full advantage of the new technologies available to them and offer online access via aggregators' websites and a variety of digital services including SMS-ing of news headline. They also have plans for bringing up older editions of their newspapers online.*

*The Indexkenya Project selectively indexes a number of Kenyan newspapers, starting from 1980, digitizes the articles and makes them available for a modest price to researchers. The Library of Congress Office, Nairobi has been collecting newspapers since it opened in 1966. Many newspaper titles from some 29 sub-Saharan countries are currently microfilmed by the Library, but many more remain in our backlog. Although LC is committed to retaining and microfilming these newspapers, we need to enter into cooperative agreements or partnerships to pay for future preservation of these titles. Last year, in cooperation with the Cooperative Africana Microfilm Project and the Center for Research Libraries, we managed to microfilm some 45,000 pages of Malawian newspapers from 1985-2005 but we have older newspapers from many other countries still in need of preservation. I will also discuss the challenges LC has in digitizing newspapers in general.*

## Digitized Kenyan Newspapers

There are two major English-language Kenyan independent daily newspapers, the *Daily Nation*, Kenya's leading newspaper owned by the Aga Khan and published by the Nation Media Group, and the *Standard* (formerly *East African Standard*), which is Kenya's oldest newspaper, published by the Standard Group. Both have been available online since 2002. Currently, the online holdings for the *Daily Nation* date back to 1998 and for *The Standard* to 2002. The leading regional weekly *The East African*, published by Nation Media Group is also available online with files going back to 1998. *Taifa Leo*, also published by Nation Media Group, is the only Swahili newspaper online and is only available through NewsStand. (need to check how far back avail online...) The newest addition to Kenyan online newspapers "born digital" and launched in March 2007, *Business Daily*, also published by Nation Media Group, promises to be a smashing success considering the current interest level in entrepreneurship in the country.

All of these newspapers have embraced new technologies to produce their newspapers, to distribute their content and to archive their earlier editions. The managing editors of both the *Daily Nation* and *Standard* realize that they must adopt new technology or fall into oblivion as has happened with some of their competitors. They are using new software to produce their newspapers as "born digital" materials, and use mobile phones and text messages of headlines as teasers to promote and increase sales of both the online and hard copies. They have also signed agreements with online aggregators such as NewsStand and NewspaperDirect to increase sales on a worldwide basis and RSS feeds as well. Their strategy is working and both newspaper editors report that sales of online, as well as hardcopy issues are growing.



Already they perceive that younger readers are demanding better website interfaces for their online versions and recognize that online newspapers must be enhanced or reformatted for better display and that simply reproducing the printed version (as is the

case so far with *Taiifa Leo*) is not acceptable. The *Daily Nation* is working on a new website “Nation Digital” that will include text messages via mobile phones, online news/chat rooms, RSS, and new specialized announcements and services such as sports scores, stock prices, and horoscopes. *The Standard* reports that they are currently getting around three million hits per day for their website, most coming from outside of Kenya, but a steadily increasing number from within the country as internet access penetrates more Kenyan businesses, schools and households.

*The Standard* has microfilmed copies of its newspaper from 1902-1990 and does have plans to digitize the entire run as funds become available. The *Daily Nation* also has plans to digitize all runs back to 1960 but is running into problems with compatibility issues with the former production system, funding and search features.

### **Kenya Indexing Project for Newspapers**

This project was initiated by the former director of the Library of Congress Office in Nairobi, Kenya upon her retirement from the Library, Ruth Anna Thomas. A well-known figure in the arena of Africana library services, she noted the complete absence of online newspaper indexing in Kenya and perceived the need for subject access to Kenya’s older newspapers, especially in the area of cultural affairs. In 2001, she was granted funding from the Ford Foundation to open an office, purchase equipment, hire staff and get the project underway.

The initial objective of the project was to compile a computer-based index of the articles published in the major Nairobi newspapers from 1980 onwards covering the cultural affairs of this country including mainly music, dance, theater, literature and art. Subsequently the topics covered by the index expanded to include reproductive health, law/governance affairs, and various other topics about which information relevant to Kenya is rather difficult to obtain such as, child labor, pensions, copyright and others. A short term grant was secured from the International Development Research Centre to do the legal indexing but as of 2003, the Ford Foundation funded all of the indexing being undertaken.

This unique computer-based index is mounted on the website <http://www.Indexkenya.org> and is updated on a regular basis. The office staff searches the newspapers to identify relevant articles, inputs the basic citation for each article selected, photocopies and scans each article and archives the copies, assigns subject access terms using the *Library of*



*Congress Subject Headings* thesaurus, proofread and edit entries. The database is searchable by the following fields:

- Author and title of the article
- Title, date and issue number of the newspaper
- Author and title of any book reviewed
- Banner title pertaining to a number of individual articles
- Subject terms relevant to the content of the article.

To date, there are approximately 70,000 articles indexed from 1982-2002 that have been indexed and edited. Of these, nearly 27,000 articles are presently cited on the website. The newspapers being indexed selectively are: *Daily Nation*, *The East African* and *The Standard*. Copies of the actual articles reflected in the index may be ordered through the Document Delivery Service of the Indexing Project at [info@Indexkenya.org](mailto:info@Indexkenya.org).

In late 2005, the Ford Foundation Office in Nairobi asked the Kenya Index project to produce a spin-off database in CD-Rom format of the newspaper articles concerned with gender issues published from 1985-2005. The CD contains some 3,651 digitized images of the actual articles from seven Nairobi newspapers.



The project director sought a legal opinion in Kenya about the legality of including the full content of the newspaper articles on the CD. The advice obtained made it clear that as long as credit was given to the journalist and newspaper that published the article, and that the CD would not be sold and was for educational use only, the provision of “fair use” in copyright law would allow the inclusion of the full content of the articles. Some 3,000 copies of the CD were made by the Human Info organization in Romania and distributed free of charge in Kenya. One thousand CDs were given to the participants of the Gender Conference held in Nairobi on 28 October 2006 and the others were given to university libraries. If you would like a copy, email the project at the address above

### **Activities of the Library of Congress Nairobi Office for Newspaper Preservation**

The systematic and assiduous acquisition, processing and preservation of an increasing number of sub-Saharan African newspapers have been important functions of the Library of Congress Office, Nairobi since it opened in 1966. Once the newspapers have been acquired they enter several different streams for further processing and microfilming. Some are sent directly to the Library of Congress for microfilming, others are sent to the New Delhi office for microfilming and later the processes film is shipped to the Library in Washington, D.C. Other, newer titles are retained in the office for eventual filming whenever funds become available. Hundreds, if not thousands, of newspaper titles from some 29 sub-Saharan countries have already been microfilmed and dozens more are filmed on an annual basis by the Library and its office in New Delhi, India. In spite of this laudable work, many more newspaper titles and corresponding issues remain in our ever-growing backlog as evidenced in these pictures.



David Mbaya sorts thousands of newspaper issues per year for the Library and 35 AfriCAP libraries.

Currently, there are 10 sub-Saharan titles being sent directly to the Library in Washington, DC for treatment. (See: [www.loc.gov/acq/ovop/nairobi/lc\\_npapers.html](http://www.loc.gov/acq/ovop/nairobi/lc_npapers.html) for the list). Another 115 titles are sent to the Library's office in New Delhi where the Library maintains a substantial microfilming operation with several cameras and camera operators working overtime to film as much as possible. (See: [www.loc.gov/acq/ovop/nairobi/nd\\_npapers.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/acq/ovop/nairobi/nd_npapers.pdf))

Although LC is committed to retaining and microfilming these newspapers, we need to enter into cooperative agreements to underwrite the future preservation of these titles. Last year, in cooperation with the Cooperative Africana Microfilm Project and the Center for Research Libraries, we managed to microfilm some 45,000 pages of Malawian newspapers from 1985-2005 at a cost of about \$20,000 but we have older newspapers from many other countries in our backlog still in dire need of preservation before they turn into dust.

It is also worth noting, that the Nairobi Office also supplies dozens of newspaper titles to major U.S. academic libraries via the AfriCAP (Africa Cooperative Acquisitions Program). The chart below indicates the countries covered. The Nairobi Office does acquire newspapers from other African countries for LC, but not necessarily for all AfriCAP participants.

*Countries Covered by the AfriCAP for  
Newspapers...*

<b>BOISWANA</b>	<b>BURUNDI</b>	
Cameroon	Ghana	<b>KENYA</b>
Malawi	Mauritius	Namibia
<i>Rwanda</i>	Senegal	
<b>Swaziland</b>	Tanzania	<b>UGANDA</b>
<b>ZAMBIA</b>	Zimbabwe	

In partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Library is participating in the National Digital Newspaper Program which aims to digitize historically significant U.S. newspapers from 1836-1922 (the cutoff date for copyright-free materials in the public domain). However, because of copyright issues and restrictions, the Library's Overseas Offices have not yet initiated systematic digitization of these newspapers. We do selectively scan articles upon request, mostly for lawyers doing *pro bono* work on behalf of asylum seekers or new immigrants. We do seem to be even at risk for microfilming, much less digitizing. For example, when an Indian newspaper threatened a copyright infringement lawsuit in Indian courts against the Library for having microfilmed their newspaper, the Library's Office of General Counsel recommended that the New Delhi office cease and desist microfilming the newspaper. This was an extreme case as, in general, we assume that we are covered for microfilming by "fair use" laws. However, since libraries are not copyright holders of newspaper content, it would seem that digitization of these materials must wait until the copyright holders themselves, or rather the newspaper owners, agree to digitize their papers alone or in agreement with commercial or other partners.

In closing, it appears that Kenyan newspaper publishers are well informed and keeping abreast with trends in digitizing their news outlets. As Internet access gains momentum, the expectation is that sales will go up and their newspapers will be even more widely read, either electronically or in hardcopy. A harbinger of indexing and better access to Kenyan newspapers is the Kenyaindex.org Project, which is proceeding well at the moment. Funding is always a challenge and it is expected that specialized projects will help to keep this project going. The Library of Congress Nairobi Office will continue to collect, microfilm and preserve sub-Saharan African newspapers and search for new partners to enhance access to these valuable primary resource materials. One possible role of Kenyan librarians would be to encourage the newspaper managers to offer internet access to full content of the articles free of charge to Kenyan schools and universities.

Indeed, this could be a role for any national African library association. Many journal publishers located in the U.S. and Europe are now allowing internet users in developing countries to access full content of journal articles without charge. If this open access could be offered to Kenya newspaper readers, the information in the daily press could strengthen efforts in governance and democratization, literacy and responsible civic leadership.