

The Mission of the Library of Congress

The Library's mission is to make its resources available and useful to the Congress and the American people and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for future generations.

James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress

Countries Covered

- Angola
- Botswana
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Comoros
- Congo (D.R.)
- Djibouti
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mayotte
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Reunion
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Somalia
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe



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www.loc.gov
www.lcweb.loc.gov/acq/ovop/nairobi

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Cooperative Acquisitions Program

In 1992, the Library of Congress established the Cooperative Acquisitions Program in the Nairobi Office to acquire African books and serials for participating academic libraries. This Kenya-based service offers books and serials for 29 countries including scholarly journals, newspapers and magazines in the areas of political science, social sciences, language, literature, business administration, education, science, history, culture and law.

Books and journals offered in the program are carefully selected. Among the criteria used are research value, availability, reliability and timeliness. For a complete listing of profiles available refer to the website: www.loc.gov/acq/ovop/nairobi.

In 1997, the office began offering selections of statistics, human rights and legal materials from 24 countries for a set price. See the website above for details.



General Information

The Library of Congress Office, Nairobi, Kenya, is one of six overseas offices administered by the African/Asian Acquisitions and Overseas Operations Division of the Library. These offices acquire, catalog, preserve and distribute library and research materials from countries where such materials are essentially unavailable through conventional acquisitions methods.

The office in Nairobi collects materials from twenty-nine Sub-Saharan, central and eastern countries of Africa. The office's mission is to enrich the research collections of the Library of Congress with the wealth of bibliographic production from these countries.

The Nairobi office opened its doors in 1966 as a National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging office serving the Library of Congress for African publications. Over the years, more countries have been added and a cooperative acquisitions program for serials and books was initiated in 1992.

Publications acquired for the Library include books, newspapers, journals, pamphlets, compact discs, maps, posters, musical scores and more. Many publications are purchased by the office, but nearly one-half are acquired as gifts from approximately 2,000 sources.



Quarterly Index to Africana Periodical Literature

Since 1991, the Nairobi Office has produced a quarterly index to African journals published by a variety of African universities, organizations and governmental agencies.

This selective collection renders accessible a body of primary materials, both commercial and non-commercially produced and sometimes difficult to acquire, which is fundamental to the study of most African issues of scholarly interest.

Geographically, all regions of Africa are represented in the index. The index was published in hard copy from 1991-2002 and is now only available online at: <http://memory.loc.gov/misc/qshtml>.